

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024 AT 2:30 O'CLOCK P.M.**

A public hearing and regular meeting of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) was duly and regularly held in the Conference Room of the City of Azusa Light and Water Administration Facility, at 729 North Azusa Avenue, in the City of Azusa, County of Los Angeles, State of California, 91702 on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at the hour of 2:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Lynda Noriega, Chair, called the meeting to order and presided thereover.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary, led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF WATERMASTER MEMBERS

The following members of Watermaster were present on roll call:

PRESENT: Melissa Barbosa, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Anteneh Tesfaye and Martin Zvirbulis.

ABSENT: Steve Placido and Jennifer Santana.

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT

Staff present at the meeting included: Anthony Zampiendo, Executive Officer; Fred Fudacz, Attorney; Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Jenny Savron, Consulting Engineer; Arrica Jimenez, Administration Manager; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant and Lauren Augino, Water Resources Analyst II.

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Stephanie Alvarado, Emanuel Cardoso, Ed Chavez, Mikayla Coleman, John Corona, Cris Fealy, Casey Feilen, Greg Galindo, Garry Hofer, Matt Litchfield, Tom Love, Charles Luas, Victor Magana, Jose Martinez, Dusty Moisis, Stephanie Moreno, Jeffrey Pellissier, Carlos Solis and Ernesto Venegas.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Benjamin Lewis, Jr. presented a slate of officers for appointment: Lynda Noriega, Chair; David Michalko, Vice Chair; Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary; and Anteneh Tesfaye, Treasurer. There being no further nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Watermaster's 2024 Officers.

PUBLIC HEARING ON WATERMASTER DRAFT FIVE-YEAR WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY PLAN

The Chair stated that it was the time and place duly noticed for the public hearing on the Watermaster Draft Five-Year Water Quality and Supply Plan (Plan). She declared the hearing open and asked Mr. Anthony Zampielo, Executive Officer, and Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, for any comments.

Mr. Johnson referred to the Plan, stating that it had been presented in detail at the November 1, 2023 Watermaster Board of Directors Meeting. He explained that the Plan is prepared every year in accordance with Section 28(g) of Watermaster's Rules and Regulations and notice of the public hearing was distributed to all Parties on November 3, 2023. Mr. Johnson then reported that the Plan consists of an introduction, current water supply conditions, current water quality conditions that make up the actual plan and appendices with supporting data.

Lastly, Mr. Johnson stated that during the comment period, Watermaster has not received any comments on the Plan.

The Chair asked if there were any other comments before closing the public hearing. No comments were offered; therefore, on motion made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Zvirbulis, and unanimously carried, Watermaster closed the Public Hearing.

On motion made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Zvirbulis, and unanimously carried, Watermaster adopted the Draft Five-Year Water Quality and Supply Plan as presented.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda. On motion made by Dr. Anthony Fellow, seconded by Mr. Anteneh Tesfaye, Treasurer, and unanimously carried, the agenda was adopted as presented.

TIME RESERVED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion made by Mr. David Michalko, Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Lewis, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Watermaster held December 6, 2023;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20332 through 20363, and four electronic debits, in the amount of \$281,177.56 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0124-S and 0124-U in the amount of \$162,784.74 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, December 2023.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Treasurer Tesfaye reported that the Administrative and Finance Committees met in joint session on December 20, 2023 and referenced the Committee report included in the Board packet, stating no action was taken. He added that the discussion included Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's (USGVMWD) request to purchase and store 10,000 acre-feet of water in their Individual Cyclic Storage Account, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) imported water deliveries during Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24.

REPLACEMENT WATER/SURCHARGE ACCOUNTING

Mr. Zampiello provided an overview and a detailed explanation of the funds and corresponding water purchases on the Replacement Water/Surcharge Accounting. He added that in order to reduce the impacts of possible future reduction or restriction of deliveries, Watermaster has taken steps to deliver and store as much water as possible when available. Adopting the \$100.00 surcharge on Replacement Water beginning with the 2013-14 production year for the Three Valleys Municipal Water District TVMWD and USGVMWD encourages pre-purchases and helps reduce variability in orders.

Mr. Zampiello explained that although the surcharge is intended as a financial incentive, Watermaster cannot retain these funds, noting that surcharge funds can only be used to purchase a proportionate amount of water for each specific Producer that incurred the charge. He noted that as a result, Watermaster readjusted the appropriate Producer production rights for FY 2023-24 and has requested that TVMWD deliver 21.8 acre-feet of water at the 2023 rate of \$855.00 per acre-foot from its current cyclic account or transferred from the water pre-delivered during calendar year 2023; and USGVMWD deliver 22.30 acre-feet of water at the 2023 rate of \$958.00 per acre-foot from its cyclic account or transferred from the cyclic water pre-delivered as part of the 2020 letter agreement.

The Chair asked for any questions of Mr. Zampiello, and with none offered, ordered the Replacement Water/Surcharge Accounting received and filed.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

San Gabriel Valley Water Company, Section 28, "Application to Destroy Well" Rurban Homes Mutual Water Company North Well No.1 and South Well No. 2. Mr. Johnson reported that the San Gabriel Valley Water Company (SGVWC) submitted an application for Rurban Homes Mutual Water Company's (RHMWC) North Well No. 1 and South Well No. 2 for destruction, noting that the wells were already destroyed on September 25, 2022. He added that the SGVWC acquired the assets of RHMWC in June 2019 and discontinued the use of North Well No. 1 and South Well No. 2. North Well No. 1 had been inactive over the past four years and South Well No. 2 had been inactive over ten years.

Mr. Johnson stated that in October 2018, the shaft in North Well No. 1 broke forcing RHMWC to rely on three emergency interconnections with SGVWC as the source of supply. In February 2019, it was determined that the water level at North Well No. 1

was below the pump's suction. The South Well No. 2 has been inactive since September of 2014. These issues resulted in RHMWC selling their water system to SGVWC in June 2019, noting that rehabilitating the wells was considered; however, it was determined that it was not cost effective and not necessary due to these wells' age and existing well capacity. Water quality data for North Well No. 1 and South Well No. 2 indicated each of the wells are below all Maximum Contaminant Levels. North Well No. 1 and South Well No. 2 are not included in any of Environmental Protection Agency's operable unit extraction plans and should have no impact on contaminant migration in the area.

Mr. Johnson recommended that Watermaster approve retroactively SGVWC's application to destroy RHMWC North Well No.1 and South Well No. 2, subject to conditions stated in the staff report. In granting approval, Watermaster requires SGVWC to submit copies of the specifications used and permits obtained to destroy North Well No. 1 and South Well No. 2.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Treasurer Tesfaye, with Secretary Zvirbulis abstaining, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved retroactively SGVWC's application to destroy RHMWC's North Well No.1 and South Well No. 2, subject to the conditions in the staff report.

California American Water Company, Section 28, "Application to Destroy Well" Roanoke Well Mr. Johnson, reported that California American Water Company (CAWC) has submitted an application for destruction of its Roanoke Well, located in the City of San Marino. The Roanoke Well is 20 inches in diameter and was constructed in 1947 to a depth of 690 feet with a total casing length of 690 feet. The Roanoke Well is perforated between 362 feet and 390 feet, 412 feet and 424 feet, 430 feet and 526 feet, and 558 feet and 638 feet below ground surface (bgs). The total length of screened interval is 216 feet. The Roanoke Well has not been used for water supply since FY 2000-01 due to age, inactivity, lack of viable options to add treatment on site, and potential impacts to flooding, surface water, and groundwater contamination.

Mr. Johnson recommended that Watermaster approve CAWC's application to destroy Roanoke Well, subject to conditions stated in the staff report.

On motion made by Mr. Zvirbulis, seconded by Mr. Lewis, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved California American Water Company's application to destroy its Roanoke Well, subject to the conditions in the staff report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, reported that a confirmation hearing of Watermaster Board of Directors' nominees for calendar year 2024 was held on December 15, 2023 before Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis.

He provided an update on the matter with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation related to Watermaster assessments for Legg Lakes water usage as part of a water production agreement for the Whittier Narrows Operable Unit, stating that the six-month extension to the agreement has been signed.

Related to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, Mr. Fudacz provided a brief update on the proposed act expanding the monument's current size, access and protections, stating that he continues working with Watermaster staff to ensure the protection of groundwater water rights and infrastructure.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Johnson reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 224.5 feet on December 22, 2023, a decrease of about 0.5 feet from the prior week, a decrease of 2.3 feet from the prior month, and about 45.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 122,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 15.0 feet of groundwater elevation at the Key Well. The historic low for the Key Well has been established at 169.4 feet on November 21, 2018.

Mr. Johnson then reported briefly on hydrologic conditions as of December 26, 2023, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 4.99 inches, which is about 83 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 5.49 inches, which is 133 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of December 26, 2023, was 18,407 acre-feet, about 22 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of December 26, 2023, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 96 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 0 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 15 cfs, release was 45 cfs. He also provided a water quality update.

Mr. Johnson then reported that the Azusa Land Reclamation and Peck Road landfills were inspected and found to be operating normally with no violations. He referred to a written report included in the Board packet that includes additional water supply and rainfall information.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Zampielo reported that a written copy of his report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

He announced that an Administrative/Finance Committee is scheduled for January 17, 2024, stating that the discussion will include a Mid-Year Budget Review, Resource Development Assessment Buying Power and Operating Safe Yield.

Mr. Zampielo announced that the 2024 American Ground Water Trust/Association of Ground Water Agencies Conference is scheduled for February 6 – 7, 2024 at the Ontario Airport Hotel.

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Anthony Fellow reported on behalf of USGVMWD, announcing the birth of a baby girl to Mrs. Jennifer Santana. He stated that a USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting

scheduled for January 10, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. will include the Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2024.

Dr. Fellow then reported on MWD activities, stating that the MWD Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for January 9, 2024 will include the following discussions items:

- Authorize an agreement with the Center for Smart Infrastructure
- Authorize agreements with Jacob Engineering Group Inc. and Brown and Caldwell for design of security system improvements
- Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024

Mr. Love also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stating that a Producers Meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Litchfield reported on behalf of TVMWD, providing an update on water deliveries and snow survey.

REPORT FROM OUTSIDE COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Chair Noriega reported that any reports from the Outside Committee Liaisons are included in the Board packet.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items listed on the agenda for information of Watermaster were noted, and ordered received and filed:

- a) Temporary assignment or lease of 19.04 acre-feet of Production Right from Jeanne Rana Living Trust to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2023-24
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,193.71 acre-feet of Carryover Right from IBY Property Owner, LLC to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2023-24
- c) ACWA-JPIA “President’s Special Recognition Award”
- d) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Monthly Report for November 2023

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Dr. Fellow wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Zvirbulis wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Ms. Melissa Barbosa to the Watermaster Board.

Mr. Michalko welcomed Ms. Barbosa to the Watermaster Board and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Ms. Barbosa wished everyone a Happy New Year and is excited to serve on the Watermaster Board.

Mr. Lewis welcomed Ms. Barbosa to the Watermaster Board and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Chair Noriega wished everyone a Happy New Year and encouraged everyone to continue being engaged and involved. She also congratulated Mrs. Jennifer Santana on the new addition to her family.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were offered.

CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session was held.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMES

The Chair reported that in Closed Session, no actions were taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair asked if there were other business to come before Watermaster, and there being none, the meeting was adjourned to a regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the City of Azusa Light and Water Administration Facility at 729 North Azusa Avenue, Azusa, CA 91702.

SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE

MARTIN ZVIRBULIS

ATTEST:

LYNDA NORIEGA
CHAIR