

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

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A 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 and via Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, July 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. Robert Bowcock, Founder and Managing Director, Integrated Resource Management, 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, David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido, Anteneh Tesfaye and Martin Zvirbulis.

**ABSENT:** Benjamin Lewis, Jr. and Jennifer Santana.

\* Director Remote Participation Pursuant to Assembly Bill 2449: Ms. Melissa Barbosa attended the meeting virtually due to just cause.

**STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Staff present at the meeting included: Russ Bryden, Executive Officer; Anthony Zampiello, Chief Administrative Officer; Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer; Fred Fudacz, Attorney; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Arrica Jimenez, Administration Manager; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant; Ana Rodriguez, Accountant II; Lauren Augino, Water Resources Analyst II and Matthew Jimenez, Intern.

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Lee Alexanderson, Robert Bowcock, Ed Chavez, Dan Colby, Ray Cordero, John Corona, Cris Fealy, Casey Feilen, Greg Galindo, Steve Kiggins, Matthew Litchfield, Tom Love, Victor Magana, Dusty Moisiso, Stephanie Moreno, Tara Mullaly, Tara Robinson and Carlos Solis.

**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. Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Watermaster held June 5, 2024;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20502 through 20531, and five electronic debits, in the amount of \$542,837.55 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0724-S and 0724-U in the amount of \$982,911.40 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, June 2024.

**REPORT FROM BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Vice Chair Michalko reported that the Basin Water Management Committee (BWMC) met on June 19, 2024, and discussed a few items, one which requires Watermaster action today.

Adoption of Resolution No. 07-24-322 of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster in Support of the Los Angeles County Water Plan – Mr. Russ Bryden, Executive Officer, provided an overview of the Los Angeles County Water Plan (CWP), stating the CWP is a regional plan whose goals are consistent with the goals of Watermaster and may serve as a potential tool to be brought before legislators. He added that Watermaster has a long-standing, collaborative relationship with Los Angeles County and continued collaboration for such joint efforts and initiatives is of mutual benefit. Watermaster's support and active involvement will provide the opportunity to continue to influence the plan and its initiatives.

Mr. Bryden stated that it is the BWMC's recommendation for the Watermaster Board to consider and approve the Resolution in support of the Los Angeles CWP.

On motion by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Mr. Anteneh Tesfaye, Treasurer, the following Resolution was then read, adopted, and passed by the following vote:

<b>ACTION:</b>	Passed [6 to 1]
<b>AYES:</b>	Barbosa, Michalko, Noriega, Placido, Tesfaye and Zvirbulis
<b>NO:</b>	Fellow
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Lewis and Santana

**RESOLUTION NO. 07-24-322**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN  
WATERMASTER IN SUPPORT OF  
THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER PLAN**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 07-24-322**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN  
WATERMASTER IN SUPPORT OF  
THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER PLAN**

WHEREAS, Climate change is establishing a “new normal” of climate whiplash including more frequent and intense droughts, as well as less frequent and more torrential rains; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing a new climate reality, a water resilience plan focused on collaborative management of the region’s water resources was developed by Los Angeles County Public Works in partnership with other agencies, stakeholders, and tribes and;

WHEREAS, The Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster in partnership with Los Angeles County Public Works, together with water resources organizations and other stakeholders, collaborated to plan for the region’s water future; and

WHEREAS, this collaborative effort led to a water resilience plan known as the Los Angeles County Water Plan and identified a path to realizing a future which is rooted in cross-sector collaboration and coalition building; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles County Water Plan describes a shared, inclusive, regional path forward to sustainably achieve safe, clean, and reliable water resources for Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS, The Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster has reviewed the Los Angeles County Water Plan and supports the plan’s goal of ensuring that the region has resilient and sustainable water resources to meet its demand, particularly, during times of scarcity or crisis; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles County Water Plan was adopted unanimously by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on December 5, 2023.

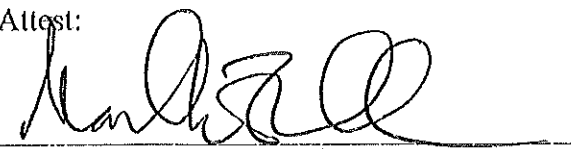
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster hereby:

1. Supports the Los Angeles County Water Plan as a guiding document to inform pertinent and relevant aspects of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster's water resilience strategies.
2. Authorizes and empowers the Executive Officer, Russ Bryden of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster or designee to continue collaborating and pursuing regional water resilience with the Los Angeles County Public Works and other water resource organizations, and engaging stakeholders regarding matters related to the Los Angeles County Water Plan and its nexus to existing Basin adjudications.
3. Authorizes and empowers the Executive Officer, Russ Bryden of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster or designee to actively engage in coalition building with water agencies, stakeholders, communities, and tribes to effectively establish relationships and bolster regional collaboration related to regional water resilience.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July 2024 by the Board of Directors acting as the governing body of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster.

Dated: July 3, 2024

  
Chair

Attest:  
  
Secretary

(Ms. Barbosa left the meeting.)

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LETTER AGREEMENTS REGARDING A SCHEDULE FOR PAYMENT OF CYCLIC WATER PRE-DELIVERED IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024**

Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD): Mr. Bryden referenced the letter agreement included in the Board packet, providing background regarding a schedule for payment of cyclic water to be delivered for USGVMWD in calendar year 2024.

On motion made by Secretary Zvirbulis, seconded by Dr. Fellow, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the Executive Officer to sign the letter agreement.

Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD): Mr. Bryden referenced the letter agreement included in the Board packet, providing background regarding a schedule for payment of cyclic water to be delivered for TVMWD in calendar year 2024.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Chair Noreiga, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the Executive Officer to sign the letter agreement.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, 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 Watermaster approved a one-year extension to June 30, 2025.

Additionally, Mr. Fudacz provided a brief discussion on a recent decision by the United States Supreme Court to overturn the *Chevron* doctrine, which required courts to defer to an administrative agency's reasonable interpretation of an ambiguous statute.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 239.4 feet on June 21, 2024, a decrease of about 0.1 feet from the prior week, an increase of about 1.5 feet from the prior month, and about 7.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 74,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 9.0 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 June 30, 2024, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 24.15 inches, which is about 133 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 25.19 inches, which is 166 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of June 25, 2024, was 8,942 acre-feet, about 11 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of June 25, 2024, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 111 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 130 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 175 cfs, release was scheduled to be reduced to 40 cfs.

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. Bryden reported that a written copy of his report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet. He provided the following key dates:

- July 4, 2024 - Watermaster offices closed in observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday
- July 10, 2024 - San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's Asian American Pacific Islander Media Event
- July 11, 2024 – USGVMWD's CAMP4W Workshop
- July 11, 2024 – Retirement Dinner honoring Mr. Anthony Zampiello
- July 13, 2024 – Water Education for Latino Leaders Event
- July 16, 2024 – Quagga Mussel Meeting with Watermaster, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and USGVMWD

Mr. Bryden recognized and commended Mrs. Lauren Augino, Water Analyst II, for her five years of service as an employee of Watermaster.

Chair Noriega then recognized and commended Mr. Zampiello for his 20 years of services as an employee of Watermaster.

## **REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES**

Dr. Fellow reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stating that USGVMWD's Board of Directors Meeting will be dark for the month of July 2024. He added that the USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting on June 26, 2024 included the following:

- Water Quality Authority Update by Mr. Randy Schoellerman, Executive Director, WQA
- Branding Concepts for USGVMWD Update by Mr. Charley Bell, President of 789 Inc.

He also reported on behalf of MWD, stating that due to Mr. Deven Upadhyay, Interim General Manager, MWD, being out of town through July 17, 2024, Mr. Shane Chapman has been appointed as Acting General Manager. He stated that the MWD Board of Directors and Committee meetings are scheduled for July 8 and 9, 2024 that will include discussion on the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) and Bay-Delta.

Dr. Fellow congratulated Mr. Zampielo on his years of service and expressed appreciation in working with him over the years. He wished him all the best in his retirement.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, provided the following key dates:

- July 10, 2024 – Producer Meeting
- July 11, 2024 – CAMP4W Workshop at the Doubletree Hotel in Monrovia

Mr. Matthew Litchfield, General Manager, reported on behalf of TVMWD, providing an operational update. He thanked the Watermaster Board for approval on the letter agreement regarding a schedule for payment of cyclic water pre-delivered in calendar year 2024.

Mr. Steven Placido, reported on behalf of SGVMWD, stating that the SGVMWD Board of Directors approved the following on June 10, 2024:

- 2024-25 Salary Schedule
- Budget and Capital Expenditures
- Proposal for the Direct Install and Irrigation Retrofit Program

Mr. Steve Kiggins, Assistant General Manager, SGVMWD, reported that their Board of Directors Meeting on July 8, 2024 will include a presentation on the Delta Conveyance Project.

## **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 100% of Prescriptive Pumping Right from The Maggiore Family Trust to California Domestic Water Company for FYs July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2044
- b) Permanent Transfer of 10.00 acre-feet of Prescriptive Pumping Right from The Maggiore Family Trust to California Domestic Water Company
- c) Temporary assignment or lease of 22.01 acre-feet of Production Right and 22.01 acre-feet of Carryover Right from William McIntyre to Covina Irrigating Company for FY 2023-24
- d) Temporary assignment or lease of 168.77 acre-feet of Production Right and 0.77 acre-feet of Carryover Right from Canyon Water Company to Covina Irrigating Company for FY 2023-24

- e) Temporary assignment or lease of 300.00 acre-feet of Production Right from La Puente Valley County Water District to City of Industry Waterworks System for FY 2023-24
- f) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,200.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Covina Irrigating Company to Suburban Water Systems for FY 2023-24
- g) Temporary assignment or lease of 19.04 acre-feet of Production Right from Carolyn R. Heinrich Trust Dated January 23, 2023 to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2023-24
- h) Temporary assignment or lease of 62.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Del Rio Mutual Water Company to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2023-24
- i) Temporary assignment or lease of 100.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Sonoco Products Company to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2023-24
- j) Temporary assignment or lease of 134.83 acre-feet of Integrated Production Right, consisting of 125.24 acre-feet of Production Right and 9.59 acre-feet of Diversion Component, from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2023-24
- k) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,600.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Martin Marietta Southern California Aggregates, LLC to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2023-24
- l) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Monthly Report for May 2024

#### **COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

Dr. Fellow again thanked Mr. Zampiello for all the great accomplishments during his tenure at Watermaster and for their friendship.

Mr. Tesfaye thanked the Watermaster staff for all their hard work done behind the scenes. He congratulated Mr. Zampiello on his 20 years of service and retirement and wished everyone a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

Secretary Zvirbulis congratulated Mr. Zampiello and Mrs. Augino on their milestones. He wished everyone a great, safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

Vice Chair Michalko also congratulated Mr. Zampiello and Mrs. Augino on their years of service.

Mr. Placido also congratulated Mr. Zampiello and Mrs. Augino on their years of service.

Chair Noriega congratulated Mr. Zampiello on his 20 years of service at Watermaster and acknowledged his accomplishments, strategies and ideas brought. She also congratulated Mrs. Augino on her five years of service at Watermaster.



Chair Noriega thanked Mr. Bryden and Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer, for their continued efforts in collaborating with the Responsible Agencies to ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) Public Hearing on August 7, 2024 Regarding Any Requests for Waivers of Assessments
- b) Three-month evaluation review of the Executive Officer's employment agreement in Closed Session

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

A Closed Session was not held.

#### **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, August 7, 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:



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LYNDA NORIEGA  
CHAIR