

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
725 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023 AT 2:30 O'CLOCK P.M.**

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 on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 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

Chair Noriega led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF WATERMASTER MEMBERS

The following members of Watermaster were present on roll call:

PRESENT: David DeJesus, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido, Jennifer Santana, Anteneh Tesfaye and Martin Zvirbulis.

ABSENT: None

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; Ana Rodriguez, Accountant II and Lauren Augino, Water Resources Analyst.

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Dan Colby, Tom Coleman, Ray Cordero, Patricia Cortez, Paul DiMaggio, Cris Fealy, Casey Feilen, Wayne Goehring, Steve Kiggins, Sylvie Lee, Mayra Lopez, Tom Love, Stephanie Moreno, Chris Nieto, Chisom Obegolu, Lenet Pacheco, Jeffrey Pellissier, Patrick Pooler, Carlos Solis, Jessica Taylor, Mike Ti and Paul Zampiendo.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

TIME RESERVED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Regular Meeting of Watermaster held March 1, 2023;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20070 through 20094, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$361,660.44 on the Administrative Fund and Items 423-S and 423-U in the amount of \$146,780.68 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, March 2023.

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF OPERATING SAFE YIELD FOR FISCAL YEARS 2023-24 THROUGH 2027-28

The Consulting Engineer, Mr. Steve Johnson, stated that, pursuant to Section 43 of the amended Judgment, a Preliminary Determination of the Main San Gabriel Basin's (Main Basin) Operating Safe Yield (OSY) is to be made by each April Regular Meeting of Watermaster, with the final determination to be made at the May meeting. He explained that the OSY is the amount of water that Watermaster determines can be pumped from the Basin before Replacement Water must be purchased. Mr. Johnson pointed out that he is only recommending a preliminary determination at this time and will make a final recommendation at the May meeting. He provided a brief overview of how he typically presents the data used to determine his recommendations and stated that his report this year would be somewhat different in order to best report the current water supply conditions.

Mr. Johnson began his formal report by reading Section 42 of the Judgment, which states in part, "...Watermaster shall recharge Replacement Water in accordance with the Watermaster Operating Criteria and, insofar as practicable, to maintain the water level at the Key Well above Elevation two hundred (200)." He noted last year that it was not practical to set the OSY to meet the 200-foot groundwater level requirement because it was not possible to reach that level in one year; this will take multiple years of average to above average local rainfall.

Mr. Johnson stated that rainfall in the San Gabriel Valley has averaged about 11.85 inches between Fiscal Years (FY) 2011-12 and 2021-22 which is significantly below the pre-drought long-term annual average of about 18.5 inches.

He reported that the Key Well elevation was 204.9 feet on March 31, 2023, about 35.5 feet higher than the historic low of 169.4 feet set in November 2018, about 24.0 feet higher than this time last year.

Mr. Johnson also stated that during this recent drought, Watermaster has been more proactive by implementing provisions of the Judgment, and developing and instituting new studies, programs and plans to address conditions as they progressively worsened. He added that without the actions of Watermaster and the Producers, Basin water supply conditions would have been much worse. He reported that the actions included storm water capture, cyclic storage conservation, basin-wide low water vulnerability assessment, in-lieu program, Stormwater Augmentation Program and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Water Supply Agreement.

Additionally, he reviewed current hydrologic conditions, and referred to a graph indicating accumulated rainfall at Puddingstone Dam of 26.35 inches, noting that this is only about 164 percent of average for this time of year.

Mr. Johnson also reported that total production in the Basin for the first two quarters of FY 2022-23 was about 97,000 acre-feet, adding that important factors keeping the Key Well from dropping any lower, is reduced production and water conservation.

Finally, based on all of these factors, he stated that the recommendation for the Preliminary Determination of the OSY is 150,000 acre-feet for 2023-24, and 130,000 acre-feet for the subsequent four years. Mr. Johnson reported that the "Preliminary Determination of OSY" report for 2023 was distributed electronically and stated that copies of the report will be posted to Watermaster's website and notice of such will be distributed to all Parties.

The Executive Officer, Mr. Anthony Zampello, provided a brief explanation of current and historic actions to responsibly manage the Main Basin. He added that the "Preliminary Determination of OSY" report for FY 2023-24 through 2027-28 will be sent to all Parties by electronic transmittal no less than ten days before the May 3, 2023 Annual Hearing on Determination of OSY and Regular Meeting of the Watermaster.

A short discussion followed.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Mr. Placido, and unanimously carried, Watermaster received and filed the "Preliminary Determination of OSY" report for 2023-24 through 2027-28.

Following a robust discussion among the Board, Chair Noriega noted that the "Preliminary Determination of OSY" report and the presentation provided by Stetson Engineer's will be distributed to all Parties for their review and comments. Any comments received by Watermaster, will be addressed at the Annual Hearing on Determination of OSY and Regular Meeting of the Watermaster on May 3, 2023.

REPORT FROM THE BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Michalko reported that the Basin Water Management Committee (BWMC) met on March 8, 2023 and referenced the Committee report included in the Board packet, stating no action taken. He acknowledged the great participation from the Producers. He added that the April Meeting will include discussion on the Operating Safe Yield and encouraged everyone to attend.

REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Review of Preliminary Draft Administration Budget for FY 2023-24: Treasurer Tesfaye referred to a written Committee report included in the Board packet. He reported that the Finance Committee met on March 27, 2023 to review the Preliminary Draft Administration Budget and Assessments for FY 2023-24 and proposed assessments. He stated that Watermaster staff prepared three draft budgets for consideration, one holding the Administrative Assessment at \$17.00 per acre-foot from last year, a second with an increase to \$17.50 per acre-foot and a third with an increase to \$18.00 per acre-foot.

He briefly provided an overview of the key components of the Draft Budget, and noted the Committee recommends the \$18.00 per acre-foot Administrative Assessment based on a Production estimate of 180,000 acre-feet.

Lastly, he stated that the Administrative Committee's recommendation of the Preliminary Draft Administration Budget for FY 2022-23 and Assessments for FY 2022-23 productions will be considered for approval by the Watermaster Board of Directors at its May 3, 2023 meeting.

Additionally, Treasurer Tesfaye reported that the Committee discussed financial outlook planning and Water Resource Development Assessment buying power.

By consensus, Watermaster received and filed the Preliminary Draft Administration Budget for FY 2023-24.

On motion made by Treasurer Tesfaye, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, and unanimously carried, the Finance Committee report received and filed.

REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Secretary Zvirbulis referred to the Committee report included in the Board packet. He stated that the Committee met on March 27, 2023 and discussed the draft 2023-24 Administration Budget. The Committee also received a recap of the discussion held in the Finance Committee meeting held earlier.

By consensus, that staff present the proposed budget to the Watermaster Board for consideration at its April meeting.

On motion made by Secretary Zvirbulis, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, and unanimously carried, the Administrative Committee report received and filed.

REQUEST TO EXECUTE EXTENSION AGREEMENT FOR CITY OF SIERRA MADRE FOR PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE ACCOUNT

Mr. Anthony Zampiello, Executive Officer, reported that the City of Sierra Madre requested an extension agreement to the terms of its Individual Producer Cyclic Storage Account. He stated that this is a routine item, and no additional storage has been requested by the City of Sierra Madre.

On motion made by Mr. DeJesus, seconded by Mr. Placido, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the extension agreement for City of Sierra Madre/Watermaster Cyclic Storage Agreement for a period of five years, to expire on April 5, 2028.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The Attorney, Mr. Fred Fudacz, reminded everyone of the Status Conference and tour of the Pure Water Southern California demonstration facility scheduled for April 26, 2023 at the Watermaster offices. He additionally provided an update on the itinerary planned.

Additionally, Mr. Fudacz provided an update on the continued discussions relating to the renewal of insurance process underway for the Baldwin Park Operable Unit Project.

Lastly, he provided a brief 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.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ms. Jenny Savron, Consulting Engineer, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 198.8 feet on March 24, 2023, an increase of 4.2 feet from the prior week; about 11.1 feet higher from the prior month, and about 18.0 feet higher than one year ago. She also reported that it includes about 103,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 13 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.

Ms. Savron then reported briefly on hydrologic conditions as of March 28, 2023, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 25.75 inches, which is about 160 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 26.46 inches, which is 191 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Ms. Savron stated that total combined canyon storage, as of March 28, 2023, was 69,461 acre-feet, about 83 percent of capacity. She also stated that as of March 28, 2023, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 1,590 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 1,775 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 1,926 cfs, release was 2,000 cfs, noting that 9 cfs of the release was diverted from the San Gabriel River at the Azusa Duarte intake for use by the San Gabriel River Water Committee. She also provided a snowpack and water quality update.

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Anthony Fellow, reporting on behalf of Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD), stated that USGVMWD new building open house held on April 28, 2023 was a great success. He also stated that USGVMWD will be hosting a Five-Year Strategic Planning Meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at Le Méridien, adding that everyone is invited to attend. He along with Mr. DeJesus will be hosting a three-day MWD tour April 21 – 23, 2023 on the State Water Project.

Dr. Fellow announced the following appointments:

- Ms. Patricia Cortez – Assistant General Manager, External Services
- Ms. Evelyn Rodriguez – Assistant General Manager, Internal Services

Ms. Cortez, Assistant General Manager, External Services, also reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, stated that the Strategic Plan Workshop Meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2023 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

She reported that due to the Association of California Water Agencies Conference, the May Producer Meeting will be rescheduled to either May 3 or 17, and will include an update on the Quagga Mussel Mitigation Plan and a discussion on USGVMWD's Emergency Conservation Plan.

Ms. Sylvie Lee, Chief Water Resources Manager, reporting on behalf of Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD), stated that at this morning's TVMWD Board meeting, the TVMWD Board rescinded Resolution No. 22-04-928 Implementing Water Shortage Contingency Level 5 in its State Water Project constrained areas.

Mr. Placido, reporting on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), stated that on March 13, 2023, the SGVMWD Board of Directors discussed water supplemental opportunities and standby generator replacement options. He added that SGVMWD's annual legislative trip to Sacramento was held on March 14, 2023.

Mr. Steve Kiggins, Assistant General Manager, also reporting on behalf of SGVMWD, provided an update on imported water deliveries.

REPORT FROM OUTSIDE COMMITTEE LIAISONS

The Chair reported that any Outside Committee Liaisons reports 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 447.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Covina Irrigating Company to Canyon Water Company for FY 2022-23
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 100% of Prescriptive Pumping Right from City of Brea to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2022-23
- c) Temporary assignment or lease of 875.00 acre-feet of Carry-over Right from IBY Property Owner, LLC to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2022-23
- d) Change of Designee for Walter Green to Lynda Noriega
- e) Change of Designee for Southern California Edison Company to Carol Okray
- f) Notice of available water rights for lease from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California FY 2022-23
- g) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District monthly report for February 2023

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Dr. Fellow requested to adjourn today's Board meeting in memory of Mr. Norman Gregory Taylor, former General Counsel, MWD, who passed away on March 25, 2023. Dr. Fellow added that Mr. Taylor played a leading role in creating the last large reservoir constructed in Southern California, Diamond Valley Lake.

Ms. Santana emphasized the importance of public outreach and taking the opportunity of a unified message on the accomplishments of the Main Basin.

Chair Noriega agreed on a unified message and that continued collaborative efforts will benefit in ensuring and managing that the Main Basin and its operations are sustainable to continue serving our customers.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None offered.

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 in honor and memory of Mr. Greg Taylor, to the Annual Hearing on Determination of Operating Safe Yield and regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 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

DRAFT