

**A PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
725 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2025 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, August 6, 2025, 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. Darin Kasamoto, General Manager Emeritus, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), 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, Paul Cranmer, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Garry Hofer, David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Jennifer Santana and Martin Zvirbulis.

ABSENT: Steven Placido

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT

Staff present at the meeting included: Kelly Gardner, Executive Officer; Fred Fudacz, Attorney (*via Zoom*); Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Heather Steele, Consulting Engineer; Arrica Jimenez, Director of Administrative Services; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant; Ana Rodriguez, Accountant II; Lauren Augino, Water Resources Analyst II, and Jocelyn Garcia, Student Intern.

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Nathan Au, Haley Cole, Ray Cordero, John Corona, Dana Diaz, Paul DiMaggio, Cris Fealy, Casey Feilen, Shawn Harkness, Geo Herrera, Darin Kasamoto, Steve Kiggins, Stephanie Lobos, Tom Love, Victor Magana, Jose Martinez, Toby Moore, Hai-Van Nguyen, Jeffrey Pellissier, Evelyn Reyes, Jose Reynoso, Nina Wester, George Zakhari, and Paul Zampiello.

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. Paul Cranmer, and unanimously carried, the agenda was adopted as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS

The Chair stated that this was the time and place fixed and noticed for a public hearing to be conducted by the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster in accordance with Section 116470 of the California Health and Safety Code to discuss Public Health Goals established for drinking water the by California Environmental Protective Agency. The Chair introduced Ms. Heather Steele, Consulting Engineer, Stetson Engineers, to report.

Ms. Steele stated that Watermaster had authorized Stetson Engineers to prepare Public Health Goal reviews for twelve water systems within the Main San Gabriel Basin (Main Basin), and the purpose of today's meeting was to address public concerns on behalf of those systems: City of Alhambra; City of Arcadia; City of Azusa Light and Water; California-American Water Company – San Marino; City of Glendora; Golden State Water Company – San Dimas System; City of Monterey Park; San Gabriel Valley Water Company – El Monte/Whittier System; Suburban Water Systems – San Jose Hills System; Suburban Water Systems – Whittier System; Valley County Water District and City of Whittier.

Additionally, Ms. Steele noted that Public Health Goal requirements are the result of Senate Bill 1307, which, enacted in 1996 and effective since 1997, governs any water system with at least 10,000 service connections. She stressed that Public Health Goals are not actual regulatory standards and that all twelve of the water systems subject to today's hearing have met all state and federal requirements. She further explained that the review identifies contaminants of concern which may have registered levels above the Public Health Goals, notes human health risks associated with the contaminants, describes best available treatment technologies, estimates costs to bring contaminant levels down to Public Health Goal levels and identifies any other action which may enhance water quality.

Lastly, Ms. Steele noted that public notices for today's hearing had been published in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune newspaper group on July 16 and July 23, 2025. Additionally, Watermaster had posted the public notice of the hearing and provided copies to the twelve affected water systems. Ms. Steele further noted that representatives of the twelve water systems were present at the hearing to answer questions.

The Chair invited those present to submit comments on the Public Health Goals reviewed. There being no comments offered, the Chair closed the comment period and the public hearing.

TIME RESERVED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The meeting minutes were considered by separate action due to Mr. David Michalko's, Vice Chair, previous absence.

On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Chair Noriega, with Vice Chair Michalko abstaining, and unanimously carried, the following item was approved:

- a) Minutes of a Regular Meeting held July 2, 2025 of Watermaster, noting a correction made to reflect a revision to the Consent Calendar Item A.

On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Chair Noriega, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20910 through 20939, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$519,588.03 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0825-A, 0825-S and 0825-U in the amount of \$906,726.92 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, July 2025, and
- d) Authorization to attend Association of California Water Agencies Fall Conference, December 1- 4, 2025, in San Diego.

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION, COMMEMORATING AND INVITING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE OUTSTANDING SERVICES RENDERED BY DARIN KASAMOTO UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT (Resolution No. 08-25-340)

Resolution No. 08-25-340 – The Chair stated that a Resolution has been prepared expressing appreciation, commemorating and inviting public attention to the outstanding services rendered by Mr. Darin Kasamoto upon the occasion of his retirement.

On motion made by Ms. Melissa Barbosa, Treasurer, seconded by Mr. Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary, and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was adopted and passed as read:

RESOLUTION NO. 08-25-340

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION, COMMEMORATING AND INVITING PUBLIC
ATTENTION TO THE OUTSTANDING SERVICES RENDERED BY
DARIN KASAMATO
UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

(see next page)

RESOLUTION NO. 08-25-340

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION,
COMMEMORATING AND INVITING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE OUTSTANDING
SERVICES RENDERED BY
DARIN KASAMOTO
UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

WHEREAS, DARIN KASAMOTO is honorably retiring from the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; and

WHEREAS, he joined the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District in 1997 as Assistant General Manager and appointed General Manager in 2004, amassing nearly 28 years of faithful leadership; and

WHEREAS, during all of his said service to the Main San Gabriel Basin (Main Basin), Mr. Kasamoto has rendered dedicated, professional and outstanding services to the Main Basin, water community and the public at large; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as a committed water industry leader spanning more than 35 years, the Main Basin and Producers have benefited from his knowledge, experience in the community, and intuitive understanding of the historical richness of the region; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Kasamoto's leadership, the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District invested in key infrastructure, maintained strong financial stewardship and continued to deliver reliable imported water on behalf of its member cities: Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park and Sierra Madre; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kasamoto demonstrated leadership by serving in numerous roles, including the formation of the San Gabriel Valley Water Forum, securing an emergency supplemental water supply to the City of Sierra Madre from the Metropolitan Water District and maintaining a presence on behalf of the Main Basin with the State Water Contractors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER as follows:

- 1. Full measure of appreciation is hereby expressed and acknowledged for the effective and beneficial services rendered by Darin Kasamoto during his employment, duties and affairs with the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; and*
- 2. Public attention is hereby called and directed to the exemplary services rendered by Mr. Kasamoto during his nearly 28 years of service with the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; and*
- 3. This Resolution shall be maintained in the permanent records of Watermaster in recognition of Mr. Kasamoto's outstanding performance of duty.*

Dated this 6th day of August, 2025

ATTEST:

Secretary

Chair

Chair Noriega welcomed Mr. Kasamoto and expressed appreciation for Mr. Kasamoto's accomplishments, highlighting his contributions to the Main Basin and the San Gabriel Valley.

Dr. Fellow congratulated Mr. Kasamoto on his retirement.

Mrs. Jennifer Santana congratulated Mr. Kasamoto on his retirement and accomplishments.

Treasurer Barbosa congratulated Mr. Kasamoto on his retirement and on his accomplishments.

Secretary Zvirbulis congratulated Mr. Kasamoto on a great career and wished him an enjoyable retirement.

Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Executive Officer, expressed appreciation and thanked Mr. Kasamoto for his support and for welcoming her into her new role as Executive Officer.

Vice Chair Michalko congratulated Mr. Kasamoto and for him to enjoy his retirement.

Mr. Cranmer congratulated Mr. Kasamoto.

Mr. Garry Hofer congratulated Mr. Kasamoto and wished him the very best in his retirement.

Mr. Steve Johnson congratulated Mr. Kasamoto on his retirement.

Mr. Kasamoto thanked and expressed appreciation for the honor in recognizing his accomplishments. He complimented the current Watermaster Board of Directors for taking a proactive approach in managing the Main Basin and ensuring its operations are sustainable to continue serving the customers.

Mr. Kasamoto then commended Mrs. Gardner and Mr. Anthony Zampello, former Executive Officer, for fostering a spirit of cooperation. He emphasized that they have worked together on numerous projects as partners addressing current and future challenges within the Main Basin. He expressed confidence in the leadership of both the Board and the Executive Officer, stating that the SGVMWD will continue partnering with Watermaster in facing challenges that will arise.

REQUEST FROM CITY OF GLENDORA TO PURCHASE 1,800.00 ACRE-FEET OF WATER FROM THREE VALLEYS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT AND 100.00 ACRE-FEET OF WATER FROM UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT FOR PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE

Mrs. Gardner reported that the City of Glendora has submitted a request to purchase 1,800 acre-feet of water from Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD) and 100.00 acre-feet of water from Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD) for its producer cyclic storage account. She noted that there is available capacity within their existing account.

On motion made by Mr. Cranmer, seconded by Mr. Hofer, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the purchase of 1,800.00 acre-feet of cyclic storage water from TVMWD and 100.00 from USGVMWD for the City of Glendora's individual producer cyclic storage account.

REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Gardner reported that the Administrative Committee met on July 16, 2025, and discussed several items, two of which require Watermaster action today.

Employee Handbook: Mrs. Gardner reported that the Watermaster Employee Handbook had not been updated since 2014. She stated that Mrs. Arrica Jimenez, Director of Administrative Services, worked on the recommended revisions, to comply with changes in State and Federal Labor Laws, with the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority's legal team and Nossaman LLP, Watermaster's counsel.

The Committee discussed the revisions and recommended that the Board adopt the revised Employee Handbook. Additionally, staff were asked to incorporate a regular schedule for updating as recommended by Watermaster's counsel.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Secretary Zvirbulis, and unanimously carried, the Revised Employee Handbook was adopted as presented.

Watermaster Succession Plan: Mrs. Gardner reported that the Committee discussed Watermaster's Succession Plan that addressed organizational structure and internal staffing, primarily related to the approach in filling vacant positions.

Additionally, Mrs. Gardner stated that the Committee discussed engaging a consultant to perform a classification and compensation study to include recommendations on positional responsibilities and salary schedules for vacant and present positions.

Mrs. Gardner introduced Mrs. Jocelyn Garcia, who joined Watermaster as a Student Intern on April 1, 2025.

Chair Noriega and Secretary Zvirbulis welcomed Mrs. Garcia and thanked Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. Jimenez for a job well done on the Employee Handbook and Succession Plan.

On motion made by Secretary Zvirbulis, seconded by Treasurer Barbosa, and unanimously carried, Watermaster adopted the revised organizational chart and authorized the Executive Officer to engage a classification and compensation consultant to review the existing framework.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, provided an update on the Baldwin Park Operable Unit Project Agreement renewal process, stating that pre-negotiation meetings are ongoing.

He additionally reported that Ms. Allison Callaghan, Partner, Nossaman LLP, worked with Watermaster staff in updating the previous version of the Employee Handbook (2014) to comply with changes in State and Federal Labor Laws.

Lastly, Mr. Fudacz reported that on December 5, 2025 a hearing before Presiding Judge Maureen Duffy-Lewis is scheduled to confirm the Watermaster Board of Directors' nominees for Calendar Year 2026 and a Status Conference on Main Basin conditions. He suggested that staff include an update on impacts related to the Golden Mussel at the Status Conference.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ms. Steele reported that the Key Well level was 248.9 feet on July 25, 2025, an increase of about 0.6 feet from the prior week, an increase of about 2.3 feet from the prior month, and about 8.0 feet higher than one year ago. She also reported that it includes about 165,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 21.0 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.

Ms. Steele then reported briefly on hydrologic conditions as of July 31, 2025, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 7.58 inches, which is about 42 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 7.96 inches, which is 53 percent of average, for this time of year. Additionally, she reported that stormwater capture for Water Year 2024-25 as of June 30, 2025 was 38,979 acre-feet.

Additionally, Ms. Steele stated that total combined canyon storage, as of July 29, 2025, was 21,171 acre-feet, about 25 percent of capacity. She also stated that as of July 29, 2025, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 28 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 28 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 27 cfs, release was 25 cfs. She also provided an update on imported water deliveries and water quality.

Ms. Steele 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

Mrs. Gardner stated that a written copy of her report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

She reported that she and Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, USGVMWD, will be leading a discussion next week with a task force for the Los Angeles County Water Plan to address concerns with the Golden Mussel.

Related to the Lario Staging Area used for the Eaton Fire, Mrs. Gardner reported that Stetson Engineers reviewed the data (soil samples) provided and there are a number of unanswered questions; therefore, Watermaster will be preparing a letter to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers requesting follow-up testing measures, not just the soil on the site, but also the water quality in the area immediately adjacent. Watermaster has recommended continued monitoring and reporting to ensure that any potential for unintended impacts or adverse effects are mitigated in the watershed, and water supply serving Main Basin communities remains safe and reliable.

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Fellow reported on Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) activities, providing an update on MWD's recruitment process for a new General Manager that will include candidate interviews on August 11, 2025 and subsequent review on August 12, 2025.

Lastly, Dr. Fellow reported that the Association of California Water Agencies Regions 8, 9 and 10 will hold a joint a program on November 13 and 14, 2025, that will focus on the priorities and challenges facing Southern California public water agencies.

Mrs. Santana reported on behalf of USGVMWD stating that on August 13, 2025, their Board of Directors Meeting will include an update on Pure Water Southern California and a presentation on the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water by Mr. Adán Ortega, Chair, MWD Board of Directors.

Mr. Love also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, providing a water supply update that included USG-3 imported water deliveries. He then provided a brief discussion on the status of the Golden Mussel, stating that there has been a new detection in the State Water Project at Quail Lake.

Mr. Jose Reynoso, General Manager, reported on behalf of SGVMWD, providing an update on water deliveries. Related to Pure Water Southern California project, he stated that the SGVMWD has explored opportunities to participate as a partner.

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 143.17 acre-feet of Production Right, consisting of 133.58 acre-feet of Prescriptive Pumping Component and 9.59 acre-feet of Diversion Component, from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 138.04 acre-feet of Production Right and 130.35 acre-feet of Carry-over Right from Southern California Edison Company to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- c) Temporary assignment or lease of 991.00 acre-feet of Production Right from County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- d) Temporary assignment or lease of 383.66 acre-feet of Production Right from City of Covina to Suburban Water Systems for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- e) Permanent transfer of 12.00 acre-feet of Prescriptive Pumping Right from The Maggiore Family Trust to California Domestic Water Company

- f) Temporary assignment or lease of 60.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Vulcan Materials Company to City of Azusa for Fiscal Year 2025-26
- g) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District monthly report for June 2025

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Treasurer Barbosa thanked Watermaster for staying actively engaged with the Lario Park Site, which was utilized for sorting hazardous materials after the Eaton Fire.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Public Hearing on September 3, 2025 Regarding Request for Waiver of Assessments
- i) La Puente Valley County Water District – Puente Valley Operable Unit Intermediate Zone Treatment Facility

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 public hearing and regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 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