

**A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
725 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA  
HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025 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 on Wednesday, October 1, 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**

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:** Melissa Barbosa, Paul Cranmer, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Garry Hofer, David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido and Martin Zvirbulis.

**ABSENT:** Jennifer Santana

**STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Staff present at the meeting included: Kelly Gardner, Executive Officer; Fred Fudacz, Attorney; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Jenny Savron, Consulting Engineer; Heather Steele, Consulting Engineer; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant and Ana Rodriguez, Accountant II.

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Ed Chavez, Dan Colby, John Corona, Cris Fealy, Casey Feilen, Roy Frausto, Jeff Hanlon, Shawn Harkness, Steve Kiggins, Matt Litchfield, Stephanie Lobos, Tom Love, Jared Macias, Jose Martinez, Toby Moore, Jeffrey Pellissier, Jose Reynoso, Nabil Saba, Carlos Solis, Ernesto Venegas 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. Steven Placido, 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 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Watermaster held on September 3, 2025;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20965 through 20991, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$409,954.81 on the Administrative Fund; Items 1025-S and 1025-U in the amount of \$310,920.05 on the Replacement Water Fund, and
- c) Financial Statements, September 2025.

## THREE-YEAR PURCHASED WATER PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2025-26 TO 2027-28

Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, explained that the Three-year Purchased Water Plan (Plan) was developed to assist with facilitating coordination between Watermaster and the Responsible Agencies relative to anticipated imported water needs.

Ms. Heather Steele, Consulting Engineer, then provided an overview of the Plan including how it relates to Watermaster's responsibilities under the amended Judgment.

Ms. Steele added that many aspects of Watermaster's operations are considered in the preparation of the Plan, including Replacement Water obligations, Supplemental Water Reliability Storage Programs (Water Resource Development Assessment I and II), the In-Lieu Programs, the Operating Safe Yield and pumping restrictions.

On motion made by Mr. Paul Cranmer, seconded by Secretary Zvirbulis, and unanimously carried, the Three-year Purchased Water Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-26 to 2027-28 was received and filed.

## REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

Ms. Melissa Barbosa, Treasurer, reported that the Administrative and Finance Committees met in joint session on September 24, 2025 and discussed two items requiring Watermaster action. Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Executive Officer, provided an overview on the following items:

- a) Receive and File Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25 – as presented by CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA). Mrs. Gardner discussed the audit components and reported that all accounting standards have been met and presented fairly in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. She stated that the Committee recommends that Watermaster receive and file the audit report.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Dr. Fellow, and unanimously carried, the Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25 as presented by CLA be received and filed.

- b) Reaffirm Cash Investment Policy – Mrs. Gardner reported that, as required each year, the Committee also reviewed Watermaster’s Cash Investment Policy. She stated that the consensus of the Committee was to recommend that Watermaster approve and reaffirm the Cash Investment Policy.

On motion made by Chair Noriega, seconded by Treasurer Barbosa, and unanimously carried, Watermaster reaffirmed its Cash Investment Policy.

Secretary Zvirbulis reported that the Committee also discussed the Executive Officer’s 6-month performance evaluation, stating that this item will be discussed in Closed Session.

## **REPORT FROM BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Vice Chair Michalko reported that the Basin Water Management Committee (BWMC) met on September 10, 2025, and discussed a few items, two which requires Watermaster action today.

The Water Quality Monitoring Program Policy was revised to include sampling at point of entry, and all new costs will continue to be reviewed by the BWMC. The latest Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Maximum Contaminant Level compliance monitoring constitutes a new cost and will not require an increase to the approved Watermaster budget.

### Revised Water Quality Monitoring Program Policy

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Treasurer Barbosa, and unanimously carried, the revised Water Quality Monitoring Program Policy was approved.

### Expenditures Associated with PFAS Monitoring within the Approved Watermaster Budget

On motion made by Chair Noriega, seconded by Treasurer Barbosa, and unanimously carried, approved the expenditures associated with PFAS monitoring within the approved Watermaster budget.

Lastly, Vice Chair announced that a BWMC meeting will not be held in the month of October 2025.

## **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN A COST-SHARING AGREEMENT BETWEEN WATERMASTER, SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT (SGVMWD), THREE VALLEYS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT (TVMWD) AND UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT (USGVMWD) FOR THE GOLDEN MUSSEL CONTROL PLAN**

Mrs. Gardner referenced the staff report and related materials included in the Board packet. She reported that Watermaster has been engaging with the Responsible Agencies and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to develop a Golden Mussel Mitigation Control Plan, stating that Stetson Engineers has been retained

to prepare the plan. Mrs. Gardner noted that, as the agency responsible for the replenishment of the Main San Gabriel Basin, it stressed the importance of Watermaster's participation in the planning process. The recommendation is for Watermaster to sign the cost-sharing agreement, contributing an equal share of the associated costs, with a committed contribution of \$12,500.

On motion by Treasurer Barbosa, seconded by Mr. Garry Hofer, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the Executive Officer to sign a Cost-Sharing Agreement between Watermaster, SGVMWD, TVMWD and USGVMWD for the Golden Mussel Control Plan.

## **REQUEST FROM CITY OF ARCADIA TO PURCHASE 2,351.92 ACRE-FEET OF WATER FROM USGVMWD FOR PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE**

Mrs. Gardner reported that the City of Arcadia has submitted a request to purchase 2,351.92 acre-feet of water from USGVMWD for its producer cyclic storage account. She noted that there is available capacity within their existing account.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Treasurer Barbosa, with Mr. Cranmer abstaining, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the purchase of 2,351.92 of cyclic storage water from USGVMWD for the City of Arcadia's individual producer cyclic storage account.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, 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 San Gabriel Basin conditions. He stated that an update on impacts related to the Golden Mussel, and an update on the BPOU Project Agreement renewal process will also be presented at the Status Conference.

Related to the Baldwin Park Operable Unit, Mr. Fudacz reported that a Water Entities Strategy meeting with representatives from EPA will be held on November 17, 2025.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Ms. Steele reported that the Key Well level was 250.3 feet on September 19, 2025, an increase of about 0.2 feet from the prior week, an increase of about 1.0 feet from the prior month, and about 7.0 feet higher than one year ago. She also reported that it includes about 213,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 27.0 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 September 24, 2025, stating that total rainfall (July 1, 2025 through September 24, 2025) at Puddingstone Dam is 0.08 inches, which is about 20 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 0.09 inches, which is 33 percent of average, for this time of year. Additionally, she reported that stormwater capture for Water Year 2024-25 as of August 31, 2025 was 43,720 acre-feet.

Additionally, Ms. Steele stated that total combined canyon storage, as of September 23, 2025, was 19,575 acre-feet, about 24 percent of capacity. She also stated that as of September 23, 2025, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 20 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 20 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 0 cfs, release was 40 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.

Related to the Los Angeles County Public Works' (LACPW), Mrs. Gardner reported that Watermaster is working with legal counsel on a response to LACPW's order to shut down imported water deliveries and operational response planning.

She also reported that the Watermaster Board of Directors meeting on November 5, 2025, will include the Election of Producer Nominees and appointments of public representatives for calendar year 2026.

Lastly, Mrs. Gardner also provided an update on current Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) activities referencing a report submitted in advance by the LACFCD to Watermaster.

## **REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES**

Dr. Fellow reported on MWD activities, stating that the Subcommittee on Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) met on September 30, 2025 that included a discussion on CAMP4W's assessment and next steps.

He reminded everyone 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.

Lastly, Dr. Fellow reported on USGVMWD activities, stating that on September 24, 2025, the USGVMWD Board of Directors approved the General Manager's contract and received an overview of USGVMWD's delivery infrastructure.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, providing a water supply update that included cyclic storage deliveries. He stated that the USGVMWD Board of Directors meeting of October 8, 2025 is cancelled, and a Producer meeting will be held on October 15, 2025.

Mr. Jeff Hanlon, Board member, reported on behalf of TVMWD, emphasizing the importance and urgency with which the TVMWD Board of Directors is addressing the Golden Mussel issue.

Mr. Matt Litchfield, General Manager, also reported on behalf of TVMWD, stating that on October 15, 2025, the TVMWD Board of Directors meeting will include an update on the Golden Mussel by MWD.

Mr. Placido reported on behalf of SGVMWD, stating that on September 8, 2025, the SGVMWD Board of Directors approved its 2024-25 Annual Report and received an update on the Golden Mussel and Cooperative Water Exchange Agreement.

Mr. Jose Reynoso, General Manager, also reported on behalf of SGVMWD, stating that on October 8, 2025, a technical workshop on the Golden Mussel was held through the State Water Contractors where the Department of Water Resources and MWD provided guidance in developing Golden Mussel control plans consistent with Assembly Bill 149, Golden Mussel Trailer Bill.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

- a) Permanent Transfer of 2.00 acre-feet of Prescriptive Pumping Right from The Maggiore Family Trust Dated 8-31-2015 to California Domestic Water Company
- b) Change in Designee for Golden State Water Company – San Gabriel Valley District to Toby B. Moore
- c) San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District transmittal of monthly report for August 2025

## **COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

Treasurer Barbosa commended Watermaster's efforts and commitment in addressing the Golden Mussel issue considering the LACPW's shutdown of imported water. She highlighted Watermaster's strength in maintaining a unified message and collaborating effectively with the LACPW to ensure continued water deliveries and progress toward the Court ordered physical solution.

Secretary Zvirbulis thanked and commended Mrs. Gardner and staff for a job well done in coordinating and preparing a successful Audit.

Vice Chair Michalko and Mr. Cranmer echoed Treasurer Barbosa's comments.

Mr. Hofer wished everyone a happy new water year.

Chair Noriega expressed the same sentiments regarding Watermaster's efforts on the Golden Mussel issue. She additionally thanked and congratulated Mrs. Gardner and staff for their efforts and dedication throughout the leadership transition, and for the positive impact made during the process.

Chair Noriega announced that today's meeting will be adjourned in honor and memory of Mr. Robert Rice, Mrs. Gardner's brother-in-law.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) Request from Covina Valley Water Company for Cyclic Storage Account
- b) Rescind Resolution No. 07-24-322 of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster in Support of the Los Angeles County Water Plan

#### **RECESS**

Chair Noriega called for a recess to allow the Watermaster Board of Directors to assemble for a Closed Session.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

A Closed Session was held regarding the Executive Officer's 6-month performance evaluation.

#### **REGULAR MEETING RESUMES**

The Chair reported that in Closed Session, the following action was taken:

By unanimous vote, the Board approved the Executive Officer's 6-month performance evaluation.


#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair asked if there were other business to come before Watermaster, and there being none, the meeting was adjourned in memory of Mr. Robert Rice, to a regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, November 5, 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