

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA  
HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022 AT 2:30 O'CLOCK P.M.**

---

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-15-21 issued by Governor Newsom in response to the ongoing emergency proclamation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, a public hearing and regular meeting of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster was duly and regularly held via Zoom Meeting (web-based video conferencing) on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at the hour of 2:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL OF WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

The following members of Watermaster were present on roll call:

**PRESENT:** David DeJesus, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Garry Hofer, David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido, Anteneh Tesfaye, Charles Treviño and Martin Zvirbulis

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT**

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

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Dan Arrighi, Brian Bowcock, Dan Colby, Ray Cordero, John Corona, Patricia Cortez, Paul Cranmer, Cris Fealy, Roy Frausto, Greg Galindo, Ralph Galvan, Wayne Goehring, Richard Gonzales, Erik Hitchman, Shawn Igoe, Steve Kiggins, Sylvie Lee, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., Matthew Litchfield, Tom Love, Jared Macias, Victor Magana, Myra Malner, Jose Martinez, Stephanie Moreno, Jeffrey Pellissier, Alec Phillips, Evelyn Reyes, Randy Schoellerman, Sherry Shaw, Cathy Smith, Jessica Taylor and Paul Zampielo.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Hofer 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 2022 Officers.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON WATERMASTER DRAFT 5-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 the Executive Officer and the Consulting Engineer for any comments.

The Consulting Engineer, Ms. Jenny Savron, referred to the Plan, stating that it had been presented in detail at the November 3, 2021 Watermaster Board of Directors Meeting. She 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, 2021. Ms. Savron, 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, Ms. Savron 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. Treviño, seconded by Dr. Fellow, and unanimously carried, Watermaster closed the Public Hearing.

On motion made by Mr. Treviño, seconded by Dr. Fellow, and unanimously carried, Watermaster adopted the 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 Mr. Michalko, seconded by Mr. Treviño, 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. Michalko, seconded by Mr. Treviño, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Watermaster held December 8, 2021
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 19599 through 19632, and two electronic debits, in the amount of \$333,358.52 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0122-S, 0122-T and 0122-U in the amount of \$2,282,594.70 on the Replacement Water Fund.
- c) Financial Statements, December 2021

## **THE WATERS THAT CONNECT US CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

The Executive Officer, Mr. Anthony Zampiello and Ms. Catherine Smith, CityWorks, provided an update and overview on the Basin Outreach Campaign, *The Waters That Connect Us*, that included the program's objectives (roles, strategies and tactics), social media platforms and industry/community partnerships.

## **REPLACEMENT WATER/SURCHARGE ACCOUNTING**

The Executive Officer, 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 Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (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 Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 and has requested that TVMWD deliver 26.3 acre-feet of water at the 2021 rate of \$777.00 per acre-foot from its current cyclic account or transferred from the water pre-delivered during calendar year 2021; and USGVMWD deliver 203.32 acre-feet of water at the 2021 rate of \$880.00 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.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

The Attorney, Mr. Fred Fudacz, reported that a confirmation hearing was held last month before Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis to formally approve the appointments of the 2022 Watermaster Board of Directors.

Mr. Fudacz provided an update related to the petition pending by California Trout to the California Fish and Game Commission to list its Southern California Steelhead as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. He stated that there could potentially be impacts on the Main Basin and the San Gabriel River and is currently working with Watermaster and Stetson Engineers in developing comments.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The Consulting Engineer, Ms. Jenny Savron, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 182.0 feet on January 1, 2022, noting no change from the prior week; a decrease of about 1.0 feet from the prior month, and about 18.0 feet lower than one year

ago. The historic low for the Key Well has been established at 169.4 feet on November 21, 2018. She also stated that it includes an estimated 147,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 18 feet of groundwater elevation at the Key Well.

Ms. Savron then reported briefly on hydrologic conditions as of December 20, 2021, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is about 2.41 inches, which is about 50 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is about 3.06 inches, which is about 91 percent of average, for this time of year. She noted that these numbers do not include the rainfall that occurred over the holidays and will report those when the County has verified them.

Additionally, Ms. Savron stated that total combined canyon storage, as of December 21, 2021, was 15,698 acre-feet, about 19 percent of capacity. She also stated that as of December 21, 2021, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 31 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 0 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow and release was 0 cfs.

Lastly, she reported that the landfills, Azusa Reclamation and Peck Road, 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**

The Executive Officer, Mr. Zampello, reported that a written copy of a report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

He highlighted the meeting held last month with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), USGVMWD, TVMWD and Stetson Engineers as very productive in discussing the operations of the Main San Gabriel Basin, primarily as it pertains to MWD's drought planning.

He announced that the 2022 Annual Association of Groundwater Water Agencies/American Ground Water Trust Conference is scheduled for February 8 and 9, 2022 at The Centre at Sycamore Plaza in Lakewood, California. The conference is planned as an in-person event and he encouraged everyone to register.

## **REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES**

Dr. Anthony Fellow, reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, referenced a report provided by USGVMWD to Watermaster. He reported on the following items that were approved by the USGVMWD Board of Directors on December 22, 2021:

- Adopted Resolution No. 12-21-631 Re-ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency and Reauthorizing Remote Teleconference Meeting.
- Rejected all bids received in response to the invitation to bid on USGVMWD's Tenant Improvement Project.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, provided a brief discussion on the State Water Project allocation. Additionally, he provided the following key dates:

- USGVMWD Water Resources and Facility Management Committee – January 5, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.
- Producer Meeting – January 12, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Matthew Litchfield, General Manager, reporting on behalf of TVMWD, reported that on December 15, 2021, the TVMWD Board of Directors approved following Slate of Officers for 2022:

- Jody Roberto – President
- Brian Bowcock – Vice President
- Carlos Goytia – Secretary
- Mike Ti - Treasurer

He also reported that the TVMWD Leadership Breakfast will be held on February 24, 2022 at 7:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, Pomona, stating that the program will include a presentation by Mr. Brad Coffey, Group Manager-Water Resource Management, MWD, on “*Living in the Dash: Planning for a Managing through the 2020--?? Drought.*”

Mr. Placido, reporting on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), reported that a SGVMWD Board of Directors meeting was held on December 13, 2021, stating that the discussion included a resolution of appreciation for Mr. Ed Hills on his retirement.

Mr. Steve Kiggins, Assistant General Manager, also reporting on behalf of SGVMWD, provided an operational update, stating that SGVMWD continues making deliveries on behalf of USGVMWD and TVMWD. He added that the deliveries are anticipated to continue through the end of March 2022 with the exception of a one-week outage on the pipeline that is scheduled for the week of January 24, 2022, to allow the Department of Water Resources to replace the flow meter at Devil Canyon.

## **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 1,023.76 acre-feet of Production Right from Covina Irrigating Company to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2021-22

- b) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Monthly Report for November 2021

### COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Dr. Fellow congratulated Chair Noriega on her reappointment as Chair and expressed his appreciation to serve another year on the Watermaster Board. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Dr. Fellow and Mr. DeJesus provided a brief update on an informal meeting that took place yesterday among MWD Directors regarding the State Water Project.

Mr. Treviño congratulated Chair Noriega on her reappointment as Chair, stating that he continues looking forward to working with her. He welcomed Mr. Tesfaye to the Watermaster Board.

Mr. Tesfaye thanked Chair Noriega and congratulated his fellow Watermaster Board members. He also thanked the Producers for the vote of confidence and opportunity to serve on the Watermaster Board stating that he would do his very best in representing the interests of the Main Basin and the Producers. He commended the previous Watermaster Board members as well as the Watermaster staff for all their hard work and looks forward to continuing working with them in a collaborative and cohesive effort to ensure the health of the Main Basin. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Zvirbulis thanked Chair Noriega for her continued leadership, welcomed Mr. Tesfaye to the Watermaster Board, thanked the Producers for the vote of confidence in serving on the Watermaster Board and is looking forward to continuing working with them. He looks forward to a great 2022.

Mr. Michalko welcomed Mr. Tesfaye to the Watermaster Board. He thanked the Producers for the vote of confidence in serving on the Watermaster Board and is hopeful for a good year. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. DeJesus echoed his fellow Watermaster Board members remarks and is hopeful 2022 is a wet year.

Mr. Hofer welcomed Mr. Tesfaye to the Watermaster Board and congratulated the elected officers on the Watermaster Board.

Mr. Placido thanked and commended Chair Noriega for her leadership and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Chair Noriega thanked and expressed appreciation to the Watermaster Board members, Producers and Watermaster staff for all their effort and collaboration this past year in resolving some of the challenges faced. Although there's a lot of work ahead of us, she is confident that with the strategy in place, this group can continue ensuring that the Main Basin and its operations are sustainable to continue serving our customers at the highest level. She wished everyone a Happy New Year...cheers to a successful outlook for 2022.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No agenda items were provided.

Chair Noriega stated should there be any agenda items to be included on the agenda or at the Committee level to please contact Watermaster staff. She also stated that a request for a presentation from the City of Arcadia is currently under consideration for a future Watermaster Board of Directors meeting.

**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 the next regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. to be held via Zoom Meeting.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LYNDA NORIEGA  
CHAIR

SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE



\_\_\_\_\_  
MARTIN ZVIRBULIS