

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
725 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025 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, March 5, 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, Garry Hofer, David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido, Jennifer Santana and Martin Zvirbulis.

ABSENT: Dr. Anthony Fellow

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT

Staff present at the meeting included: Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer; Fred Fudacz Attorney; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Arrica Jimenez, Administration Manager; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant; Ana Rodriguez, Accountant II, and Lauren Agino, Water Resources Analyst II.

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Ed Chavez, Jacob Chavira, John Corona, Casey Feilen, Roy Frausto, Jeff Hanlon, Steve Kiggins, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., Stephanie Lobos, Tom Love, Charles Luas, Jared Macias, Jose Martinez, Tara Mullaly, Lenet Pacheco, Jeffrey Pellissier, Anteneh Tesfaye, Charles Treviño, and Dale Wert.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda. On motion made by Mr. Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Santana, 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. Paul Cranmer, seconded by Mr. Garry Hofer, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of a Regular Meeting held February 5, 2025 and a Special Meeting held on February 12, 2025 of Watermaster;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20769 through 20791, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$284,812.07 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0225-S, 0225-S2, 0225-U and 0225-U2 in the amount of \$1,043,477.10 on the Replacement Water Fund, and
- c) Financial Statements, February 2025.

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE EXTENSION AGREEMENT FOR STERLING MUTUAL WATER COMPANY PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE ACCOUNT

Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer, reported that Sterling Mutual Water Company requested an extension agreement to the terms of its Individual Producer Cyclic Storage Account. She stated that this is a routine item, and no additional storage has been requested by Sterling Mutual Water Company.

On motion made by Mr. David Michalko, Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Cranmer, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the extension agreement for Sterling Mutual Water Company/Watermaster Cyclic Storage Agreement for a period of five years, to expire on March 5, 2029.

REPORT FROM BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Michalko reported that the Basin Water Management Committee (BWMC) met on January 15, 2025, stating that the discussion regarding the required Public Health Goals compliance reporting due every three years, an update on the proposed production reporting procedure, Watermaster's existing Water Quality Monitoring Program, and status of the Lario Park staging site work. Following a discussion, the Committee recommended that staff proceed with the development of the Public Health Goals Report due July 1, 2025.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Ms. Melissa Barbosa, Treasurer, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized staff to proceed in the development of the Public Health Goals Report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, provided a brief discussion on an introductory meeting held with Mr. Leonard Schilling, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Attorney, on the Baldwin Park Operable Unit (BPOU) Project agreement renewal process and the use of the Lario Park as the staging area for the Eaton Fire recovery efforts.

He then 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 the current extension expires on June 30, 2025.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 245.0 feet on February 21, 2025, a decrease of about 0.5 feet from the prior week, an increase of 2.4 feet from the prior month, and about 23.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 139,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 17.0 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 February 28, 2025, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 4.74 inches, which is about 36 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 5.52 inches, which is 51 percent of average, for this time of year. Additionally, he reported that stormwater capture for Water Year 2024-25 as of December 31, 2024 was 10,271 acre-feet.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of February 25, 2025, was 20,805 acre-feet, about 25 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of February 25, 2025, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 71 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 0 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 3 cfs, release was 40 cfs. He also provided an update on imported water deliveries and water quality.

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

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

Related to the Lario Staging Area for the Eaton Fire recovery efforts, she reported that from a discussion held yesterday with Mr. Rusty Harris-Bishop, Public Information Officer, EPA, the operations at the site ceased on February 28, 2025 and will be vacated by March 7, 2025. She added that for a short period of time, some of the operations were relocated to the Altadena Golf Course, overlying an adjacent basin, with the understanding the hazardous portion would be completed by March 7, 2025, and the concrete/metal destruction/sorting will continue for about six months.

She announced that the Basin Water Management Committee (BWMC) Meeting scheduled for March 12, 2025 is being rescheduled to March 19, 2025, noting that the

discussion will include BPOU Modeling Work/Cost and Water Quality Monitoring Program Policy.

Mrs. Gardner stated that she was informed by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District that the maintenance at the Santa Fe Spreading Grounds has been delayed due to fire recovery efforts in that area, but they do expect the Santa Fe Spreading Grounds maintenance to be completed by the end of March 2025 with the intent to begin available imported water deliveries.

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Mrs. Santana reported on behalf of Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD), referenced a report provided by USGVMWD to Watermaster. She stated that at the next USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting on March 12, 2025 will include a recommendation to change USGVMWD Board's meeting time from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., but remaining on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

Mrs. Santana added that three USGVMWD Board Members attended the Association of California Water Agencies Conference in Washington, D.C. where they met with Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congressman Gil Cisneros and Senators Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla regarding EPA's responsiveness to the Lario Staging Area and the water tax parity for USGVMWD's water conservation program.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stating that the USGVMWD Board of Directors on March 12, 2025 will also include a Metropolitan Water District of Southern California water supply update. Lastly, he provided a brief update on cyclic deliveries.

Mr. Jeff Hanlon, Board Member, reported on behalf of Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD), stating that this morning's Board meeting included an update on the Pure Water Southern California project. He added that he along with two board members and staff are traveling to Sacramento next week to meet with representatives to discuss TVMWD's interest in legislation.

Mr. Steven Placido, reported on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), stating that the SGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting on February 10, 2025 included a discussion on their Schedule 1 Pipeline and 2023-24 Audit Report.

Mr. Steve Kiggins, Assistant General Manager, also reported on behalf of SGVMWD, stating that he along with Mr. Placido and Ms. Evelyn Reyes, External Affairs Manager, will be traveling to Sacramento on March 6, 2025 to meet with legislative representatives.

REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY

No report.

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) Permanent Transfer of 4.00 acre-feet of Prescriptive Pumping Right from The Maggiore Family Trust to California Domestic Water Company
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,500.00 acre-feet of Production Right from IBY, LLC to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- c) Change of Designee for Michael Robert Dawes
- d) San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District transmittal of monthly report for January 2025

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Treasurer Barbosa reported that she along with members of the San Gabriel Valley Water Association will be meeting with legislators and staff on March 18, 2025 in Sacramento. She additionally stated that a Finance Committee is scheduled for March 17, 2025 and encouraged participation.

Chair Noriega also encouraged participation in the Finance Committee as well as the Administrative Committee Meeting on March 10, 2025, stating that discussions include the process in setting the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025-26 draft budget and proposed assessments.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were offered.

CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session was held with legal counsel on a personnel matter.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMES

The Chair announced that, in Closed Session, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mrs. Kelly Gardner as its new Executive Officer, effective March 15, 2025.

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, April 2, 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