

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA  
HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026 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, February 4, 2026, at the hour of 2:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. David Michalko, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order and presided thereover.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chair Michalko led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL OF WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

The following members of Watermaster were present on roll call:

**PRESENT:** Paul Cranmer, Cris Fealy, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Garry Hofer, David Michalko, Steven Placido, and Jennifer Santana.

**ABSENT:** Melissa Barbosa and Lynda Noriega.

**STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Staff present at the meeting included: Kelly Gardner, Executive Officer; Fred Fudacz, Attorney; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Heather Steele, Consulting Engineer; Arrica Jimenez, Director of Administrative Services; Justin Nakano, Director of Water Resources; 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, Carlos Cardona, Dan Colby, John Corona, Casey Feilen, Geo Herrera, Steve Kiggins, Matt Litchfield, Stephanie Lobos, Tom Love, Toby Moore, Stephanie Moreno, Jeffrey Pellissier, Jose Reynoso, Nabil Saba, Carlos Solis, and Paul Zampiello.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Vice 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 Mrs. Jennifer Santana, seconded by Mr. Cris Fealy, Secretary, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of a Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Watermaster held January 7, 2026;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 21077 through 21107, and four electronic debits, in the amount of \$290,402.70 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0226-S, 0226-T and 0226-U in the amount of \$25,641,601.25 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, January 2026; and
- d) Authorization to attend Association of California Water Agencies Spring Conference, May 5 – 7, 2026.

**REQUEST FROM COVINA VALLEY WATER COMPANY FOR CYCLIC STORAGE ACCOUNT (3,000 ACRE-FEET LIMIT)**

Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Executive Officer, reported that Covina Valley Water Company has requested a new cyclic storage account with a storage limit of 3,000 acre-feet. She stated that staff reviewed the Producer's request and found that the limit is appropriate; therefore, staff recommends that Watermaster approve the request.

On motion made by Mr. Paul Cranmer, seconded by Mr. Garry Hofer, with Vice Chair Michalko abstaining, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the establishment of an individual Producer cyclic storage account with a 3,000 acre-foot limit for Covina Valley Water Company.

**REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

Secretary Fealy reported that the Administrative Committee met on January 21, 2026 and referenced the Committee report included in the Board packet, stating the discussion included San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's (SGVMWD) cyclic storage accounting and the Resolution Supporting the Los Angeles County Water Plan (Water Plan). He also reported that the Committee reviewed the 2026 Watermaster Committee Assignments and Representatives to Outside Organizations, which requires Watermaster action to receive and file.

**San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Cyclic Storage Accounting**

Secretary Fealy reported that the Committee discussed the accounting of local water versus cyclic storage water as it pertains to deliveries recorded by the SGVMWD. With

the abrupt shutdown of imported water by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) as a result of the threat of the Golden Mussel, Watermaster and the Responsible Agencies have worked closely to secure replenishment water most efficiently, without violating provisions set forth in the Judgment and/or Rules and Regulations.

The Committee discussed the need for additional information to clarify the appropriateness of the accounting; therefore, the Committee's recommendation is to table this item to a future Board meeting allowing staff the time necessary to accurately investigate deliveries.

On motion made by Mr. Cranmer, seconded by Secretary Fealy, with Vice Chair Michalko abstaining, and unanimously carried, Watermaster tabled this item to a future Board meeting.

#### Rescind Resolution (No. 07-24-322) Supporting the Los Angeles County Water Plan

Secretary Fealy reported that the Committee discussed Resolution No. 07-24-322 Supporting the Los Angeles County Water Plan (Plan) adopted in 2024, that included four key focal areas described in the Plan. He noted that last fall, the Main Basin was negatively impacted by the LACDPW's decision to halt imported water deliveries following the detection of the Golden Mussel at Silverwood Lake. Watermaster has enjoyed a long history of partnership and collaboration with LACDPW and the abrupt action taken by LACDPW contradicts with the key focal areas described in the plan as presented as part of Watermaster's resolution of support.

The Committee discussed several concerns with the LACDPW not supporting the initiatives within their own Water Plan and initially had recommended that the Watermaster Board consider rescinding Resolution No. 07-24-322. Recent discussions with LACDPW Executive Management Team have shown a more reasonable collaborative approach to resuming imported water deliveries on March 1, 2026; therefore, the Committee is recommending to table this item to a future Board meeting.

On motion made by Mr. Paul Cranmer, seconded by Mr. Garry Hofer, and unanimously carried, Watermaster tabled this item to a future Watermaster Board meeting.

#### Recommendation of 2026 Watermaster Committee Assignments and Representatives to Outside Organizations:

Secretary Fealy referenced the 2026 Proposed Watermaster Committee Assignments included in the Board packet, stating that the Committee discussed vacated positions and made recommendations for any proposed changes and/or additions.

Vice Chair Michalko asked if there were any questions of Secretary Fealy, and with none offered, on motion made by Mr. Cranmer, seconded by Dr. Placido, and unanimously carried, the 2026 Watermaster Committee Assignments, were received and filed.

## REPORT FROM BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Michalko reported that the Basin Water Management Committee met on January 14, 2026 and referenced the Committee report included in the Board packet, stating no action was taken. He added that the discussion included updates on the Golden Mussel, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Regulations and Pure Water Southern California.

### ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, reported that the Watermaster Further Status Conference scheduled for February 5, 2026 to address the impact(s) of the Golden Mussel issue on supplemental water replenishment operations under the Judgment has been rescheduled to April 8, 2026.

Related to the Baldwin Park Operable Unit Agreement renewal process, Mr. Fudacz reported that a meeting was held on January 20, 2026 with the Cooperating Respondents and Water Entities that included addressing their respective list of items/issues. He added that the next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2026.

### ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ms. Heather Steele, Consulting Engineer, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 257.4 feet on January 23, 2026, an increase of about 7.0 feet from the prior week, an increase of about 13.0 feet from the prior month, and about 10.0 feet higher than one year ago. She also reported that it includes about 230,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 29.0 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 January 31, 2026, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 13.04 inches, which is about 138 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 14.20 inches, which is 196 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Ms. Steele stated that total combined canyon storage, as of January 27, 2026, was 53,972 acre-feet, about 65 percent of capacity. She also stated that as of January 27, 2026, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 309 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 600 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 662 cfs, release was 574 cfs.

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 included additional water supply and rainfall information.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Gardner referenced that a written copy of her report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet. She then introduced Mr. Justin Nakano, newly appointed Director of Water Resources, effective January 26, 2026.

She then provided an update on LACDPW activities, stating that following the January 2025 Eaton Fire in Altadena, debris removal efforts have cleared approximately 655 cubic yards of sediment.

Regarding the San Gabriel Reservoir Restoration Project, Mrs. Gardner stated that a another extension has been authorized under the emergency sediment clean-out. She added that following the current sediment removal project, LACDPW will start a new five-year clean-out project within the reservoir to address the sediment from the Bridge Fire.

She reported that maintenance activities at the Santa Fe Spreading Grounds, originally scheduled by LACDPW, have been postponed due to the continued high flows of stormwater being released from Morris Dam. She further explained that the Army Corps of Engineers has also delayed its maintenance work at the site and intends to request that the LACDPW divert water around the Santa Fe Spreading Grounds until spring 2026, providing there is no significant rainfall and sufficient flexibility to reroute flows..

Mrs. Gardner provided an update on the Golden Mussel issue, stating that several meetings have been held over the last couple of weeks, that have included reaching an agreement with LACDPW to resume imported water deliveries on March 1, 2026, along with responding to comments on the draft mitigation plan and submission to California Department of Fish and Wildlife for review.

Mrs. Gardner provided background on the Status Conference that was originally scheduled for February 5, 2026 and has since been rescheduled to April 8, 2026, stating that Watermaster received a request from the LACDPW to postpone the Court date.

Mrs. Gardner reminded everyone that the San Gabriel Valley Water Association Quarterly Membership breakfast meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2026 at the Pomona Valley Mining Company featuring a presentation from Department of Water Resources representatives, Mr. Youchen (Tim) Chao, Assistant Division Manager, and Mr. Jerry Snow, Environmental Manager II on Golden Mussel Management in the State Water Project”.

Lastly, she reported that the American Ground Water Trust/Association of Ground Water Agencies Annual Conference is scheduled for February 18 and 19, 2026 at the Ontario Airport Hotel. She added that on February 18<sup>th</sup>, the program will include a panel with the members of the Raymond Basin Management Board on “Eighty Years of Adaptation: How the Raymond Basin Turned Adjudication into Collaboration.”

## REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Fellow reported on Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) activities, including updates on the Colorado River and the Ad Hoc Committees on Agriculture and Tribal Partnerships, as well as Communications and Facilities Naming. He also noted that the MWD Board and Committee meetings scheduled for February 9 and 10, 2026, will include a discussion on the proposed biennial budget.

Mrs. Santana reported on behalf of (Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District) USGVMWD, stating that USGVMWD's report is available at the sign-in table. She highlighted that on January 14, 2026, its Board held their Election of Officers for calendar year 2026 appointing Ms. Katarina Garcia as President of the Board of Directors. She also reported that on January 28, 2026, the USGVMWD Board received a presentation on Pure Water Southern California.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stating that on February 10, 2026, the MWD Board of Directors meeting will include the certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report and approve Pure Water Southern California for California Environmental Quality Act purposes.

He also reported that a Producer meeting will be held on February 11, 2026 at 11:00 a.m., stating that the discussion will include imported water deliveries, and MWD's draft budget.

Mr. Matt Litchfield, General Manager, reported on behalf of Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD), stating that the State Water Project allocation has increased to 30%.

Lastly, he reported that the next TVMWD Leadership Breakfast is scheduled for February 26, 2026 and will feature Mr. Shivaji Deshmukh, MWD General Manager as the guest speaker.

Dr. Placido, reported on behalf of SGVMWD, stating that its Board meeting on February 9, 2026 will include an update on the Delta Conveyance Project.

Mr. Jose Reynoso, General Manager, also reported on behalf of SGVMWD, stating that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is addressing improvements with treatment upgrades expected to be completed by May 1, 2026.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- a) Permanent Transfer of 3.21 acre-feet of Prescriptive Pumping Right from Tyler Nursey to San Gabriel Valley Water Company

- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 0.80 acre-feet of Carry-over Right from NCL Co, LLC to Vulcan Materials Company for Fiscal Year 2025-26
- c) Change in Designee for Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to Sarah C. Foley
- d) Change in Designee for Anton C. and Anita Garnier Family Trust to Anton C. Garnier
- e) San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District transmittal of monthly report for December 2025
- f) County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Correspondence: Coordination on Invasive Detection and Operational Response

#### **COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

Secretary Fealy welcomed Mr. Nakano to Watermaster.

Vice Chair Michalko welcomed Mr. Nakano and looks forward to working with him.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No future agenda items were offered.

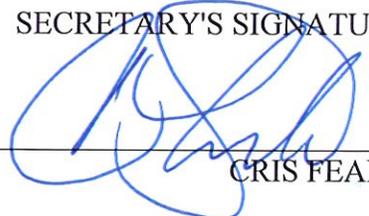
#### **CLOSED SESSION**

A Closed Session was not held.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Vice 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, March 4, 2026 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



CRIS FEALY

ATTEST:



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DAVID MICHALKO  
VICE CHAIR