

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024 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, December 11, 2024, 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. Tom Love, General Manager, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD), 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, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido, Jennifer Santana, Anteneh Tesfaye and Martin Zvirbulis.

ABSENT: None

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Nathan Au, Carlos Cardona, Ed Chavez, John Corona, Paul Cranmer, Michael DeGhetto, Paul DiMaggio, Cris Fealy, Casey Feilen, Craig Gott, Geo Herrera, Steve Kiggins, Sylvie Lee, Tom Love, Victor Magana, Jose Martinez, Stephanie Moreno, Evelyn Reyes, Ernesto Venegas, and Dale Wert.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair announced that a Closed Session will be held to discuss the Executive Officer's Performance Evaluation. The Chair then asked if there were any additional changes to be made to the agenda. On motion made by Mr. Anteneh Tesfaye, Treasurer, seconded by Mr. Benjamin Lewis, Jr., and unanimously carried, the agenda was adopted as amended.

TIME RESERVED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion made by Treasurer Tesfaye, seconded by Mr. Lewis, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Watermaster held November 6, 2024;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20688 through 20713, and six electronic debits, in the amount of \$491,761.55 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0125-S, 01025-U and 1024-U2 in the amount of \$188,754.08 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, November 2024.

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION, COMMEMORATING AND INVITING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE OUTSTANDING SERVICES RENDERED BY ANTENEH TEFAYE DURING HIS TENURE AS A BOARD MEMBER, OFFICER AND PRODUCER MEMBER OF WATERMASTER (Resolution No. 12-24-333)

Resolution No. 12-24-333 – The Chair stated that a Resolution has been prepared expressing appreciation, commemorating and inviting public attention to the outstanding services rendered by Treasurer Tesfaye during his tenure as a Board Member, Officer and Producer Member of Watermaster.

On motion made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. David Michalko, Vice Chair, and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was adopted and passed as read:

RESOLUTION NO. 12-24-333

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION, COMMEMORATING AND INVITING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE OUTSTANDING SERVICES RENDERED BY ANTENEH TEFAYE DURING HIS TENURE AS A BOARD MEMBER, OFFICER AND PRODUCER MEMBER OF WATERMASTER

(see next page)

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION, COMMEMORATING AND INVITING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE OUTSTANDING SERVICES RENDERED BY BENJAMIN LEWIS, JR. DURING HIS TENURE AS A BOARD MEMBER AND PRODUCER MEMBER OF WATERMASTER (Resolution No. 12-24-334)

Resolution No. 12-24-334 – The Chair stated that a Resolution has been prepared expressing appreciation, commemorating, and inviting public attention to the outstanding services rendered by Mr. Lewis during his tenure as a Board Member and Producer Member of Watermaster.

On motion made by Dr. Anthony Fellow, seconded by Mr. Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary, and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was adopted and passed as read:

RESOLUTION NO. 12-24-334

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION, COMMEMORATING AND INVITING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE OUTSTANDING SERVICES RENDERED BY BENJAMIN LEWIS, JR. DURING HIS TENURE AS A BOARD MEMBER AND PRODUCER MEMBER OF WATERMASTER

(see next page)

Chair Noriega expressed appreciation to Treasurer Tesfaye and Mr. Lewis for their service on the Watermaster Board and that it was an honor to have worked and served with them in this capacity.

Dr. Fellow thanked both Treasurer Tesfaye and Mr. Lewis for serving on the Watermaster Board.

Mrs. Jennifer Santana wished Treasurer Tesfaye the very best and hopes to continue seeing him in the future. She expressed appreciation to Mr. Lewis for having collaborated with her on the Watermaster Board and looks forward to having more conversations with him at the San Gabriel Valley Water Association breakfasts.

Secretary Zvirbulis expressed appreciation to Treasurer Tesfaye and Mr. Lewis for having collaborated with them on the Watermaster Board.

Vice Chair Michalko stated that it has been great working with Treasurer Tesfaye and Mr. Lewis and looks forward to their continued participation in the Main Basin.

Ms. Melissa Barbosa thanked Mr. Lewis and Treasurer Tesfaye for serving on the Watermaster Board.

Mr. Steven Placido also thanked Treasurer Tesfaye and Mr. Lewis for serving on the Watermaster Board.

In response to Watermaster Board comments, Mr. Lewis attributed the collaboration and leadership when commending the Main San Gabriel Basin (Main Basin) and Watermaster Board as one of the best he has worked with. He added that Chair Noriega's leadership has been outstanding in terms of moving Watermaster forward. He encouraged Producers to get involved and engaged as the Main Basin is the local water stewardship and is something to be proud of.

Treasurer Tesfaye thanked the public agencies for their vote of confidence as he served on the Watermaster Board, stating it has been a great opportunity to gain knowledge about the Main Basin. He also thanked the Watermaster staff for all their hard work and support.

Mr. Russ Bryden, Executive Officer, thanked both Treasurer Tesfaye and Mr. Lewis for believing in him and for their service to the Main Basin.

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER IN SUPPORT OF THE DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT (Resolution No. 12-24-335)

Resolution No. 12-24-335 – The Chair stated that a Resolution has been prepared in support of the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP).

Mr. Bryden provided an overview of the DCP, noting that the project is vital to the future of California and specifically the Main Basin's jurisdictional area. He added that Watermaster has historically supported projects and actions that continue to

provide or improve the resilience of the physical solution in the Main Basin.

Mr. Bryden stated that the recommendation is for the Watermaster Board to consider and approve the Resolution in support of the DCP.

On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Ms. Barbosa, and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was adopted and passed as read:

RESOLUTION NO. 12-24-335
A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER IN
SUPPORT OF THE DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT

(see next page)

REPORT FROM BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Michalko reported that the Basin Water Management Committee met on November 13, 2024 and referenced the Committee report included in the Board packet, stating no action was taken. He added that the discussion focused on the Executive Officer's 6-month performance goals.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, reported that on December 6, 2024 a hearing before Presiding Judge Maureen Duffy-Lewis was held to confirm the Watermaster Board of Directors' nominees for Calendar Year (CY) 2025 and a Status Conference on Main Basin conditions. Lastly, Mr. Fudacz stated that December 5, 2025 has been reserved to confirm the Watermaster Board of Directors' nominees for CY 2026.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 245.3 feet on November 27, 2024, an increase of 0.4 feet from the prior week, an increase of 0.6 feet from the prior month, and about 19.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 134,000 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 November 30, 2024, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 0.03 inches, which is about one percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 0.14 inches, which is seven percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of December 3, 2024, was 13,314 acre-feet, about 16 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of December 3, 2024, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 38 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 0 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 2 cfs, release was 30 cfs. He also provided a water quality update.

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

Mr. Bryden referred to a report on Outside Activities included in the Board packet.

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Fellow reported on behalf of USGVMWD, providing a brief discussion on Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) Special Joint Meeting of

the Executive Committee and Board of Directors held on December 10, 2024, that included an update on the DCP by Mr. Wade Crowfoot, California Secretary for Natural Resources. Additionally, the MWD Board of Directors approved, for future use, \$124 million to fund MWD's share of the environmental planning and preconstruction cost for the DCP planned for 2026-27.

Mrs. Santana also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, referenced a report provided by USGVMWD to Watermaster. She stated that on November 13, 2024, their Board of Directors received a presentation on the federal legislative wrap-up by Ms. Ana Schwab, Best Best & Kreiger LLP.

Mr. Love also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stated that the MWD Board of Directors MWD approved \$125,472,855 in grant funding from the United States Bureau of Reclamation through the WaterSMART Large-Scale Water Recycling Program for Pure Water Southern California.

He added that this afternoon's USGVMWD Board of Directors' Meeting will include the Certification of Election of Mr. Charles Treviño, Mr. Ed Chavez and Ms. Katarina Garcia. He added that its Board will consider for approval a pre-purchase up to 6,000 acre-feet of treated water, to be delivered at USG-05, and allow USGVMWD's treated water customers to participate for additional amounts under the MWD's Reverse Cyclic Program.

Lastly, Mr. Love reported that the next USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting will be held on January 8, 2025, noting that a second board meeting in December will not be held.

Mr. Placido reported on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), stated that the SGVMWD Board of Directors met on December 9, 2024, as was sworn in as a Board member. He added that also on December 9th, its Board approved the following:

- Approval of grant requests from the Cities of Azusa and Alhambra
- Adoption of a Resolution honoring the retirement of Ms. Linda Esquivel, Executive Assistant

REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Mr. Bryden provided an update on current Los Angeles County Flood Control District activities.

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) Temporary assignment or lease of 173.49 acre-feet of Production Right from Anton C. and Anita Garnier Family Trust to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 20.30 acre-feet of Production Right from Jeanne Rana Living Trust to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- c) Temporary assignment or lease of 300.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Valencia Heights Water Company to La Puente Valley County Water District for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- d) Temporary assignment or lease of 150.18 acre-feet of Production Right and 140.79 acre-feet of Carryover Right from Kathryn W. Baker Trust to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- e) Temporary assignment or lease of 357.74 acre-feet of Production Right from Michael Robert Dawes to La Puente Valley County Water District for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- f) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Monthly Report for October 2024

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Dr. Fellow wished everyone Happy Holidays and requested to adjourn today's Board meeting in memory of Mr. Jim Blake, who recently passed away. He described Mr. Blake as a dedicated water leader who served as an MWD Board member representing the City of Fullerton.

Treasurer Tesfaye wished everyone and their families a safe and Happy Holidays.

Secretary Zvirbulis, Vice Chair Michalko and Ms. Barbosa wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Placido commented on the positive movement for the Delta Conveyance Project.

Chair Noriega wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. She stated that the coming year will be a busy one and encouraged participation. She again thanked both Mr. Lewis and Treasurer Tesfaye. She then welcomed Mr. Paul Cranmer, City of Arcadia, and Mr. Garry Hofer, California American Water Company, as Members on the 2025 Watermaster Board of Directors.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were offered.

CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session was held to discuss the Executive Officer's Performance Evaluation.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMES

The Chair announced that action was taken in Closed Session. The Board evaluated Mr. Bryden's performance and adjusted his salary in accordance with his employment contract.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair asked if there were other business to come before Watermaster, and there being none, the meeting was adjourned in honor and memory of Mr. Jim Blake, to the next public hearing and regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, January 8, 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