

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
725 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA  
HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 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, February 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, 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: Russ Bryden, Executive Officer; Fred Fudacz Attorney; Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Arrica Jimenez, Administration Manager; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant; Ana Rodriguez, Accountant II, and Lauren Augino, Water Resources Analyst II.

Others present included: Dennis Ahlen, Anthony Alberti, Nathan Au, Jacob Chavira, Dan Colby, John Corona, Cris Fealy, Casey Feilen, Roy Frausto, Jeff Hanlon, Steve Kiggins, Matt Litchfield, Stephanie Lobos, Tom Love, Jose Martinez, Stephanie Moreno, Yasmeen Nubani, Jeffrey Pellissier, Jessica Taylor, and Dale Wert.

**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. Paul Cranmer, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of a Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Watermaster held January 8, 2025;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20740 through 20767, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$298,443.81 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0125-S, 0125-U, 125-U2, 125-U3, 125-U4 and 125-U5 in the amount of \$33,652,851.08 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, January 25, 2025;
- d) Stipulation Re Intervention After Judgment of:
  - i.) Covina Valley Water Company, and
- e) Authorization to attend Association of California Water Agencies Spring Conference, May 13 – 15, 2025.

**AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE EXTENSION AGREEMENT FOR VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE ACCOUNT**

Mr. Russ Bryden, Executive Officer, reported that Vulcan Materials Company requested an extension agreement to the terms of its Individual Producer Cyclic Storage Account. He stated that this is a routine item, and no additional storage has been requested by Vulcan Materials Company.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Ms. Melissa Barbosa, Treasurer, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the extension agreement for Vulcan Materials Company/Watermaster Cyclic Storage Agreement for a period of five years, to expire on February 5, 2029.

**REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary, reported that the Administrative Committee met on January 22, 2025 and referenced the Committee report included in the Board packet, stating the discussion included succession planning, and consideration of membership to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. He also reported that the Committee reviewed the 2025 Watermaster Committee Assignments and Representatives to Outside Organizations, which requires Watermaster action to receive and file.

Recommendation of 2025 Watermaster Committee Assignments and Representatives to Outside Organizations: Chair Noriega asked for any questions of the Secretary, and with none offered, ordered the 2025 Watermaster Committee Assignments, received and filed.

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

Vice Chair Michalko reported that the Basin Water Management Committee met on January 15, 2025 and referenced the Committee report included in the Board packet, stating no action was taken. He added that the discussion included a proposed Production Reporting Procedure, introduction to the Regional Integrated Water Resources Plan and Title 22 water quality testing.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, provided historical background on the Baldwin Park Operable Unit Project as the current agreement nears the end of its ten-year term.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 247.4 feet on January 24, 2025, a decrease of about 0.5 feet from the prior week, an increase of 0.1 feet from the prior month, and about 25.0 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 December 31, 2024, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 0.93 inches, which is about ten percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 0.63 inches, which is nine percent of average, for this time of year. Additionally, he reported that stormwater capture as of September 30, 2024 was 156,122 acre-feet.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of January 28, 2025, was 14,807 acre-feet, about 18 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of January 28, 2025, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 51 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 0 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 3 cfs, release was 30 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**

Mr. Bryden stated that a written copy of his report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

He reported that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held a briefing this morning with Watermaster and the Producers regarding the Lario Park Staging Area for the Eaton Fire recovery efforts located within the historic riverbed of

the San Gabriel River, one of the best sources of naturally refilling the groundwater basin.

Mr. Bryden then provided a recap of the briefing that included the selection of the site, containment measures, water and air quality sampling/monitoring. He stressed that it is imperative for the County and/or the EPA to remain in contact with watershed stakeholders and Water Resources Managers to accept input and share necessary information to mitigate the potential for any unintended impacts or adverse effects to the watershed and water supply relied upon by all Main San Gabriel Basin Producers. He added that Watermaster will work with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for long-term assurances about the site's potential risks and mitigation as necessary.

He highlighted the American Ground Water Trust-Association of Ground Water Agencies Groundwater Conference held February 3 and 4, 2025 that included discussions on groundwater issues specific to California.

Lastly, Mr. Bryden presented Mrs. Ana Rodriguez, Accountant II, with a milestone lapel pin recognizing her twenty years of service as an employee of Watermaster.

## REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Fellow reported on behalf of Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD), stating that Mr. Deven Upadhyay has been appointed as General Manager for Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). He then reported on USGVMWD activities referencing a report provided by USGVMWD to Watermaster. He reported that on January 22, 2025, USGVMWD Board of Directors approved the following:

- Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2025
  - Jennifer Santana, *President*
  - Dr. Anthony Fellow, *Vice President*
  - Katarina Garcia, *Treasurer*
  - Ed Chavez, *Secretary*
- Approved 2025-26 Legislative Policy Principles
- Professional Services Agreement with Best and Krieger for federal advocacy services for a term commencing January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026
- Appointments for a Representative and Alternate to Outside Organizations

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stated that in the next couple of months their Board and Committees will be discussing administrative items that includes reviewing policies.

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 20 percent.

He then introduced Mr. Jeff Hanlon, member of the TVMWD Board of Directors, stating that Mr. Hanlon has been appointed as their representative to report on Watermaster activities.

Mr. Litchfield also reported that TVMWD plans to submit a comment letter to MWD regarding their cyclic storage programs.

Lastly, he reported on the following legislative activities:

- Senate Bill 366, The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.
- Assembly Bill 2449, (Rubio). Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.
- Assembly Bill 259, (Rubio). Sunset Elimination for Modified Brown Act Meeting Procedures

Mr. Placido, reported on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), stating that the SGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting on January 13, 2025, included adoption of Resolution No. 01-2025-844 amending their Administrative Code.

Mr. Steve Kiggins, Assistant General Manager, also reported on behalf of SGVMWD, announced that also on January 13, 2025, Mr. Placido was appointed as President of the SGVMWD Board of Directors.

## **REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer, 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 100% of Prescriptive Pumping Right from Co-Tenancy of Laurence P. Pellissier Irrevocable QTIP Trust, et al to California Domestic Water Company for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- b) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Monthly Report for December 2024

## **COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

Treasurer Barbosa stated that while she understands the community's urgency to clean up the Fire areas, she would like to continue the collaboration to ensure the protection

of the water quality in the San Gabriel Valley.

Chair Noriega thanked Treasurer Barbosa for her excellent comments at this morning's briefing on the Lario Park Staging Area related to the Eaton Fire.

Chair Noriega announced that today's meeting will be adjourned in memory of Mrs. Ana Mata's father, *Mr. Alberto Jara Valdez*, who passed away on January 13, 2025. She expressed sincere condolences to Ana and the entire Valdez family.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM**

- a) Consideration of Extension Agreement for Sterling Mutual Water Company for Producer Cyclic Storage

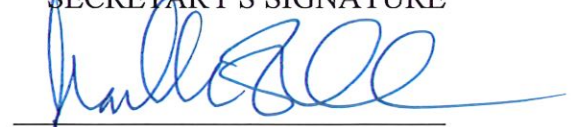
#### **CLOSED SESSION**

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 in honor and memory of Mr. Alberto Jara Valdez, to a regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, March 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