

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 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, November 6, 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. Dan Arrighi, San Gabriel Valley Water Company, 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; Jenny Savron, 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, Dan Arrighi, Eric Batman, Jacob Chavira, Dan Colby, Ray Cordero, John Corona, Sandy Costandi, Robert DiPrimio, Patricia Cortez, Paul Cranmer, Rafael Fajardo, Steve Kiggins, Matt Litchfield, David Muse, Jeffrey Pellissier, Evelyn Reyes, Jessica Taylor and Dale Wert.

ELECTION OF PRODUCER NOMINEES FOR WATERMASTER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025

Chair Noriega stated that, as part of this regular meeting and in accordance with notice, the amended Judgment provides that a meeting of the Parties of said action will be held for the purpose of electing six Producer Representatives for Court appointment as Watermaster members for Calendar Year (CY) 2025, pursuant to Watermaster's petition to the Court.

Chair Noriega then called for the nomination of Producer Members to Watermaster for CY 2025. Mr. Dale Wert, Water Division Manager, City of Glendora, nominated the following individuals to serve as Producer Members: Melissa Barbosa, Paul Cranmer, Garry Hofer, David Michalko, Lynda Noriega and Martin Zvirbulis.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Chair Noriega directed that a unanimous ballot be cast for those nominated and she directed the Attorney, Mr. Fred Fudacz, to submit the names of those elected as Producer Members to the Court for appointment to Watermaster for the CY 2025 term. Mr. Fudacz noted that he will submit the names to the Court, noting that a confirmation hearing before The Honorable, Presiding Judge Maureen Duffy-Lewis is scheduled for December 6, 2024.

APPOINTMENTS OF PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025

- a) Certification of appointment of Steven T. Placido by San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District for CY 2025 - Chair Noriega reported that San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD) has certified Mr. Steven T. Placido as its Public Representative for Watermaster for CY 2025.
- b) Certification of appointment of Dr. Anthony Fellow and Jennifer Santana by Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District for CY 2025 - Chair Noriega reported that Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD) has certified Dr. Anthony Fellow and Mrs. Jennifer Santana as its Public Representatives for Watermaster for CY 2025.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda. On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Vice Chair David Michalko, and unanimously carried, the agenda was adopted as presented.

TIME RESERVED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Watermaster held October 2, 2024;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20618 through 20687 (voiding items 20618 through 20652), and four electronic debits, in the amount of \$390,862.83 on the Administrative Fund and Items 1024-S and 1024-U and 024-U2 in the amount of \$199,259.32 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, October 2024.

2025 BOARD MEETING DATES

Chair Noriega reported on the 2025 Watermaster Board of Directors meeting dates, stating that the first Wednesday for the month of January 2025 conflicts with the New Year's Day Holiday and the December 2025 conflicts with the Association of California Water Agencies Conference. Due to the conflicts, Chair Noriega stated that Watermaster staff has recommended moving the regular meeting dates to the second Wednesday of the month, January 8, 2025 and December 10, 2025, respectively.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Mr. Lewis, and unanimously carried, approved the 2025 Watermaster Board of Directors meeting dates.

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER AUTHORIZING INVESTMENT OF MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER MONIES IN LOCAL AGENCY INVESTMENT FUND (Resolution 11-24-330)

Resolution No. 11-24-330 – Mrs. Arrica Jimenez, Administration Manager, stated that a Resolution has been prepared authorizing investment of Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster Monies in Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF). She reported that due to the Controller's recent retirement, the account requires an update in authorized signers, noting that this update would benefit Watermaster by adding additional checks and balances within the accounting controls profile. Mrs. Jimenez stated that staff is requesting the Board's approval of the resolution to formally add the Senior Accountant position to the list of authorized signers for deposits and withdrawals from LAIF.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Ms. Melissa Barbosa, and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was adopted and passed as read:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-24-330**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER AUTHORIZING INVESTMENT OF MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER MONIES IN LOCAL AGENCY INVESTMENT FUND**

(see next page)

**ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN
WATERMASTER RECOGNIZING LA PUENTE VALLEY COUNTY WATER
DISTRICT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY (Resolution No. 11-24-331)**

Resolution No. 11-24-331 – Mr. Russ Bryden, Executive Officer, stated that a Resolution has been prepared recognizing La Puente Valley County Water District's 100th Anniversary.

On motion made by Secretary Martin Zvirbulis, seconded by Treasurer Tesfaye, and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was adopted and passed as read:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-24-331

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
RECOGNIZING LA PUENTE VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT'S
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

(see next page)

RECEIPT OF FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer, reported that Watermaster's 52nd Annual Report, which described activities of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24, was submitted to all Parties and to the Court as required by the Judgment. Mrs. Gardner noted that the report is also available on the Watermaster website.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Dr. Fellow, and unanimously carried, the FY 2023-24 Watermaster Annual Report has been received and filed.

RECEIPT OF DRAFT ANNUAL 5-YEAR WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY PLAN

Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, explained that in accordance with Section 28 of Watermaster's Rules and Regulations, each year a Five-Year Water Quality and Supply Plan (Five-Year Plan) is prepared which consists of four parts: an introduction, a report of current water supply conditions, a report of current water quality conditions, and the actual water quality and supply plan.

The report on water supply conditions includes information on recent rainfall and groundwater conditions, and, in general, gives background on determination of how much water will be produced in the Basin over the next five years. The water quality report, likewise, provides information on water quality issues, including concerns relative to specific contaminants and the vulnerability of Basin wells. Finally, the Five-Year Plan presents all the different programs in which Watermaster is engaged, including the groundwater quality monitoring and groundwater elevation monitoring programs, and it ends with an update of current and future cleanup projects.

Mr. Johnson stated that it is staff's recommendation that the Five-Year Plan public comment period be set starting today, November 6, 2024, and continue through the public hearing, which would be set for the Watermaster meeting on January 8, 2025.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Treasurer Tesfaye, and unanimously carried, Watermaster set the public comment period for the Five-Year Plan to begin Wednesday, November 6, 2024, and continue through the public hearing set for the regular Watermaster meeting on January 8, 2025. Chair Noriega then instructed staff to send notice to all Parties and to interested parties of the availability of the Five-Year Plan and the date and time of the scheduled hearing.

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE RELIABILITY STORAGE WATER USING RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

Mr. Bryden reported that in FY 2023-24 Watermaster collected funds from the Water Resource Development Assessment for the Stormwater Augmentation Program (RDA II), for a total of \$29,973,419.00. He noted that, upon approval, Watermaster will purchase Reliability Storage Water from each Responsible Agency based on funds collected from the RDA II each year. He also noted the estimated requirement for delivery during FY 2023-24 is 30,641.00 acre-feet.

On motion made by Secretary Zvirbulis, seconded by Mr. Lewis, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the Executive Officer to make the appropriate purchases.

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE REPLACEMENT WATER REQUIREMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

Mr. Bryden reported that this is a routine item and noted that staff had calculated the amount of Replacement Water that should be purchased from each Responsible Agency for overproduction during FY 2023-24. He also reported detailed information relative to each Responsible Agencies' obligation, noting that specific calculations are shown in the staff report.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Mr. Placido, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the purchase of Replacement Water from the appropriate Responsible Agencies, as presented by staff, for overproduction during FY 2023-24.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Secretary Zvirbulis reported that the Administrative Committee met on October 16, 2024 and referenced the written Committee report included in the Board packet. He stated that the Committee discussed a new pilot Watermaster Internship Program, participation in the CalPERS 457 Plan and the Executive Officer's Performance Evaluation.

Consideration and Approval of Watermaster Internship Program

Mr. Bryden provided an overview of the Watermaster Internship Program, stating that the program will offer a paid internship for students enrolled in a community college or university. He added that the program will help students gain work experience and on-the-job training, while serving as a pipeline and recruiting potential future employees in line with Watermaster's succession planning.

He stated that the Administrative Committee recommends that Watermaster approve the Watermaster Internship Program for immediate recruitment.

On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Secretary Zvirbulis, and unanimously carried, approved the Watermaster Internship Program for immediate recruitment.

Adoption of a Resolution of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster Approving and Adopting the CalPERS 457 Plan (Resolution No. 11-24-332)

Mrs. Jimenez stated that a Resolution has been prepared approving and adopting the CalPERS 457 Plan. She reported that the Committee discussed establishing an additional deferred compensation plan for the benefit of its employees, noting that participation is voluntary and there is no cost to Watermaster.

Mr. Bryden then provided a brief overview on the service fees associated with the plan.

Mrs. Jimenez stated that the Administrative Committee recommends that Watermaster adopt the resolution approving the CalPERS 457 Plan.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 11-24-332

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE CALPERS 457 PLAN**

(see next page)

REPORT FROM BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Michalko reported that the Basin Water Management Committee met on October 9, 2024 and referenced the Committee report included in the Board packet, stating no action was taken. He added that the discussion included the Pure Water Southern California Project, Strategic Plan and USGVMWD's Readiness to Service charge.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fudacz reported that the Status Conference Hearing before Presiding Judge Maureen Duffy-Lewis originally scheduled for October 24, 2024 has been rescheduled to December 6, 2024, and it will include a confirmation of the Watermaster Board of Directors' nominees for CY 2025.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Johnson reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 244.7 feet on October 25, 2024, an increase of 0.3 feet from the prior week, an increase of 1.3 feet from the prior month, and about 17.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 136,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 14.0 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 October 28, 2024, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 24.15 inches, which is about 133 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 25.19 inches, which is 166 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of October 29, 2024, was 12,966 acre-feet, about 16 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of October 29, 2024, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 0 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 0 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 8 cfs, release was 35 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 provided a brief update on current Metropolitan Water District of Southern California activities.

Mrs. Santana reported on behalf of USGVMWD and referenced a report provided to Watermaster.

Ms. Patricia Cortez, Assistant General Manager, also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stating that a Producer Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Matt Litchfield, General Manager, reported on behalf of Three Valleys Municipal Water District, providing an operational update.

Mr. Placido reported on behalf of SGVMWD, stating that the SGVMWD Board met on November 4, 2024, and that the discussion included District Revenue Sources and Grant Requests from the City of Monterey Park and Sierra Madre. Additionally, he provided a discussion on SGVMWD's sponsorship of a two-day high school regional debate tournament held in early November 2024, noting that the topics included water, water conservation and climate change.

REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Mr. Eric Batman, Senior Civil Engineer, Los Angeles County Public Works, 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 item listed on the agenda for information of Watermaster was noted, and ordered received and filed:

- a) Temporary assignment or lease of 25.10 acre-feet of Production Right from The Nicholson Family Trust – Marital Trust to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2024-25
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 600.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Vulcan Materials Company to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2024-25
- c) Temporary assignment or lease of 34.82 acre-feet of Production Right from Rados Bros. to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2024-25
- d) Temporary assignment or lease of 35.13 acre-feet of Carryover Right from Moon Valley Nursery of California, Inc. to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2024-25
- e) Temporary assignment or lease of 250.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Valencia Heights Water Company to Covina Irrigating Company for FY 2024-25

- f) Permanent transfer of 441.90 acre-feet of Prescriptive Pumping Right from Mary Kay Dawes to Michael Robert Dawes
- g) Temporary assignment or lease of 168.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Lucy A. & Harry E. Rosedale III, Trustees of the Harry E. Rosedale Trust, dated May 24, 1985 to Canyon Water Company for FY 2024-25
- h) Change of Designee for William L. McIntyre to Andrew McIntyre
- i) Change of Designee for Canyon Water Company to Andrew McIntyre
- j) Transmittal of SGVMWD's Monthly Report for September 2024

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Dr. Fellow congratulated Mr. Placido on his re-election to the SGVWMD's Board of Directors.

Mrs. Jennifer Santana and Treasurer Tesfaye also congratulated Mr. Placido.

Vice Chair Michalko thanked everyone for their support in serving another year on the Watermaster Board.

Ms. Barbosa appreciated Watermaster's participation along with Los Angeles County at the 90th anniversary dedication for Morris Dam. She added that the City of Azusa staff toured the Pure Water Southern California Demonstration Facility. Lastly, Ms. Barbosa also congratulated Mr. Placido.

Mr. Lewis also congratulated Mr. Placido.

Mr. Placido thanked everyone for their support and looks forward to serving another year on the Watermaster Board.

Chair Noriega also congratulated Mr. Placido. She thanked and expressed appreciation to Treasurer Tesfaye and Mr. Lewis for serving on the Watermaster Board. Chair Noriega then congratulated Mr. Paul Cranmer and Mr. Garry Hofer on their appointments to the Watermaster Board for CY 2025 and looks forward to collaborating with them.

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 no action was taken in Closed Session.

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, December 11, 2024 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