

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 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, February 14, 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

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, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Anteneh Tesfaye and Martin Zvirbulis.

ABSENT: Steven Placido and Jennifer Santana.

(Mr. Steven Placido joined later in the meeting.)

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT

Staff present at the meeting included: Anthony Zampiello, 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: Anthony Alberti, Ed Chavez, Dan Colby, John Corona, Paul Cranmer, Cris Fealy, Casey Feilen, Roy Frausto, Erik Hitchman, Matt Litchfield, Chuck Luas, Tom Love, Jared Macias, Stephanie Moreno, Tara Robinson 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. David Michalko, Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Anteneh Tesfaye, Treasurer, and unanimously carried, the agenda was adopted as presented.

RECESS

At 2:33 p.m., Chair Noriega called for a recess to allow the Watermaster Board of Directors to assemble in the Watermaster Conference Room for a Closed Session.

RECONVENE

At 2:35 p.m., reconvened the Watermaster Board of Directors in Closed Session.

(Mr. Placido joined the meeting.)

CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session was held for conference with Legal Counsel regarding a Personnel Matter.

RECONVENE

At 4:02 p.m., the Watermaster Board of Directors reconvened in the Conference Room of the City of Azusa Light and Water Administration Facility.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMES

At 4:05 p.m., the Chair reported that in Closed Session, actions were taken.

The Attorney, Mr. Fred Fudacz, reported that the following actions were taken:

On motion by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Treasurer Tesfaye, the Board of Directors authorized the Chair to negotiate an offer of employment to Mr. Russ Bryden to become Executive Officer of Watermaster by the following vote:

ACTION: Passed [8 to 0]
 AYES: Barbosa, Fellow, Lewis, Michalko, Noriega, Placido,
 Tesfaye and Zvirbulis.
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Santana

On motion by Chair Noriega, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, the Board of Directors authorized the Chair and current Executive Officer to prepare a written plan documenting the proposed succession plan to be reviewed by Legal Counsel by the following vote:

ACTION: Passed [8 to 0]
 AYES: Barbosa, Fellow, Lewis, Michalko, Noriega, Placido,
 Tesfaye and Zvirbulis.
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Santana

(Dr. Fellow and Mr. Lewis left the meeting.)

TIME RESERVED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of a Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Watermaster held January 3, 2024;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20364 through 20396, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$395,125.73 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0224-S, 0224-T and 0224-U in the amount of \$47,050,120.18 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, January 2024;
- d) Authorization to attend Association of California Water Agencies Spring Conference, May 7 – 9, 2024.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Secretary Zvirbulis reported that the Administrative and Finance Committees met in joint session on January 17, 2024 and referenced the Committee report included in the Board packet, stating the discussion included a mid-year budget review, Resource Development Assessment buying power, and the Operating Safe Yield. He also reported that the Committee reviewed the 2024 Watermaster Committee Assignments and Representatives to Outside Organizations, which requires Watermaster action to receive and file.

Recommendation of 2024 Watermaster Committee Assignments and Representatives to Outside Organizations: Chair Noriega asked for any questions of the Secretary, and with none offered, ordered the 2024 Watermaster Committee Assignments, received and filed.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

California American Water Company – San Marino System, Section 28, “Application to Destroy Well” Rosemead Well. Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, reported that California American Water Company (CAWC) – San Marino System has submitted an application for destruction of its Rosemead Well, located in the City of Rosemead. The Rosemead Well is 12 inches in diameter and was constructed in 1900 to a depth of 675 feet with a total casing length of 675 feet. The Rosemead Well is perforated between 170 feet and 190 feet, 331 feet and 354 feet, 510 feet and 585 feet, and 648 feet and 662 feet below ground surface (bgs). The total length of screened interval is 132 feet. The

Rosemead Well has not been used for water supply since Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14 due to age and structural stability.

Mr. Johnson recommended that Watermaster approve CAWC's application to destroy Rosemead Well, subject to conditions stated in the staff report.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Secretary Zvirbulis, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved California American Water Company's application to destroy its Rosemead Well, subject to the conditions in the staff report.

California American Water Company – San Marino System, Section 28, “Application to Destroy Well” Adams Ranch No. 1 Well.

Mr. Johnson reported that California American Water Company (CAWC) – San Marino System has submitted an application for destruction of its Adams Ranch No. 1 Well, located in the City of Rosemead. The Adams Ranch No. 1 Well is 8 inches in diameter and was constructed in 1929 to a depth of 248 feet with a total casing extending the same length. The Adams Ranch No. 1 Well is perforated from 75 feet to 248 feet bgs with the total length of screened interval of 173 feet.

The Adams Ranch No. 1 Well has been out of service following casing failure in FY 1989-90 resulting in abandonment, not properly decommissioned by its previous owner and becoming a potential pathway for vertical cross-contamination of water bearing zones.

Mr. Johnson recommended that Watermaster approve CAWC's application to destroy the Adams Ranch No. 1 Well, subject to conditions stated in the staff report.

On motion made by Treasurer Tesfaye, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved California American Water Company's application to destroy its Adams Ranch No. 1 Well, subject to the conditions in the staff report.

California American Water Company – San Marino System, Section 28, “Application to Destroy Well” Adams Ranch No. 2 Well.

Mr. Johnson reported that California American Water Company (CAWC) – San Marino System has submitted an application for destruction of its Adams Ranch Wells No. 2, located in the City of Rosemead.

Adams Ranch Wells No. 2 is 12 inches in diameter and was constructed in 1959 to a depth of 254 feet with a total casing extending the same length. The Adams Ranch No. 2 is perforated between 175 feet and 188 feet, and 214 feet and 218 feet bgs. The total length of screened interval is 17 feet.

The Adams Ranch No. 2 Well has been out of service since FY 1985-86 due to water quality issues resulting in abandonment and not properly decommissioned by its previous owner and becoming a potential pathway for vertical cross-contamination of water bearing zones.

Mr. Johnson recommended that Watermaster approve CAWC's application to destroy Adams Ranch No. 2 Well, subject to conditions stated in the staff report.

On motion made by Ms. Melissa Barbosa, seconded by Secretary Zvirbulis, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved California American Water Company's application to destroy its Adams Ranch No. 2 Well, subject to the conditions in the staff report.

California American Water Company, San Marino System – Section 28, “Application to Destroy Well” Adams Ranch No. 3 Well.

Mr. Johnson reported that California American Water Company (CAWC) – San Marino System has submitted an application for destruction of its Adams Ranch No. 3 Well, located in the City of Rosemead.

The Adams Ranch No. 3 Well is 10 inches in diameter and was constructed in 2001 to a depth of 520 feet with a total casing extending to 500 feet bgs. The Adams Ranch No. 3 Well is perforated between 340 feet and 400 feet, and 440 feet and 480 feet bgs. The total length of screened interval is 100 feet.

Adams Ranch Well No. 3 commenced water production in FY 2003-04 to supplement water supply for its former owner, Adams Ranch Mutual Water Company (ARMWC), due to the diminished groundwater production from Adams Wells No. 1 and 2. Following CAWC's acquisition of ARMWC's assets in 2016, low production issues were identified with Adams Ranch Well No. 3 and encountered uncertainties in potentially increasing its capacity.

Adams Ranch Well No. 3 had water quality concerns as the onsite air stripper treatment equipment utilized to treat extracted groundwater had aged without any documented maintenance, and treatment equipment was directly linked to the water system, allowing minimal contact time with chlorine, raising concerns about the effectiveness of the disinfection process.

Mr. Johnson recommended that Watermaster approve CAWC's application to destroy Adams Ranch No. 3 Well, subject to conditions stated in the staff report.

On motion made by Treasurer Tesfaye, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved California American Water Company's application to destroy its Adams Ranch No. 3 Well, subject to the conditions in the staff report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fudacz reported that a Status Conference before Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis regarding Main San Gabriel Basin conditions is scheduled for April 8, 2024.

He provided a brief 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 an interim agreement is in place.

Lastly, Mr. Fudacz provided a legislative update on Senator Alex Padilla's proposed bill, *Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act*, to protect California public lands throughout northwest California, the Central Coast and Los Angeles.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Johnson reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 222.1 feet on February 2, 2024, a decrease of about 0.3 feet from the prior week, a decrease of 1.5 feet from the prior month, and about 41.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 75,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 9.0 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 January 31, 2024, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 7.07 inches, which is about 75 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 8.27 inches, which is 114 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of February 6, 2024, was 32,642 acre-feet, about 39 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of February 6, 2024, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 1,470 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 0 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 79 cfs, release was 45 cfs.

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. Anthony Zampello, Executive Officer, reported that a written copy of his report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Mr. Steven Placido reported on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, reporting that a Strategic Planning Workshop was held on January 22, 2024.

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 607 acre-feet of Carryover Right from IBY Property Owner, LLC to IBY, LLC for FY 2023-24
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 2,372.51 acre-feet of Prescriptive Pumping Right from IBY Property Owner, LLC to IBY, LLC for FY 2023-31
- c) Permanent transfer of 2,314.17 acre-feet of Prescriptive Pumping Right plus 62.06 acre-feet of unused Carry-Over right from Hanson Aggregates West, Inc. to Martin Marietta Southern California Aggregates, LLC
- d) Change of Designee for IBY Property Owner, LLC to Adam Sher
- e) Change of Designee for City of Glendora to Dale D. Wert
- f) San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District transmittal of monthly report for December 2023
- g) ROC Biennial SCW Program Progress Report Public Comment Letter

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Ms. Barbosa and Mr. Placido wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Chair Noriega also wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. She thanked the Watermaster Board Members for today's discussion in Closed Session, noting that it was productive in resolving certain items. Chair Noriega added that she looks forward to working with Mr. Zampiello on the items that will be brought back to the Watermaster Board for consideration.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were offered.

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, March 6, 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