

**A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA  
HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024 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, June 5, 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. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, 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; Arrica Jimenez, Administration Manager; Ana Rodriguez, Accountant II and Lauren Augino, Water Resources Analyst II.

Others present included: Dennis Ahlen, Anthony Alberti, Lee Alexanderson, Ed Chavez, Dan Colby, Ray Cordero, Paul Cranmer, Cris Fealy, Roy Frausto, Greg Galindo, Garry Hofer, Steve Kiggins, Matthew Litchfield, Tom Love, Jose Martinez, David Muse, Jeffrey Pellissier, Tara Robinson, Carlos Solis, Jessica Taylor and Ernesto Venegas.

**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. Anteneh Tesfaye, Treasurer, 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. Benjamin Lewis, Jr., seconded by Mr. David Michalko, Vice Chair, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Watermaster held May 1, 2024;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20478 through 20501, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$455,163.73 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0624-S and 0624-U in the amount of \$155,748.72 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, May 2024.

## **AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE EXTENSION AGREEMENT FOR VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT FOR PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE ACCOUNT**

Mr. Russ Bryden, Executive Officer, reported that Valley County Water District 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 Valley County Water District.

On motion made by Mr. Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the extension agreement for Valley County Water District/Watermaster Cyclic Storage Agreement for a period of five years, to expire on June 5, 2029.

## **REQUEST FROM UNITED ROCK PRODUCTS CORPORATION TO PURCHASE 250.00 ACRE-FEET OF WATER FROM UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT FOR PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE**

Mr. Bryden reported that the United Rock Products Corporation has submitted a request to purchase 250.00 acre-feet of water from Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD) for its producer cyclic storage account. He noted that there is available capacity within their existing account.

On motion made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Steven Placido, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the purchase of 250.00 of cyclic storage water from USGVMWD for United Rock Products Corporation's individual producer cyclic storage account.

## **AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE PRODUCTION AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL RELATIVE TO THE WHITTIER NARROWS OPERABLE UNIT**

Mr. Bryden provided an update on the Water Production Agreement with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation to accept treated water from the Whittier Narrows Operable Unit (WNOU) treatment facility into Legg Lake, stating that

the existing Water Production Agreement will include an additional one-year extension to June 30, 2025.

On motion made by Ms. Melissa Barbosa, seconded by Treasurer Tesfaye, and unanimously carried, authorized the Executive Officer to sign the third extension of the Water Production Agreement with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Toxic Substances Control relative to the WNOU.

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

Vice Chair Michalko reported that the Basin Water Management Committee met on May 15, 2024, and discussed a few items, one which requires Watermaster action today.

County Water Plan Presentation: Mr. Bryden provided a brief overview of the County Water Plan and introduced Mr. Lee Alexanderson, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, who presented the vision of the plan and described the four key focal areas, the task forces launched, the value of the plan to Watermaster, and continued collaboration on local and regional efforts.

Authorization to renew contract of Weck Laboratories for a two-year term: Mr. Bryden provided an overview of services provided by Weck Laboratories for Title 22 and Baldwin Park Operable Unit (BPOU) sampling and testing. He added that Weck Laboratories has provided responsible testing services since 2009 and experiences to date has been favorable. Weck Laboratories has requested a two-year contract renewal with an increase in cost of about 10 percent.

On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Treasurer Tesfaye, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized a renewal for a two-year term extension of the existing Title 22 and BPOU Laboratory Contract with Weck Laboratories, under the conditions and unit analytical prices as specified in the renewal contract.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, reported that on May 2, 2024 President Biden signed a proclamation expanding two national monuments, the Berryessa Snow Mountains and the San Gabriel Mountains, stating that the proclamation added 106,000 acres to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, improving access to the Angeles National Forest for residents and protecting these lands from mining, development and exploitation.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Johnson reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 240.9 feet on May 24, 2024, a decrease of about 0.5 feet from the prior week, an increase of about 5.1 feet from the prior month, and about 9.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 72,000 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 May 29, 2024, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 24.15 inches, which is about 134 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 25.19 inches, which is 167 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of May 28, 2024, was 27,453 acre-feet, about 33 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of May 28, 2024, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 276 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 275 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 213 cfs, release was 200 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. Bryden reported that a written copy of his report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

He reported that on June 6, 2024, he will be participating in a tour of Pure Water Southern California hosted by Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD).

Lastly, Mr. Bryden announced that on June 27, 2024, Watermaster and Southern California Water Utilities Association are jointly hosting a San Gabriel Valley Water Supply Tour.

## **REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES**

Dr. Fellow reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stating that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Board of Directors Meeting on June 11, 2024 will include the following for consideration and approval:

- Authorize amending agreement with CDM Smith Inc. to provide services in the development and implementation of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W)
- Authorize payments in support of the Colorado River Board for Fiscal Year 2024-25 and 2025-26

Mrs. Jennifer Santana also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stating that the USGVMWD Board of Directors approved the following on May 22, 2024:

- Adopted Ordinance No. 24-1, Imposing Standby Charges for Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2024.
- Adopted Resolution No. 050240661, requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles to Permit the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to render election services for the general election to be held on November 5, 2024.

Lastly, she stated that a USGVMWD Water Resources and Facility Management Meeting Committee is scheduled for this afternoon at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stating that the USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting on June 12, 2024 will include consideration and approval of its budget for FYs 2024-25 and 2025-26. He also provided an update on water supply and imported water deliveries.

He added that this afternoon's USGVMWD Water Resources and Facility Management Committee Meeting will include an update on USGVMWD's Integrated Resource Plan.

Related to MWD's CAMP4W, Mr. Love noted that the next phase includes the development of the business model and plan. He added that public information sessions will be held, noting that USGVMWD has scheduled one for July 11, 2024 in the City of Monrovia.

Mr. Matthew Litchfield, General Manager, reported on behalf of TVMWD, providing an operational update. He then announced that the next Leadership Breakfast is scheduled for June 27, 2024 at the Kellogg West Conference Center featuring Mr. Blaine Waymire, Engineering Hydrogen Manager, Southern California Gas, on the "The Role of Hydrogen in Natural Gas Infrastructure."

Mr. Placido, reported on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), stating that the SGVMWD Board of Directors approved the following on May 13, 2024:

- Adopted a Grant/Loan Policy Resolution
- Approved a Cost-of-Living Adjustment

Mr. Steve Kiggins, Assistant General Manager, also reported on behalf of SGVMWD, stating that also on May 13, 2024, the SGVMWD Board of Directors received a Pure Water Southern California Project White Paper presentation by Stetson Engineers Inc.

## **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 285.38 acre-feet of Production Right from City of Irwindale to Valley County Water District for FY 2023-24
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 100% of Prescriptive Pumping Right from City of Brea to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2023-24

- c) Temporary assignment or lease of 36.29 acre-feet of Production Right from Walter Green to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2023-24
- d) Temporary assignment or lease of 82.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Hemlock Mutual Water Company to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2024-25
- e) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,200.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Azusa Valley Water Company to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2023-24
- f) Temporary assignment or lease of 43.89 acre-feet of Production Right from Phillip G. Tate & Sieglinde Tate, Trustees of the Tate Family Trust to La Puente Valley County Water District for FY 2023-24
- g) Temporary assignment or lease of 500.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Amarillo Mutual Water Company to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2023-24
- h) Temporary assignment or lease of 2,000.00 acre-feet of Production Right from City of Whittier to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2023-24
- i) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,300.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Workman Mill Investment Company to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2023-24
- j) Temporary assignment or lease of 3,000.00 acre-feet of Production Right from City of Whittier to Covina Irrigating Company for FY 2023-24
- k) Temporary assignment or lease of 600.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Valley County Water District to La Puente Valley County Water District for FY 2023-24
- l) Temporary assignment or lease of 162.65 acre-feet of Production Right from Anton C. and Anita Garnier Family Trust to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2023-24
- m) Change of Designee for United Rock Products Corporation to Mark Pachura
- n) Change of Designee for City of Sierra Madre to Jose Reynoso
- o) Change of Representative from Tony Zampiello to Russ Bryden for ACWA-Region 8, ACWA-JPIA, and AGWA committees
- p) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Monthly Report for April 2024

**COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

Vice Chair Michalko provided the following key dates and expressed the importance in participation:

- June 19, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. - Basin Water Management Committee Meeting
- June 20, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. - Producer Meeting

Ms. Barbosa thanked USGVMWD for the invitation to the State Water Project tour and looks forward to the tour of Pure Water Southern California.

Chair Noriega thanked and expressed gratitude to USGVMWD and Watermaster for their collaboration on current and future projects.

Chair Noriega announced that today's meeting will adjourn in memory of Mr. Keith Bowman, Distribution Supervisor, La Puente Valley County Water District, 24-year employee, who passed away on May 28, 2024.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No future agenda items were offered.

**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. Keith Bowman, to a regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, July 3, 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

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MARTIN ZVIRBULIS

ATTEST:

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LYNDA NORIEGA  
CHAIR