

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2022 AT 2:30 O'CLOCK P.M.**

A regular meeting of the Main San Gabriel Basin 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, and via Zoom Meeting (web-based video conferencing) on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 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: David DeJesus, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Garry Hofer, David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido, Anteneh Tesfaye, Charles Treviño and Martin Zvirbulis

ABSENT: None

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT

Staff present at the meeting included: Anthony Zampello, Executive Officer; Fred Fudacz, Attorney; Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer; Arrica Jimenez, Administration Manager; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Jenny Savron, Consulting Engineer; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant; Lauren Augino, Water Resources Analyst and Ana Rodriguez, Accountant II.

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Dan Arrighi, Melissa Barbosa, Andy Bullington, Chris Castruita, Dan Colby, Tom Coleman, John Corona, Paul Cranmer, Paul DiMaggio, Roy Frausto, Greg Galindo, Richard Gonzales, Bob Kuhn, Sylvie Lee, Steve Kiggins, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., Matthew Litchfield, Tom Love, Myra Malner, Jose Martinez, Stephanie Moreno, Chisom Obegolu, Lenet Pacheco, Jeffrey Pellissier, Cesar Rangel, Tara Robinson, Kevin Sage, Jessica Taylor and Paul Zampello.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda. On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Mr. Treviño, 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. Treviño, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of the Annual Hearing on Determination of Operating Safe Yield and Regular Meeting of Watermaster held May 11, 2022;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 19766 through 19789, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$360,816.05 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0622-S and 0622-U in the amount of \$1,713,757.72 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, May 2022.

REQUEST FROM CITY OF MONROVIA TO PURCHASE 412.09 ACRE-FEET OF WATER FROM UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT FOR PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE

The Executive Officer, Mr. Anthony Zampiello, reported that the City of Monrovia has submitted a request to purchase 412.09 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 Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Mr. Treviño, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the purchase of 412.09 acre-feet of cyclic storage water from USGVMWD, for the City of Monrovia's individual producer cyclic storage account.

REPORT FROM BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Noriega reported that the Basin Water Management Committee met on May 18, 2022, and discussed one item which requires Watermaster action today. She then deferred to the Executive Officer, Mr. Anthony Zampiello, to provide an overview on the renewal contract of Weck Laboratories for a two-year term.

Authorization to renew contract of Weck Laboratories for a two-year term: Mr. Zampiello, 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 with no increase in cost since 2009 and experience to date has been favorable. Weck Laboratories has requested a two-year contract with an increase of 4.7% in cost for year one, and no additional increase in year two.

On motion made by Mr. Treviño, seconded by Mr. DeJesus, 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

The Attorney, Mr. Fred Fudacz, provided a brief update related to the petition pending by California Trout to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) to list its Southern California Steelhead as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). He stated that there have been no developments and will continue to monitor and keep the Watermaster Board apprised of any new developments.

Additionally, he provided an update on a litigation matter related to the California River Watch vs. City of Vacaville under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. He stated that the three-judge panel within the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit's (Ninth Circuit) decision holding the City of Vacaville liable for transporting hexavalent chromium through its water distribution system despite not being involved in the waste disposal process that contaminated its source water. A decision remains pending on the amicus brief filed by the Association of California Water Agencies in an effort for the decision to be reviewed by the entire Ninth Circuit.

Mr. Fudacz also reported that a status conference regarding the Main San Gabriel Basin conditions before Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis is scheduled for September 15, 2022 at the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Consulting Engineer, Mr. Steve Johnson, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 186.1 feet on May 20, 2022, noting an increase of 0.6 feet from the prior week; about 2.0 feet higher from the prior month, and about 8.0 feet lower than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 128,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 16 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 24, 2022, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 11.42 inches, which is about 63 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 12.39 inches, which is 82 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of May 23, 2022, was 18,552 acre-feet, about 22 percent of capacity. Excluding minimum pool storage, about 2,300 acre-feet is available for direct use or groundwater replenishment. He also stated that as of May 23, 2022, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 36 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 25 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 21 cfs, release was 25 cfs. He also provided a water quality update.

Mr. Johnson also 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. Zampiello reported that a written copy of his report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

As part of the Main Basin Outreach Campaign, *The Waters That Connect Us*, Mr. Zampiello reported that on May 19, 2022 at 12:00 p.m., Chair Noriega hosted an Instagram Live along with Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, USGVMWD and Mr. Matthew Litchfield, General Manager, Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD) and led a conversation about what “taking action together” means in these times of unprecedented drought.

Mr. Zampiello stated that Watermaster, MWD, USGVMWD and other local agencies have worked together on a draft Quagga Mussel Mitigation Plan with the goal of gaining support from Los Angeles County and regulatory agencies to accept Colorado River water as replenishment.

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Anthony Fellow, reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, referenced a report provided by USGVMWD to Watermaster. He reported on the following items approved by the USGVMWD Board on May 25, 2022:

- Adopted Ordinance No. 22-1, Imposing Standby Charges for Fiscal Year 2022-23 Commencing July 1, 2022.
- Approved Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget and Calendar Year 2023 Water Rates and Charges.

Mr. Love, also reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, provided a water supply update and drought actions by USGVMWD, stating that USGVMWD has elected MWD’s volumetric Path 2, to deliver about 14,600 acre-feet of water this fall, noting that discussions have been held with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) as to whether the delivery needs to take place on a monthly basis of about 2,100 acre-feet for the next seven or so months or wait to begin deliveries sometime during October – November 2022. He added that MWD has indicated that the fall delivery would work and they are planning accordingly.

Mr. Love also reported that the next USGVMWD Board of Directors is scheduled for June 8, 2022 at 8:00 a.m., noting that the USGVMWD Board of Directors will recess for the month of July and resuming August 10, 2022.

Mr. Litchfield, reporting on behalf of TVMWD, reported that on June 1, 2022, the Covina Irrigating Company (CIC) ceased taking State Water Project deliveries from the North Azusa connection. He added that the agencies that typically receive from CIC are rolling on to different connections that take treated water (Colorado River water) from the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Litchfield also reported that State Water Project dependent, TVMWD’s member agencies Golden State Water Company – Claremont and City of La Verne, have initiated watering restrictions of one day per

week beginning today and are also working with TVMWD on water conservation outreach efforts and messaging for their residents. He added that these two agencies will be monitored for water usage tracking by MWD and TVMWD.

Lastly, he reported that TVMWD will hold its second leadership breakfast on June 23, 2022 at the Mountain Meadows Golf Course, Pomona, stating that the program will include a presentation on cyber security by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Mr. Steven Placido, reporting on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), reported that the SGVMWD Board of Directors met on May 16, 2022, stating that the discussion included the Devil Canyon-Azusa Pipeline Project Schedule I Pipeline Modifications and Condition Assessment.

Mr. Steve Kiggins, Assistant General Manager, also reporting on behalf of SGVMWD provided an operational update, stating that water deliveries ceased on May 31, 2022, noting that due to the aforementioned project, the pipeline will not be available for use until September 2022.

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 80.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Hemlock Mutual Water Company to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2022-23
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 335.39 acre-feet of Production Right from Mary Kay Partridge (Dawes) to La Puente Valley County Water District for FY 2022-23
- c) Temporary assignment or lease of 32.00 acre-feet of Diversion Right and 32.00 acre-feet of Carry-over Right from JUH #1 to Canyon Water Company for FY 2021-22
- d) Temporary assignment or lease of 275.00 acre-feet of Carry-over Right from IBY Property Owner, LLC to Azusa Valley Water Company for FY 2021-22
- e) Temporary assignment or lease of 488.18 acre-feet of Production Right from Cadway, Inc. to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2021-22
- f) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,600.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Hanson Aggregates West, Inc. to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2021-22

- g) Temporary assignment or lease of 2,000.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Covina Irrigating Company to Valley County Water District for FY 2021-22
- h) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,500.00 acre-feet of Production Right from City of Whittier to Covina Irrigating Company for FY 2021-22
- i) Temporary assignment or lease of 139.73 acre-feet of Production Right from Covina Irrigating Company to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2021-22
- j) Temporary assignment or lease of 3,000.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Covina Irrigating Company to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2021-22
- k) Temporary assignment or lease of 359.69 acre-feet of Production Right from City of Covina to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2021-22
- l) Change of Designee for Kathryn W. Baker Trust to Kathryn W. Baker
- m) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Monthly Report for April 2022

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Mr. Treviño stated that he was pleased to see everyone and stressed the importance and value of in-person meetings.

Dr. Fellow stated that the San Gabriel Valley Water Association Quarterly Breakfast Meeting held on May 19, 2022 was outstanding. An informative presentation by Ms. Nancy Vogel, Deputy Secretary for Water/Director of the Governor's Water Portfolio Program, California Natural Resources Agency, addressed the funding support from the state for local water suppliers as we cope with unprecedented drought in the context of climate change. He added that Ms. Vogel shared her insight of the Governor's initiatives and how they interplay with regional and local efforts.

Chair Noriega echoed and attested to Mr. Treviño's comments on the value of in-person meetings.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were offered.

CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session was held for discussion of the Executive Officer's Annual Performance Evaluation.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMES

The Chair reported that in Closed Session, the following action was taken:

By unanimous vote, the Board approved the annual performance evaluation of the Executive Officer.

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, July 6, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. to be held via Zoom Meeting.

SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE



MARTIN ZVIRBULIS

ATTEST:



LYNDA NORIEGA
CHAIR