

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
725 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA  
HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 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, April 2, 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:** Paul Cranmer, Dr. Anthony Fellow, David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido, and Martin Zvirbulis.

**ABSENT:** Melissa Barbosa and Garry Hofer.

(Mrs. Jennifer Santana arrived later in the meeting.)

**STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Staff present at the meeting included: Kelly Gardner, Executive Officer; Fred Fudacz Attorney; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Heather Steele, Consulting Engineer; Arrica Jimenez, Administration Manager; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant, and Ana Rodriguez, Accountant II.

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Nathan Au, Carlos Cardona, Dan Colby, John Corona, Roy Frausto, Jeff Hanlon, Geo Herrera, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., Matt Litchfield, Stephanie Lobos, Tom Love, Victor Magana, Jose Martinez, Stephanie Moreno, Tara Mullaly, Lenet Pacheco, Jeffrey Pellissier, Carlos Solis, Jessica Taylor, Anteneh Tesfaye, 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. David Michalko, Vice Chair, 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. Paul Cranmer, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of a Regular Meeting held March 5, 2025 of Watermaster;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20768, 20792 through 20823, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$405,323.14 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0325-S, 0325-U and 325-U2 in the amount of \$147,605.75 on the Replacement Water Fund, and
- c) Financial Statements, March 2025.

(Mrs. Jennifer Santana joined the meeting.)

## PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF OPERATING SAFE YIELD FOR FISCAL YEARS (FY) 2025-26 THROUGH 2029-30

Ms. Heather Steele, Consulting Engineer, stated that, pursuant to Section 43 of the amended Judgment, a Preliminary Determination of the Main San Gabriel Basin's (Main Basin) Operating Safe Yield (OSY) is to be made by each April Regular Meeting of Watermaster, with the final determination to be made at the May meeting. She explained that the OSY is the amount of water that Watermaster determines can be pumped from the Basin before Replacement Water must be purchased. Ms. Steele pointed out that she is only recommending a preliminary determination at this time and will make a final recommendation at the May meeting. She provided a brief overview of how the data used to determine the Engineer's recommendations and stated that the report this year would be somewhat different in order to best report the current water supply conditions.

Ms. Steele began her formal report by reading Section 42 of the Judgment, which states in part, "...Watermaster shall recharge Replacement Water in accordance with the Watermaster Operating Criteria and, insofar as practicable, to maintain the water level at the Baldwin Park Key Well (Key Well) above Elevation two hundred (200)." As of March 14, 2025, the groundwater elevation at the Key Well was 243.4 feet. Typically, establishing a lower Operating Safe Yield results in reduced water rights, increased Replacement Water obligations and, consequently, increased deliveries and replenishment of imported water as Replacement Water. However, thus far, there is a lot of Cyclic Storage water in accounts, which can be utilized to meet Replacement Water obligations instead of delivering water to the Basin.

Ms. Steele also stated that as a result of recent significant local drought conditions, Watermaster has been more pro-active by implementing provisions of the Judgment, and developing and instituting new studies, programs and plans to address conditions as they progressively worsened. She added that without the actions of Watermaster and the Producers, Basin water supply conditions would have been much worse. She reported that the actions included storm water capture, cyclic storage, conservation, basin-wide low water vulnerability assessment, in-lieu program, Stormwater Augmentation Program, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Water Supply Agreement.

Additionally, she reviewed current hydrologic conditions and referred to a graph indicating accumulated rainfall at Puddingstone Dam of 6.67 inches, noting that this is about 41 percent of average for this time of year.

Ms. Steele also reported that total production in the Basin for the first two quarters of FY 2024-25 was about 103,000 acre-feet, adding that important factors keeping the Key Well from dropping any lower, are reduced production and water conservation.

Finally, based on all of these factors, she stated that the recommendation for the Preliminary Determination of the OSY is 160,000 acre-feet for 2025-26, and 140,000 acre-feet for the subsequent four years. Copies of the "Preliminary Determination of OSY" report were distributed for 2025.

Ms. Steele reported that the "Preliminary Determination of OSY" report for FY 2025-26 through 2029-30 will be posted to the Watermaster website and sent to all Parties by electronic transmittal no less than ten days before the May 7, 2025 Annual Hearing on Determination of OSY and Regular Meeting of the Watermaster.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Chair Noriega, and unanimously carried, Watermaster received and filed the "Preliminary Determination of OSY" report for 2025-26 through 2029-30.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE GOVERNMENTAL EXECUTIVE  
RETIREMENT PLAN**

Adoption of Resolution No. 04-25-336 Approving Contribution – Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Executive Officer, stated that this plan has been in place for several years, and is an item that comes before Watermaster for approval each year. She noted that this requires Board action and adoption of a resolution as a result of the appointment of the new Executive Officer.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Mr. Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was then read, adopted, and passed as read:

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-25-336**

**A RESOLUTION OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
APPROVING AND ADOPTING  
THE GOVERNMENTAL EXECUTIVE RETIREMENT PLAN**

(see next page)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
ACCEPTING RESIGNATION AND NOMINATING SUCCESSORS OF THE CO-  
TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
GOVERNMENTAL EXECUTIVE RETIREMENT PLAN (Resolution No. 04-25-337)**

Adoption of Resolution No. 04-25-337 Accepting Resignation and Nominating Successors of the Co-Trustees and Members of the Administrative Committee of the Governmental Executive Retirement Plan – Mrs. Gardner stated that due to the departure of Mr. Russ Bryden, it is necessary to update the Trustees on the Governmental Executive Retirement Plan to the new Executive Officer, Mrs. Gardner and the Administration Manager, Mrs. Arrica Jimenez. She noted that this requires Board action and adoption of a resolution.

On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Mr. Steven Placido, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was then read, adopted, and passed as read:

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-25-337**

**A RESOLUTION OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
ACCEPTING RESIGNATION AND NOMINATING SUCCESSORS OF THE CO-  
TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
GOVERNMENTAL EXECUTIVE RETIREMENT PLAN**

(see next page)

## REPORT FROM BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Michalko referred to a written Committee report included in the Board packet. He reported that the Basin Water Management Committee (BWMC) met on March 19, 2025, stating that discussion included two items requiring Watermaster Board action today.

### Baldwin Park Operable Unit Modeling Work/Cost – Authorization to Evaluate Future Groundwater Conditions in the Baldwin Park Operable Unit and the Impacts on the Known Plumes

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Mr. Cranmer, and unanimously carried, authorized the Evaluation of Future Groundwater Conditions in the Baldwin Park Operable Unit and the Impacts on the Known Plumes.

### Waiver of Assessment – Authorization to reinstate 75.90 acre-feet of water to La Puente Valley County Water District for available production right in FY 2024-25

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Secretary Zvirbulis, and unanimously carried, authorized to reinstate 75.90 acre-feet of water to La Puente Valley County Water District for available production right in FY 2024-25.

## REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Review of Preliminary Draft Administration Budget for FY 2025-26

On behalf of the Treasurer, Mrs. Gardner referred to a written Committee report included in the Board packet. She reported that the Finance Committee met on March 17, 2025 to review the Preliminary Draft Administration Budget and Assessments for FY 2025-26 and proposed assessments. She stated that Watermaster staff prepared the draft budget for consideration, noting no increase on the Administrative Assessment currently set at \$21.00 per acre-foot, and based on estimated production of 180,000 acre-feet.

Mrs. Gardner noted relative to expected expenditures, the most significant budget increase is seen in legal as Watermaster prepares for the upcoming Baldwin Park Operable Unit (BPOU) project agreement renewal. Salaries/Benefits are proposed at the same level as 2024-25, explaining the intent to fill vacancies created through recent appointments including a 3% cost-of-living increase for all staff as well as step increases for a few employees.

Lastly, she stated that the Finance Committee's recommendation of the Preliminary Draft Administration Budget for FY 2025-26 and Assessments for FY 2024-25 production will be considered for approval by the Watermaster Board of Directors at its May 7, 2025 meeting.

On motion made by Chair Noriega, seconded by Secretary Zvirbulis, and unanimously carried, Watermaster received and filed the Preliminary Draft Administration Budget and Assessment for FY 2025-26.

## REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Secretary Zvirbulis referred to a written Committee report included in the Board packet. He reported that the Administrative Committee met on March 19, 2025, stating that the discussion included two items requiring Watermaster Board action today.

### Consideration of Membership to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) – Affiliate Level

In response to a question by Mr. Placido regarding the Affiliate Level Membership, a brief discussion was held with Mrs. Gardner stating that the membership allows affiliates to become a voting member at the SGVCOG Committee level.

On motion by Secretary Zvirbulis, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, approved membership at the Affiliate Level to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments passed by the following vote:

ACTION:	Passed [5 to 2]
AYES:	Cranmer, Michalko, Noriega, Santana and Zvirbulis
NOES:	Fellow and Placido
ABSENT:	Barbosa and Hofer

### Consideration to Join the Water Reuse Collaborative

On motion made by Chair Noriega, seconded by Secretary Zvirbulis, and unanimously carried, approved the Executive Officer's participation on the Water Reuse Collaborative.

## ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, provided an update on the BPOU Project agreement renewal process along with a brief update on the matter with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation's water production agreement for the Whittier Narrows Operable Unit set to expire on June 30, 2025.

Lastly, he reported that the Executive Officer's employment contract will be discussed by the Watermaster Board in Closed Session on May 7, 2025.

## ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, reported that the Key Well level was 242.9 feet on March 21, 2025, a decrease of about 0.5 feet from the prior week, a decrease of 2.1 feet from the prior month, and about 19.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 135,000 acre-feet of 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 March 25, 2025, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 6.71 inches, which is about 42 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 7.57 inches, which is 55 percent of average, for this time of year. Additionally, he reported that stormwater capture for Water Year 2024-25 as of February 28, 2025 was 35,769 acre-feet.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of March 25, 2025, was 25,275 acre-feet, about 30 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of March 25, 2025, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 109 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 185 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 160 cfs, release was 40 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**

Mrs. Gardner stated that a written copy of her report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet. She reported that the BWMC meeting scheduled for April 9, 2025 will include an update on the Water Quality Monitoring Program Policy, noting to submit any comments before or on the day of meeting.

Mrs. Gardner shared that it was reported today that the snowpack in the Sierra Nevada mountains measured 96 percent of average on April 1, 2025, its third straight year California has had near-average or above-average amounts of snow setting a historical record.

Lastly, Mrs. Gardner provided an update on the Lario Staging Area for the Eaton Fire recovery efforts, stating that Watermaster has not received a response from the Army Corps of Engineers to Watermaster's data request.

## **REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES**

Dr. Fellow reported on MWD activities, stating that this weekend, he along with Ms. Gloria Gray, will lead a tour of the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River.

He stated that he recently attended and provided remarks at the naming event of the San Jacinto Tunnel honoring Mr. Randy Record, former MWD Chair. On April 17, 2025, Dr. Fellow also stated that he is scheduled to attend and provide remarks at a naming event of the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake honoring former MWD Board Member Judy Abdo.

Lastly, Dr. Fellow provided a brief update on MWD's Business Plan that included Pure Water Southern California, and the Delta Conveyance.

Mrs. Jennifer Santana reported on behalf of Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD), referencing a report provided by USGVMWD to Watermaster. She stated that on March 12, 2025, the USGVMWD Board of Directors approved the Water Use Efficiency Plant Voucher Rebate Program and adopted a resolution changing the time for their Board meetings to 4:30 p.m. She also stated that on March 26, 2025, the USGVMWD Board of Directors received a presentation on the San Gabriel River Watermaster by Mr. Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers.

Lastly, Mrs. Santana confirmed that the Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee will meet this afternoon and the Water Resources and Facilities Planning Committee, on April 7, 2025.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, provided a water supply update that included USG-3 imported water deliveries. He also provided a brief discussion regarding a new invasive species, golden mussel, detected in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and into the State Water Project.

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 40%. Additionally, he provided an operational update regarding cyclic deliveries through PM-26. Lastly, Mr. Litchfield stated that TVMWD is currently working on a revised letter agreement with MWD and Watermaster to make cyclic deliveries.

Mr. Placido reported on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), announced the retirement of their General Manager, Mr. Darin Kasamoto and the appointment of Mr. Jose Reynoso as General Manager in July, 2025.

## **REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Mrs. Gardner provided an update on current Los Angeles County Flood Control District activities referencing a report submitted in advance by the Los Angeles County to Watermaster.

## **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 200.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Valencia Heights Water Company to Covina Irrigating Company for FY 2024-25
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 750.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Covina Irrigating Company to Valley County Water District for FY 2024-25
- c) Temporary assignment or lease of 38.70 acre-feet of Production Right from Walter Green to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2024-25
- d) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,200.00 acre-feet of Production Right from City of Whittier to Suburban Water Systems for FY 2024-25
- e) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District monthly report for February 2025



**COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

Dr. Fellow reported that the Association of California Water Agencies is currently recruiting for the position of Executive Director.

Mrs. Santana commented on a job well done on this month's staff reports.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) Annual Hearing on the Determination of the OSY for FYs 2025-26 through 2029-30
- b) Adoption of Administration Budget for FY 2025-26 and Assessments for FY 2024-25
- c) Closed Session - Executive Officer's Employment Contract

**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 to a public hearing and regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, May 7, 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