

**A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
725 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA  
HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 AT 2:30 O'CLOCK P.M.**

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A regular meeting of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster was duly and regularly held in the Watermaster Conference Room at 725 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, September 7, 2022, at the hour of 2:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. David Michalko, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order and presided thereover.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chair Michalko 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, Steven Placido, Anteneh Tesfaye, Charles Treviño and Martin Zvirbulis.

**ABSENT:** Lynda Noriega

**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; Jenny Savron, Consulting Engineer; Arrica Jimenez, Administration Manager; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant; Ana Rodriguez, Accountant II and Lauren Augino, Water Resources Analyst.

Others present included: Dennis Ahlen, Anthony Alberti, Dan Arrighi, Brian Bowcock, Robert Bowcock, Dan Colby, Ray Cordero, John Corona, Patricia Cortez, Paul Cranmer, Cris Fealy, Roy Frausto, Erik Hitchman, Shawn Igoe, Bob Kuhn, Sylvie Lee, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., Matthew Litchfield, Jared Macias, Stephanie Moreno, David Muse, Ron Nitchka, Chisom Obegolu, Evelyn Reyes, Tara Robinson, Jennifer Santana, Randy Schoellerman, Jessica Taylor, Ernesto Venegas and Paul Zampiello.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

- a) Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Watermaster held August 3, 2022;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 19853 through 19880, and four electronic debits, in the amount of \$418,837.84 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0922-S and 0922-U in the amount of \$983,233.04 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, August 2022.

## **REQUEST FROM CITY OF ARCADIA TO PURCHASE 6,000 ACRE-FEET OF WATER FROM UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT FOR PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE**

Mr. Anthony Zampielo, Executive Officer, reported that the City of Arcadia has submitted a request to purchase 6,000 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. DeJesus, seconded by Dr. Fellow, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the purchase of 6,000 acre-feet of cyclic storage water from USGVMWD, for City of Arcadia's individual producer cyclic storage account.

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

Vice Chair Michalko reported that the Basin Water Management Committee met on August 10, 2022 and the discussion included an item which requires Watermaster action today. He then deferred to Mr. Zampielo, to provide an overview on the renewal contract of the Blaine Tech Services for groundwater monitoring for the Baldwin Park Operable Unit (BPOU) Project for a three-year term.

Renewal of contract with Blaine Tech Services for the Baldwin Park Operable Unit Project Groundwater Monitoring for a three-year term: Mr. Zampielo, provided an overview of services provided by Blaine Tech Services for specialized testing for the BPOU Project. He noted that the cost of this contract is a direct pass-through for BPOU and fully reimbursable to Watermaster from the Cooperating Respondents.

On motion made by Mr. Treviño, seconded by Mr. Tesfaye, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized a renewal for a three-year term with Blaine Tech Services.

## **WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Valley County Water District Application for a Water Treatment Facility and Reactivation of the Morada Well - Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, stated that Valley County Water District (VCWD) has submitted an application for a water treatment facility and reactivation of the Morada Well. The Morada Well was constructed in 1961 and is located in the City of Irwindale, in the upper portion of the Baldwin Park Operable Unit established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for groundwater contamination clean up in this area of the Main San Gabriel Basin. Due to the nature of the application and expected interest for the EPA and the Cooperating Respondents in the BPOU, preliminary discussions were held by Watermaster with VCWD and EPA.

The proposed Water Treatment Facility will be located at the VCWD Morada Well site with a proposed capacity of 1,200 gallons per minute. He added that specific chemicals that will be treated are currently undetermined as groundwater sampling will be performed at the Morada Well in the future. The water treatment facility will be designed with the appropriate treatment technology dependent on the types of contaminants discovered.

Mr. Johnson referred to specific documents within the staff report that detail production and contamination records for the wells at this site. He also noted that there is no indication that this proposed facility will have a negative impact on the BPOU.

Lastly, he stated that it is staff's recommendation that Watermaster approve VCWD's application for a Water Treatment Facility and reactivation of the Morada Well, subject to conditions set forth in the staff report.

On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Mr. Zvirbulis, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved VCWD's application for a Water Treatment Facility and reactivation of the Morada Well, subject to conditions stated in the staff report.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

The Attorney, Mr. Fred Fudacz, reported on the following key dates:

- September 15, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. - Status Conference before Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis, regarding the Main Basin conditions.
- December 16, 2022 – Confirmation hearing of Watermaster Board of Directors' nominees for calendar year 2023.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The Consulting Engineer, Mr. Steve Johnson, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 179.8 feet on August 26, 2022, noting a decrease of 0.4 feet from the prior week; about 2.2 feet lower from the prior month, and about 8.0 feet lower than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 110,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 14 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 August 31, 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 12.40 inches, which is 82 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of August 30, 2022, was 14,816 acre-feet, about 18 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of August 30, 2022, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 6 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 6 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 0 cfs, release was 36 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. Zampielo reported that a written copy of his report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet. He reported that regular meetings continue with the Responsible Agencies regarding water supplies, including projecting the elevation of the Key Well through this fall and into next spring.

He stated that Watermaster has e-mailed all Producers requesting their production numbers by month to assist the Responsible Agencies in discussions with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on replenishment needs.

Related to the Pure Water Southern California project, Mr. Zampielo stated that MWD legislation (Senate Bill 991) passed into law regarding flexibility for design-build projects to help accelerate the project.

He acknowledged and commended Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer and Mrs. Lauren Augino, Water Resources Analyst, on a good job in managing the BPOU Project budget process, specifically, Mrs. Augino, for undertaking the tasks of the BPOU Project this last year.

Mr. Zampielo highlighted that he along with Mrs. Gardner, participated in the following:

- August 17, 2022 - a local briefing with Congresswoman Grace Napolitano and representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation discussing the need for federal funding for recycled water projects.
- August 23, 2022 - roundtable discussion with Army Corps Colonels and Los Angeles County Flood Control District regarding the upcoming Whittier Narrows Dam improvement project included in Water Resources Development Act funding.

## REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Anthony Fellow, reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, he referenced a report provided by USGVMWD to Watermaster. He reported that on August 10, 2022, the USGVMWD Board of Directors received an update on MWD's Pure Water Southern California project by Mr. John Bednarski, Chief Engineer and Group Manager of Engineering Services, MWD, noting the discussion included opportunities for program acceleration and identified potential early start projects, including potential San Gabriel Valley facilities, outlining on next steps and preliminary time frame.

He reported that also on August 10, 2022, the USGVMWD Board of Directors approved the following items:

- Approved the Executive Management Personnel Manual
- Adopted Resolution No. 08-22-645 endorsing WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for 2023
- Approved sale of surplus assets

Additionally, Dr. Fellow mentioned that USGVMWD also had a presence at the August 17, 2022 local briefing with Congresswoman Grace Napolitano and representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Ms. Patricia Cortez, Director of Government and Community Affairs, USGVMWD, also reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, provided an additional update on the Pure Water Recycled Southern California project. She stated that she participated on an outreach call this morning and they will be holding several scoping meetings in partnership with the Member Agencies this fall. She added that this is a critical step that is coming up in the first quarter of 2023, and emphasized that the action may include MWD's Capital Investment Plan.

Lastly, Ms. Cortez announced that the WaterFest will take place on October 15, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in partnership with Los Angeles County Supervisor, Kathryn Barger, noting that MWD will be present and hosting a booth featuring the Pure Water Southern California project.

Dr. Steven Placido, reporting on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), stated that the SGVMWD Board of Directors met on August 15, 2022 and the discussion included Resolution No. 08-2022-809 Property Tax Rate, participation in Cal State Los Angeles /San Gabriel Valley Catalyst Project and future in-person board meetings.

Ms. Evelyn Reyes, External Affairs Manager, also reporting on behalf of SGVMWD, confirmed that the next SGVMWD Board of Directors meeting will be held on September 12, 2022 at 8:00 a.m., noting that the meeting will only be held as in-person and the location will be outside at SGVMWD offices.

Mr. Matthew Litchfield, General Manager, reporting on behalf of Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD), reported that on September 7, 2022 the TVMWD Board of Directors authorized Resolution No. 22-09-940 in support of the 2017 Updated Greater Los Angeles County Region Integrated Regional Water Management Plan to their September 21, 2022 meeting for adoption.

He also provided an update on the Big Dalton Spreading Grounds Improvement Project between TVMWD, Los Angeles County Flood Control District and the City of Glendora, stating that the groundwater modeling study was completed using Watermaster's model; therefore, the City of Glendora and TVMWD have decided not to proceed with expanding PM-26 capabilities.

Additionally, Mr. Litchfield provided an update on TVMWD's sponsored bill, Assembly Bill 2449, on expanding remote meeting access through teleconferencing, stating that the bill has passed through both the Senate and Assembly, and is now awaiting the Governor's signature.

## **REPORT FROM OUTSIDE COMMITTEE LIAISONS**

Vice Chair Michalko reported that any Outside Committee Liaisons reports 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) Change of Designee for City of El Monte to Don Nguyen
- b) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District monthly report for July 2022

## **COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

No comments were offered.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) Three-year Purchased Water Plan
- b) Consideration of Extension Agreement for San Gabriel Valley Water Company for Producer Cyclic Storage

## **CLOSED SESSION**

A Closed Session was not held.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Vice 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, October 5, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. to be held via Zoom Meeting.

SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE



MARTIN ZVIRBULIS

ATTEST:



DAVID MICHALKO  
VICE CHAIR