

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026 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, April 1, 2026, 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, Paul Cranmer, Cris Fealy, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Garry Hofer, David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, and Steven Placido.

ABSENT: Jennifer Santana

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, Director of Administrative Services; Justin Nakano, Director of Water Resources; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant, and Jocelyn Garcia, Water Resources Analyst I.

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Nathan Au, Carlos Cardona, Ed Chavez, John Corona, Patricia Cortez, Casey Feilen, Roy Frausto, Katarina Garcia, Jeff Hanlon, Geo Herrera, Cole Johnson, Steve Kiggins, Matt Litchfield, Stephanie Lobos, Chuck Luas, Jared Macias, Toby Moore, David Muse, Don Nguyen, Hai-Van Nguyen, Jeffrey Pellissier, Jose Reynoso, Tara Robinson, Nabil Saba, and Paul Zampielo.

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. Paul Cranmer, 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. David Michalko, Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Cranmer, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Watermaster held March 4, 2026;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 21139 through 21167, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$402,885.52 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0426-S and 0426-U in the amount of \$18,368.52 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, March 2026; and
- d) Stipulation Re Intervention After Judgment of:
 - i. San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians Led by the Gabrieleno Tongva Tribal Council

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF OPERATING SAFE YIELD FOR FISCAL YEARS (FY) 2026-27 THROUGH 2030-31

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 13, 2026, the groundwater elevation at the Key Well was 265.1 feet. Typically, establishing a lower OSY 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 Main 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 Agreements.

Additionally, she reviewed current hydrologic conditions and referred to a graph indicating accumulated rainfall at Puddingstone Dam of 17.07 inches, noting that this is about 106 percent of average for this time of year.

Ms. Steele also reported that total production in the Main Basin for the first two quarters of FY 2025-26 was about 94,000 acre-feet, adding that important factors keeping the Key Well from dropping any lower, are reduced production and water conservation.

Finally, based on all these factors, she stated that the recommendation for the Preliminary Determination of the OSY is 170,000 acre-feet for 2026-27, and 140,000 acre-feet for the subsequent four years. Copies of the "Preliminary Determination of OSY" report were distributed for 2026.

Ms. Steele reported that the "Preliminary Determination of OSY" report for FY 2026-27 through 2030-31 will be posted to the Watermaster website and sent to all Parties by electronic transmittal no less than ten days before the May 13, 2026 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 2026-27 through 2030-31.

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 11, 2026, and discussed a few items, one which requires Watermaster action today.

Authorization to Extend Renewal of Golden Meters Agreement: Staff provided an overview of the services provided by Golden Meters, stating that Golden Meters has agreed to extend their existing contract for an additional two years with a slight increase of \$10.00 per meter tested. To satisfy the requirements of Watermaster's Rules and Regulations of bi-annual testing of all production meters, the BWMC recommended that the Board approve a two-year contract extension with Golden Meters.

On motion made by Ms. Melissa Barbosa, Treasurer, seconded by Mr. Cris Fealy, Secretary, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the extension renewal of Golden Meters Agreement for two years.

REPORT FROM JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEEReview of Preliminary Draft Administration Budget for FY 2026-27

Treasurer Barbosa referred to a written Committee report included in the Board packet. She reported that the Finance Committee jointly met with the Administrative Committee on March 17, 2026 to review the Preliminary Draft Administration Budget and Assessments for FY 2026-27 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 165,000 acre-feet.

Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Executive Officer reported that the proposed budget does include increases in Salaries and Benefits, reflecting a 2.4% cost-of-living adjustment for all staff, as well as step increases for eligible employees.

Lastly, Mrs. Gardner stated that the Finance Committee's recommendation of the Preliminary Draft Administration Budget for FY 2026-27 and Assessments for FY 2025-26 production will be considered for approval by the Watermaster Board of Directors at its May 13, 2026 meeting.

On motion made by Chair Noriega, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, and unanimously carried, Watermaster received and filed the Preliminary Draft Administration Budget and Assessment for FY 2026-27.

Adoption of Resolution No. 04-26-343 Approving Contribution – Secretary Fealy stated that this plan has been in place for several years and is an item that comes before Watermaster for approval each year. He noted that this requires Board action and adoption of a resolution as a result of the inclusion of the Director of Administrative Services and Director of Water Resources.

On motion made by Treasurer Barbosa, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was then read, adopted, and passed as read:

RESOLUTION NO. 04-26-343

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

(see next page)

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

San Gabriel Valley Water Company, Section 28, "Application for Water Treatment Facility" – Wells 1B, 1D, 1E, and 1F

Ms. Steele reported that the San Gabriel Valley Water Company (SGVWC) has submitted an Application for a Water Treatment Facility (Treatment Facility) at its Wells 1B, 1D, 1E, and 1F. The proposed Treatment Facility will have a maximum capacity of 5,000 gallons per minute and consist of Ion Exchange treatment. The proposed Treatment Facility will be used to remove per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances chemicals from the existing wells.

Ms. Steele also reported that the aquifer in the vicinity of the proposed Treatment Facility is a multi-layer aquifer and consists of unconsolidated materials ranging from sand to coarse gravel and rocks. Major clay layers exceeding 25 feet in thickness are found at depths of about 200 feet, 220 feet, 270 feet, 300 feet, 550 feet, and 610 feet below ground surface. She stated the proposed Treatment Facility will not conflict with any Basin Clean-up plan and pumping will be consistent with historic pumping, and there is no new pumping anticipated.

On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Mr. Cranmer, with Secretary Fealy abstaining, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved SGVWC's application for a Water Treatment Facility at its Wells 1B, 1D, 1E, and 1F, subject to the conditions in the staff report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, reminded everyone that the Watermaster Further Status Conference is scheduled for April 8, 2026 to address the impact(s) of the Golden Mussel issue on supplemental water replenishment operations.

Related to the Baldwin Park Operable Unit Agreement renewal process, Mr. Fudacz provided a brief update that included upcoming meeting dates scheduled with the Water Entities and Cooperating Respondents on April 14 and April 28, 2026.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ms. Steele reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 265.9 feet on March 19, 2026, an increase of about 0.8 feet from the prior week, an increase of about 2.0 feet from the prior month, and about 23.0 feet higher than one year ago. She also reported that it includes about 205,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 26.0 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.

Ms. Steele then reported briefly on hydrologic conditions as of March 25, 2026, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 17.07 inches, which is about 106 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 18.34 inches, which is 132 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Ms. Steele stated that total combined canyon storage, as of March 25, 2026, was 47,839 acre-feet, about 57 percent of capacity. She also stated that as of March 25, 2026, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 237 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 567 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 602 cfs, release was 574 cfs.

Ms. Steele then reported that the Azusa Land Reclamation and Peck Road landfills were inspected and found to be operating normally with no violations. She referred to a written report included in the Board packet that included additional water supply and rainfall information.

Lastly, Ms. Steele provided a general overview of the FY 2024-25 San Gabriel River Watermaster's 62nd Annual Report (Report). Copies of the Report were distributed to all members of the Board. She noted that coming into FY 2024-25, the upper area (Main Basin) had an accrued credit of 468,852 acre-feet. It was determined that the lower area's annual entitlement, based on 10-year rainfall average, was 86,400 acre-feet. The amount of water the lower area received was 69,447 acre-feet of useable water. Based on these amounts, the upper area's credit decreased approximately 16,953 resulting in a total credit of 451,899 acre-feet, as of September 30, 2025.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mrs. Gardner referenced that a written copy of her report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

Related to the Further Status Conference on April 8, 2026, she encouraged and emphasized participation.

Mrs. Gardner reported that due to the Association of California Water Agencies Conference, next month's Regular Meeting of the Watermaster Board of Directors will be held on May 13, 2026.

She provided an update on current Los Angeles County Public Works (LACPW) activities referring to a report submitted in advance by the LACPW to Watermaster.

Mrs. Gardner then introduced Ms. Jocelyn Garcia, who recently joined Watermaster as a Water Resources Analyst I, effective April 1, 2026, following a successful student internship. Mrs. Gardner noted that Ms. Garcia performed exceptionally well during her internship and interview process. She also shared that what impressed her most was Ms. Garcia's reflection that her experience at Watermaster taught her more than her four years of education, noting that much of what she has learned in practice is not taught in the classroom.

She commended Mrs. Arrica Jimenez, Director of Administrative Services, for initiating and developing the Watermaster Student Internship Program that has expanded opportunities for students. Mrs. Gardner encouraged others to participate, as it helps develop the water leaders of tomorrow from within our agencies.

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Fellow reported on MWD activities, providing a brief discussion on the proposed biennial budget workshop held on March 24, 2026, stating that three scenarios were presented and are expected to go before MWD's Board on April 14, 2026.

He provided a brief update on Pure Water Southern California and thanked Watermaster, Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD), and Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD) for their support in attending MWD's budget workshops.

Dr. Fellow then reported on behalf of USGVMWD stating that on March 25, 2026, its Board received a presentation on the San Gabriel River Watermaster by Stetson Engineers.

Ms. Patricia Cortez, Assistant General Manager, also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, providing a brief overview of agenda items that will be discussed for the upcoming meetings:

- April 8, 2026 – Board of Directors meeting
- April 14, 2026 – Administration and Finance Committee meeting
- April 15, 2026 – Producer meeting
- April 24, 2026 – Board of Directors meeting

On behalf of Watermaster and its sub-agencies, including the San Gabriel Valley Water Association, Chair Noriega extended her appreciation to USGVMWD for sponsoring Assembly Bill 1894 (Rubio) Fish and wildlife: aquatic invasive species: genus Caulerpa, stating that it has significantly advanced efforts with the County. She thanked the team for their work in making this possible.

Mr. Jeff Hanlon, Board member, reported on behalf of TVMWD, stating that its Board met this morning and included a review of their FY 2026-27 Revised Budget Schedule.

Mr. Matt Litchfield, General Manager, also reported on behalf of TVMWD, stating that TVMWD is monitoring MWD's budget process closely that is expected to go back to the Finance Committee and then on to MWD's Board on April 14, 2026. Related to MWD's Pure Water of Southern California, he clarified and reaffirmed TVMWD's ongoing support. Lastly, he provided an operational update, stating that following a two-week shutdown, the Miramar Treatment Plan was completed, and has resumed operations.

Mr. Jose Reynoso, General Manager, reported on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), providing an update on Senate Bill 872 (McNerney) Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund, stating that it will be going before the Committee on Natural Resources and Water on April 7, 2026. Mr. Reynoso then reported that on April 13, 2026, the SGVMWD Board of Directors meeting will include a resolution for consideration in adopting its water rates for 2026-27. Lastly, he also provided an update on the treatment installation by the Department of Water Resources on their pipeline which is expected to be completed May 1, 2026.

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 150.18 acre-feet of Production Right from Kathryn W. Baker Trust to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for Fiscal Year 2025-26
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,000.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Covina Valley Water Company to Valley County Water District for Fiscal Year 2025-26
- c) Change of Designee for Covina Valley Water Company to P. David Michalko
- d) Change of Designee for Hemlock Mutual Water Company to Carlos A. Sims
- e) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District monthly report for February 2026

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Dr. Fellow thanked Mrs. Gardner for all the help she provided him and highlighted her instrumental role during the recent Washington, D.C. trip, particularly in supplying information on water rights. He then provided a brief update on the recruitment process for the Executive Director position at the Association of California Water Agencies, stating that three finalists have been selected to be interviewed on April 14, 2026.

Treasurer Barbosa, stated that she will be attending the Further Status Conference on April 8, 2026, noting that the Golden Mussel issue remains a priority and emphasized continued collaboration. She thanked the Responsible Agencies for all their efforts related to the Golden Mussel issue and is hopeful that the Los Angeles County demonstrates good faith. Lastly, she also thanked Watermaster staff for their efforts and challenges faced throughout the year.

Secretary Fealy congratulated and welcomed Ms. Garcia. He commended Mrs. Gardner for her leadership in planning with her staff and for her approach to succession planning using existing personnel, noting that it positions Watermaster for continued success.

Vice Chair Michalko welcomed Ms. Garcia.

Mr. Cranmer congratulated and welcomed Ms. Garcia.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Noriega announced that the Executive Officer's one-year Performance Evaluation will be reviewed at the next Watermaster Board meeting in Closed Session.

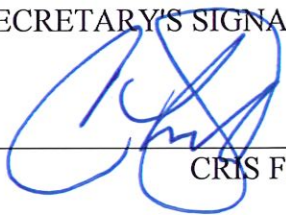
CLOSED SESSION

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 13, 2026 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



CRIS FEALY

ATTEST:



LYNDA NORIEGA
CHAIR