

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA  
HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023 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 7, 2023, 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**

Secretary Martin Zvirbulis 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, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido, Anteneh Tesfaye and Martin Zvirbulis.

**ABSENT:** Jennifer Santana

### **STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Staff present at the meeting included: Anthony Zampielo, 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 II.

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Melissa Barbosa, Ed Chavez, Dan Colby, John Corona, Paul Cranmer, Cris Fealy, Casey Feilen, Erik Hitchman, Matthew Litchfield, Tom Love, Jared Macias, Jose Martinez, Chisom Obegolu, Jeffrey Pellissier, Jim Prior, Mike Ti, Ernesto Venegas and Paul Zampielo.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Chair asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda. On motion made by Vice Chair David Michalko, seconded by Dr. Anthony 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 Treasurer Anteneh Tesfaye, seconded by Secretary Zvirbulis, 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 3, 2023, noting a correction made by Chair Noriega to reflect a revision on page 4979, paragraph four;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20125 through 20154, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$919,720.76 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0623-S and 0623-U in the amount of \$187,382.12 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, May 2023.

**REQUEST FROM CITY OF MONROVIA TO PURCHASE 489.03 ACRE-FEET OF WATER FROM UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT FOR PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE**

Mr. Anthony Zampiello, Executive Officer, reported that the City of Monrovia has submitted a request to purchase 489.03 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. Benjamin Lewis, Jr., seconded by Mr. David DeJesus, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the purchase of 489.03 of cyclic storage water from USGVMWD for the City of Monrovia's individual producer cyclic storage account.

**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 May 17, 2023, and discussed the Executive Officer's Annual Performance Evaluation. He added that the Executive Officer's Annual Performance Evaluation will be discussed in Closed Session.

**WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Golden State Water Company, Section 28, "Application to Drill Water Well" – Saxon Well No. 5 – Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, reported that Golden State Water Company (GSWC) has submitted an application to drill a water well for the proposed Saxon Well No. 5, noting that the groundwater elevation data from January 2022 indicates that the regional groundwater flow in the study area of the proposed Saxon Well No. 5 resembles a zone of pumping depression.

He stated that the proposed GSWC Saxon No. 5 is to be drilled to a depth of 970 feet below ground surface (bgs), and perforated from 330 feet bgs to 370 feet bgs, 385 feet bgs to 645 feet bgs, 655 feet bgs to 670 feet 8 bgs, 685 feet bgs to 770 feet bgs, 785 feet bgs to 800 feet bgs, 845 feet bgs to 890 feet bgs, and 920 feet bgs to 950 feet bgs. The proposed GSWC Saxon Well No. 5 is not included in any of United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) operable unit extraction plans.

He recommended that Watermaster approve GSWC's application to construct Saxon No. 5, subject to conditions stated in the staff report.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Chair Noriega, with Mr. Benjamin Lewis, Jr. abstaining, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved Golden State Water Company's application to drill Saxon Well No. 5, subject to the conditions in the staff report.

Golden State Water Company, Section 28, "Application for Water Treatment Facility" – Encinitas Wells No. 1, 2 and 3 – Mr. Johnson reported that GSWC has submitted an application for a proposed Water Treatment Facility of Hexavalent Chromium [Cr(VI)] at Encinitas Wells No. 1, 2 and 3, noting a Division of Drinking Water maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Cr(VI) is expected in the near future. He added that GSWC proposed to install treatment facility near GSWC's Encinitas Plant to treat for Cr(IV) at production wells in the GSWC South San Gabriel System, in compliance with Section 28(e). The proposed treatment facility will have a treatment capacity of 3,000 gallons per minute (gpm) and will use Ion Exchange Treatment to remove Cr(VI).

He stated that it is staff's recommendation that Watermaster approve GSWC's application for a Water Treatment Facility, subject to conditions set forth in the staff report.

On motion made by Secretary Zvirbulis, seconded by Treasurer Tesfaye, with Mr. Lewis abstaining, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved GSWC's application for a Water Treatment Facility, subject to conditions stated in the staff report.

City of Arcadia, Section 28, "Application to Drill Water Well" – Goldring Well – Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, reported that the City of Arcadia has submitted an Application to Drill Water Well at the City of Arcadia's Yard. City of Arcadia has proposed to construct the Goldring Well to provide an additional water supply to the City's of Arcadia and Sierra Madre. City of Arcadia and City of Sierra Madre have agreed to construct and use a "joint well" in the Main San Gabriel Basin (Main Basin). When completed, the City of Arcadia would convey Main Basin water supply (from joint ownership of the Goldring Well) to the City of Sierra Madre. The water supplied to the City of Sierra Madre will be deducted from City of Sierra Madre's Cyclic Storage Account which will maintain a positive balance. The Goldring Well is proposed to be constructed with perforations between 520 and 800 feet bgs and have a capacity of 2,000 gpm. The City of Arcadia and the City of Sierra Madre are Parties to the Judgment, stating that the City of Arcadia and City of Sierra Madre will report the quantity of water delivered to Sierra Madre to the Watermaster based upon a new interconnection meter.

On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Mr. Steven Placido, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved City of Arcadia's application to drill Goldring Well, subject to the conditions in the staff report.

City of Arcadia, Section 28, "Application for Water Treatment Facility" – Goldring Well (proposed new well) – Mr. Johnson reported that the City of Arcadia has submitted an Application for Water Treatment Facility at its proposed Goldring Treatment Facility site. The proposed Goldring Treatment Facility will have a capacity of 2,000 gpm and consist of granular activated carbon vessels to treat for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances for pumped groundwater. Construction of the proposed Goldring Treatment Facility will not conflict with any Main Basin cleanup plans. The aquifer in the vicinity of the proposed Goldring Treatment Facility is a semi-consolidated aquifer and consists mainly of sand and gravel embedded with clay layers of various thicknesses. Clay layers with 30 feet in thickness were found at depths of about 360 feet and 480 feet bgs.

On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved City of Arcadia's application for a Water Treatment Facility, Goldring Well, subject to conditions stated in the staff report.

#### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

The Attorney, Mr. Fred Fudacz, provided an update on the matter with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation related to Watermaster assessments for Legg Lakes water usage as part of a water production agreement for the Whittier Narrows Operable Unit.

Mr. Fudacz reported that a Status Conference before Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis regarding Main Basin conditions is scheduled for September 20, 2023.

#### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 231.9 feet on May 26, 2023, an increase of 1.7 feet from the prior week; about 8.0 feet higher from the prior month, and about 46.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 103,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 13 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 31, 2023, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 27.85 inches, which is about 155 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 28.40 inches, which is 188 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of May 30, 2023, was 21,033 acre-feet, about 25 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of May 30, 2023, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 438 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 600 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 592 cfs, release was 950 cfs, noting that 20 cfs of the release was diverted from the San Gabriel River at the Azusa Duarte

intake for use by the San Gabriel River Water Committee. He also provided a water quality update.

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. Zampielo reported that a written copy of his report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

He reported that the Basin Water Management Committee/Watermaster 101 is scheduled to be held on June 14, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at the City of Azusa Auditorium, stating that the discussion will include a regulatory update on manganese and a Watermaster 101 focusing on the Operating Safe Yield, Prescriptive and Production Rights.

Lastly, he stated that June 6, 2023 marked the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day during World War II. He shared that while recently on vacation, he visited Normandy to commemorate and honor his father, Mr. Anthony Zampielo, who was an American Technician Fourth Grade in the United States Army who landed on Utah Beach during World War II.

## **REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES**

Dr. Anthony Fellow, reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, referenced a report provided by USGVMWD to Watermaster. He reported that on May 24, 2023, the USGVMWD Board of Directors approved the following:

- Adopted Ordinance No. 23-1, imposing Standby Charges for Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2023.
- Awarded a contract to GMS Elevator Services for the elevator upgrade project.
- Approved Dr. Anthony Fellow's nomination to the Association of California Water Agencies Region 8 Board of Directors.
- Provided a draft of USGVMWD's Strategic Plan.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, provided a water supply and deliveries update.

Additionally, Mr. Love provided the following key dates:

- USGVMWD Water Resources and Facility Management Committee Meeting – June 7, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.
- USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting – June 14, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Matthew Litchfield, General Manager, reporting on behalf of Three Valleys Municipal Water District, provided an update on water deliveries and on its cyclic storage purchase opportunities.

Mr. Placido, reporting on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), reported that the SGVMWD Board met on June 1, 2023; stating that the discussion included the 2023-24 Budget, Capital Budget and a Salary Cost-Of-Living Adjustment.

## **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 82.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Hemlock Mutual Water Company to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2023-24
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 3,000.00 acre-feet of Production Right from City of Whittier to Suburban Water Systems for FY 2022-23
- c) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,200.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Covina Irrigating Company to Valley County Water District for FY 2022-23
- d) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,500.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Covina Irrigating Company to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2022-23
- e) Temporary assignment or lease of 2,700.00 acre-feet of Production Right from City of Whittier to Covina Irrigating Company for FY 2022-23
- f) 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 2022-23
- g) Temporary assignment or lease of 368.00 acre-feet of Carry-over Right from IBY Property Owner, LLC to Azusa Valley Water Company for FY 2022-23
- h) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,000.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Azusa Valley Water Company to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2022-23
- i) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,350.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Workman Mill Investment Company to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2022-23

- j) Temporary assignment or lease of 285.38 acre-feet of Production Right from City of Irwindale to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2022-23
- k) Temporary assignment or lease of 307.00 acre-feet of Carry-over Right from IBY Property Owner, LLC to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2022-23
- l) Temporary assignment or lease of 200.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Azusa Valley Water Company to City of Monrovia for FY 2022-23
- m) Temporary assignment or lease of 265.00 acre-feet of Production Right from La Puente Valley County Water District to City of Industry Waterworks System for FY 2022-23
- n) Change of Designee for Nicholson Family Trust - Marital Trust to Robert J. DiPrimio
- o) Change of Designee for Suburban Water Systems to Greg Galindo
- p) Change of Designee for Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts to Beth Bax
- q) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Monthly Report for April 2023

#### **COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

Dr. Fellow requested for today's Board meeting to adjourn in honor and memory of USGVMWD's Board Member, Mr. Ed Chavez' mother, *Ms. Magdalena Chavez*, who recently passed away; and *Ms. Gloria Molina*, who passed away on May 14, 2023, former member of the Los Angeles City Council, the California State Assembly, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Treasurer Tesfaye stated that he was pleased to see a unified collaboration on the Goldring Well project.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No future agenda items were offered.

#### **RECESS**

At 3:46 p.m., Chair Noriega called for a recess to allow Watermaster Board members to assemble for a Closed Session.

#### **RECONVENE**

At 3:50 p.m., reconvened the Board in Closed Session.

**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 in memory of *Ms. Magdalena Chavez* and *Ms. Gloria Molina*, to the next regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, July 5, 2023 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