

**A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024 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 and on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, 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: Dr. Anthony Fellow, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Jennifer Santana, Anteneh Tesfaye and Martin Zvirbulis.

ABSENT: Melissa Barbosa and Steven Placido

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT

Staff present at the meeting included: Russ Bryden, Executive Officer; Anthony Zampietro, Chief Administrative Officer; Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer; Fred Fudacz, Attorney; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Arrica Jimenez, Administration Manager; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant and Jackie Tsao, Senior Accountant.

Others present included: Dennis Ahlen, Anthony Alberti, Stephanie Alvarado, Eric Batman, Ed Chavez, Jacob Chavira, Paul Cranmer, Dan Colby, Ray Cordero, Patricia Cortez, Paul DiMaggio, Cris Fealy, Sami Kabar, Steve Kiggins, Sterling Klippel, Matthew Litchfield, Tom Love, Victor Magana, Jose Martinez, Stephanie Moreno, David Muse, Jeffrey Pellissier, Cooper Sells, Ernesto Venegas 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. Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary, 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. Anteneh Tesfaye, Treasurer, seconded by Mr. David Michalko, Vice Chair, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Watermaster held July 3, 2024;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20532 through 20563, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$457,963.09 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0824-A, 0824-S and 0824-U in the amount of \$861,382.65 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, July 2024;
- d) Authorization to attend Association of California Water Agencies Fall Conference, December 3- 5, 2024, in Palm Desert

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER ACCEPTING RESIGNATIONS AND NOMINATING SUCCESSORS OF THE CO-TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNMENTAL EXECUTIVE RETIREMENT PLAN (Resolution No. 08-24-323)

Adoption of Resolution No. 08-24-323 Accepting Resignations and Nominating Successors of the Co-Trustees and Members of the Administrative Committee of the Governmental Executive Retirement Plan – Mr. Russ Bryden, Executive Officer, stated that due to the upcoming retirements of Mr. Anthony Zampello, Chief Administrative Officer and Mrs. Lupe Artis, Controller, it is necessary to update the Trustees on the Governmental Executive Retirement Plan to the Executive Officer, Mr. Bryden and the Administration Manager, Mrs. Arrica Jimenez. He noted that this requires Board action and adoption of a resolution.

On motion made by Mr. Benjamin Lewis, Jr., seconded by Treasurer Tesfaye, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was then read, adopted, and passed as read:

RESOLUTION NO. 08-24-323

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

(see next page)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
APPROVING AND ADOPTING RETIRED ANNUITANTS**

Mr. Bryden, Executive Officer, stated that Watermaster desires to retain the services of Retired Annuitants, Mr. Zampiello and Mrs. Artis, respectively. He added that it is critical in capturing and transferring historical knowledge to assist the new Executive Officer and Senior Accountant.

In order to utilize their experience, abilities, and knowledge on an extra help basis to the Executive Officer and Senior Accountant, Board action and adoption of a resolution and employment agreement are required. Mr. Bryden stated that the employment agreements certify the appointments that are necessary to fill, for a limited duration, the critically needed positions of the Chief Administrative Officer following their respective retirements of October 1, 2024, and the Controller by November 1, 2024.

Secretary Zvirbulis recommended amending the language in the appending Retired Annuitant Agreements for the Chief Administrative Officer and the Controller, respectively, to include additional language setting a 12-month term date from the start date.

Adoption of Resolution No. 08-24-324 of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster Approving and Adopting Resolution for 180-Day Wait Period Exception (Gov. Code sections 7522.56 & 21224) for the Retired Annuitant for the Chief Administrative Officer

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

RESOLUTION NO. 08-24-324

**A RESOLUTION OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
APPROVING AND ADOPTING RESOLUTION FOR
180-DAY WAIT PERIOD EXCEPTION
(GOV. CODE sections 7522.56 & 21224)
FOR THE RETIRED ANNUITANT FOR THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

(see next page)

Adoption of Resolution No. 08-24-325 of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster Approving and Adopting Resolution for 180-Day Wait Period Exception (Gov. Code sections 7522.56 & 21224) for the Retired Annuitant for the Controller

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

RESOLUTION NO. 08-24-325

**A RESOLUTION OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
APPROVING AND ADOPTING RESOLUTION FOR
180-DAY WAIT PERIOD EXCEPTION
(GOV. CODE sections 7522.56 & 21224)
FOR THE RETIRED ANNUITANT FOR THE CONTROLLER**

(see next page)

DRAFT

REQUEST TO ACCEPT LATE LEASES

Mr. Bryden reported that two agencies have submitted a request to Watermaster to approve late transfers/leases of production rights for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24. He noted that these requests have no impact on Watermaster's operations as staff is currently working on year-end production numbers for assessment purposes.

Temporary transfer or lease of 500.00 acre-feet of Carryover Right from Golden State Water Company – San Dimas to Golden State Water Company – San Gabriel for FY 2023-24 - On motion made by Secretary Zvirbulis, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, with Mr. Lewis abstaining, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved and accepted the late lease as presented.

Temporary transfer or lease of 850.00 acre-feet of Production Right from IBY, LLC to Azusa Valley Water Company for FY 2023-24 - On motion made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Chair Noriega, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved and accepted the late lease as presented.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, provided the following key dates scheduled before Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis:

- October 24, 2024 - Status Conference on Main San Gabriel Basin conditions
- December 6, 2024 - Confirmation hearing of Watermaster Board of Directors' nominees for Calendar Year 2025

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 241.2 feet on July 26, 2024, an increase of about 0.5 feet from the prior week, an increase of about 1.7 feet from the prior month, and about 12.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 96,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 9.0 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 July 31, 2024, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 24.15 inches, which is about 133 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 25.19 inches, which is 166 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of July 30, 2024, was 13,063 acre-feet, about 16 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of July 30, 2024, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 76 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 76 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 71 cfs, and release was 40 cfs. All releases were diverted from the San Gabriel River at the Azusa Duarte Intake for use by the San Gabriel River Watermaster. Additionally, he 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

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

He provided an update on water deliveries. He stated that the preparation of the Watermaster Annual Report for FY 2023-24 is currently in progress. He also stated that staff is preparing the mailing of assessments for the FY 2023-24. He added that Watermaster has received two requests for Waiver of Assessments and will be agendaized at the next Watermaster Board of Directors Meeting on September 4, 2024 for consideration and approval.

Mr. Bryden then reported on upcoming key events:

- August 8, 2024, the San Gabriel Valley Water Association Quarterly Membership Meeting will be featuring a “Last Water Talk with Tony Z.”
- August 21, 2024, the Association of California Agencies (ACWA) Region 8 and the Women in Water San Gabriel Valley Region are co-hosting a “Leadership in Times of Climate Uncertainty” Reception at the Brookside Golf Club in Pasadena.
- August 22, 2024 during the Urban Water Institute Annual Conference from August 21 – August 23, 2024, he will be participating on a panel moderated by Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD), titled “Policy Dreams.”

Mr. Bryden stated that with Mrs. Lupe Artis’ retirement later this year, he announced that Mr. Jackie Tsao has joined Watermaster as Sr. Accountant on July 17, 2024. He thanked and expressed appreciation to Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD) and USGVMWD for their Chief Financial Officer’s participation in the recruitment process. Mr. Bryden then introduced Mr. Tsao who shared appreciation and brief remarks on his background.

Chair Noriega welcomed Mr. Tsao to Watermaster and looks forward to working with him.

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Fellow reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stating that he has met with Mr. Adán Ortega, Chair, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and discussed the Pure Water Southern California project.

Related to the ACWA Region 8 Reception on August 21, 2024, Dr. Fellow stated that the event will feature keynote speaker, Ms. Patricia Mulroy, Senior Fellow at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law and former general manager at Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Dr. Fellow also reported on the Urban Water Institute Annual Conference, stating that he will be moderating a panel on August 22, 2024 titled “Communication Dreamers.”

Mrs. Jennifer Santana also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stating that the USGVMWD Board of Directors Meetings for the month of July 2024 were dark. She added that the Water Resources and Facility Management Committee Meeting was held on August 5, 2024, noting a change in meeting time to the 1st Monday of every month at 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Santana reported that the Administration and Finance Committee held on August 6, 2024 included a discussion on MWD’s Ready To Serve passthrough charges. Lastly, she stated that the Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee met on August 7, 2024.

Mr. Love also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, provided the following key dates:

- August 14, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. – Producer Meeting
- August 14, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. – USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting
- August 20, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. – MWD Board of Directors Meeting

Lastly, he reported that the USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting on October 9, 2024, will include the appointment of USGVMWD’s representatives on the Watermaster Board of Directors for CY 2025.

Mr. Matthew Litchfield, General Manager, reported on behalf of TVMWD, providing an update on water deliveries.

Mr. Steve Kiggins, Assistant General Manager, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), reported that on July 8, 2024, a Resolution of Appreciation for Mr. Zampielo and an update on the Delta Conveyance Project. He stated that the next SGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting is on August 12, 2024.

REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Mr. Bryden reported that the Los Angeles County (County) has been invited to report on local conditions and programs. He then introduced Mr. Sterling Klippel, Assistant Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Public Works (LACPW) and Mr. Eric Batman, Senior Civil Engineer, LACPW.

Mr. Klippel provided a brief discussion on the County’s sediment management, stormwater capture, water supply and reservoir restoration projects.

Mr. Batman reported an update on rainfall and groundwater conditions.

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 600.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Covina Irrigating Company to Suburban Water Systems for FY 2023-24
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,024.00 acre-feet of Production Right from County of Los Angeles to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2023-24
- c) Temporary transfer or lease of 43.36 acre-feet of Production Right from Vulcan Materials Company to City of Azusa for FY 2024-25
- d) Change of Designee for Martin Marietta Southern California Aggregates, LLC to Ted Koerner
- e) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District monthly report for June 2024

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Dr. Fellow reported that an ACWA Workshop was held last month, stating that it included an update on the Bay-Delta.

Treasurer Tesfaye thanked the Producers for their continued water conservation efforts.

Vice Chair Michalko welcomed Mr. Tsao to Watermaster.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Consideration of Extension Agreement for City of El Monte for Producer Cyclic Storage
- b) Public Hearing on September 4, 2024 Regarding Requests for Waivers of Assessments
 - i) La Puente Valley County Water District – Puente Valley Operable Unit Intermediate Zone Treatment Facility
 - ii) San Gabriel Valley Water Company – B6 Treatment Facility

CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session was held to discuss the Executive Officer's Performance Evaluation.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMES

The Chair announced that no action was taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair asked if there were other business to come before Watermaster, and there being none, the meeting was adjourned to a regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 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

DRAFT