

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
725 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA  
HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023 AT 2:30 O'CLOCK P.M.**

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A public hearing and 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 via Zoom Meeting (web-based video conferencing) on Wednesday, January 4, 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**

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:** David DeJesus, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido, Jennifer Santana, Anteneh Tesfaye and Martin Zvirbulis.

**ABSENT:** None

**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.

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Dan Arrighi, Robert Bowcock, Kyle Cason, Dan Colby, Tom Coleman, Ray Cordero, John Corona, Paul Cranmer, Cris Fealy, Roy Frausto, Greg Galindo, Garry Hofer, Bruce Lazenby, Sylvie Lee, Tom Love, Jared Macias, Myra Malner, Dusty Moisiu, Toby Moore, Stephanie Moreno, David Muse, Don Nguyen, Yasmeen Nubani, Lenet Pacheco, Jeffrey Pellissier, Evelyn Reyes, Tara Robinson, Randy Schoellerman, Mike Ti, Charles Treviño and Paul Zampielo.

The Executive Officer, Mr. Anthony Zampielo, acknowledged and presented Mr. Charles Treviño with the adopted Resolution (No. 12-22-314) of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster expressing appreciation, commemorating and inviting public attention to the outstanding services rendered by Mr. Treviño during his tenure as a public representative member of Watermaster.

Mr. Treviño thanked the Watermaster Board and expressed appreciation in working with them.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Lewis presented a slate of officers for appointment: Lynda Noriega, Chair; David Michalko, Vice Chair; Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary; and Anteneh Tesfaye, Treasurer. There being no further nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Watermaster's 2023 Officers.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON WATERMASTER DRAFT FIVE-YEAR WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY PLAN**

The Chair stated that it was the time and place duly noticed for the public hearing on the Watermaster Draft Five-Year Water Quality and Supply Plan (Plan). She declared the hearing open and asked Mr. Zampietro, and the Consulting Engineer, Mr. Steve Johnson, for any comments.

Mr. Johnson referred to the Plan, stating that it had been presented in detail at the November 2, 2022 Watermaster Board of Directors Meeting. He explained that the Plan is prepared every year in accordance with Section 28(g) of Watermaster's Rules and Regulations, and notice of the public hearing was distributed to all Parties on November 3, 2022. Mr. Johnson then reported that the Plan consists of an introduction, current water supply conditions, current water quality conditions, that make up the actual plan and appendices with supporting data.

Lastly, Mr. Johnson stated that during the comment period, Watermaster has not received any comments on the Plan.

The Chair asked if there were any other comments before closing the public hearing. No comments were offered; therefore, on motion made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Dr. Fellow, and unanimously carried, Watermaster closed the Public Hearing.

On motion made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Dr. Fellow, and unanimously carried, Watermaster adopted the Draft Five-Year Water Quality and Supply Plan as presented.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

- a) Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Watermaster held December 7, 2022;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 19976 through 20004, and four electronic debits, in the amount of \$214,058.52 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0123-S and 0123-U in the amount of \$165,426.62 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, December 2022

## REPLACEMENT WATER/SURCHARGE ACCOUNTING

Mr. Zampielo provided an overview and a detailed explanation of the funds and corresponding water purchases on the Replacement Water/Surcharge Accounting. He added that in order to reduce the impacts of possible future reduction or restriction of deliveries, Watermaster has taken steps to deliver and store as much water as possible when available. Adopting the \$100.00 surcharge on Replacement Water beginning with the 2013-14 production year for the Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD) and Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD) encourages pre-purchases and helps reduce variability in orders.

Mr. Zampielo explained that although the surcharge is intended as a financial incentive, Watermaster cannot retain these funds, noting that surcharge funds can only be used to purchase a proportionate amount of water for each specific Producer that incurred the charge. He noted that as a result, Watermaster readjusted the appropriate Producer production rights for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 and has requested that TVMWD deliver 154.7 acre-feet of water at the 2022 rate of \$799.00 per acre-foot from its current cyclic account or transferred from the water pre-delivered during calendar year 2022; and USGVMWD deliver 56.19 acre-feet of water at the 2022 rate of \$902.00 per acre-foot from its cyclic account or transferred from the cyclic water pre-delivered as part of the 2020 letter agreement.

The Chair asked for any questions of Mr. Zampielo, and with none offered, ordered the Replacement Water/Surcharge Accounting received and filed.

## WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Golden State Water Company, Section 28, "Application to Destroy Well" Saxon Well No. 3 – Mr. Johnson, reported that Golden State Water Company (GSWC) has submitted an application for destruction of its Saxon Well No. 3, located in the City of San Gabriel, due to condition and age. GSWC considers it an unreliable groundwater supply source indicating there is sediment entrained in Saxon Well No. 3's discharge line and that well rehabilitation would likely be unsuccessful as the well has reached the end of its useful service life.

Mr. Johnson also stated that the well was constructed in 1946 to a depth of 650 feet below ground surface (bgs) and is perforated from 205 feet to 214 feet bgs, and 343 feet to 372 feet bgs, 516 feet to 518 feet bgs, and 538 feet to 585 feet bgs. The pumping capacity of Saxon Well No. 3 is approximately 500 gallons per minute. Based on groundwater elevation data from July 2022, the regional groundwater flow in the vicinity of Saxon Well No. 3 is consistent; and recent water quality data indicates the groundwater quality was below all maximum contaminant levels or non-detect.

Mr. Johnson recommended that Watermaster approve GSWC's application to destroy Saxon Well No. 3, subject to conditions stated in the staff report.

On motion made by Mr. Zvirbulis, seconded by Dr. Fellow, with Mr. Lewis abstaining, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved Golden State Water Company's application to destroy its Saxon Well No. 3, subject to the conditions in the staff report.

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

The Attorney, Mr. Fred Fudacz, reported that a confirmation hearing was held on December 9, 2022 before Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis to formally approve the appointments of the 2023 Watermaster Board of Directors.

Additionally, Mr. Fudacz provided an update on the on-site visit/tour and hearing scheduled for April 26, 2023, stating that the hearing will be held at the Watermaster offices followed by a tour of the Pure Water Southern California program/demonstration facility.

Additionally, he reported that on December 15, 2022, Watermaster staff met with the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury regarding water issues in the San Gabriel Valley.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Johnson reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 179.2 feet on December 23, 2022, a decrease of 0.1 feet from the prior week; about 0.5 feet lower from the prior month, and about 3.0 feet lower than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 131,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 16 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 December 27, 2022, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 5.56 inches, which is about 93 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 3.67 inches, which is 89 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of December 27, 2022, was 17,668 acre-feet, about 21 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of December 27, 2022, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 40 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 0 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 3 cfs, release was 18 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. Zampello reported that a written copy of a report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

He highlighted that today, January 4, 2023, marks Watermaster's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as to when the Judgment was entered to administer the Main San Gabriel Basin's adjudicated water rights and to provide a basin-wide governing body for management of water resources. He presented a *Certificate of Congressional Recognition* from the United States House of Representatives, Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano, acknowledging and congratulating the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster for their outstanding service to the San Gabriel Valley for the past 50 years. Watermaster's visionary work and longtime dedication for area residents are greatly appreciated and merit the highest recommendation.

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*Certificate of  
Congressional Recognition  
Presented to*

**Main San Gabriel Basin  
Watermaster**

*U.S. Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano proudly acknowledges and congratulates your outstanding service to the San Gabriel Valley for the past 50 years. Watermaster's visionary work and longtime dedication for area residents are greatly appreciated and merit our highest commendation.*

*~ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration ~*

*January 4, 2023  
Date*

*Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress*

Mr. Zampello provided the following key dates:

- American Groundwater Water Trust/Association of Ground Water Agencies Annual Conference – February 7 and 8, 2023 at the Ontario Airport Hotel
- San Gabriel Valley Water Association Quarterly Membership Meeting – February 9, 2023 at the Pomona Valley Mining Company

He reported that Assistant Executive Officer, Mrs. Kelly Gardner's mother, Ms. Vickie Hyland, passed away on January 2, 2023 and requested for today's meeting be adjourned in her honor and memory.

## **REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES**

Dr. Anthony Fellow, reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, stated that a report was prepared by USGVMWD to Watermaster was distributed in advance of the Board meeting. He added that USGVMWD's building dedication/ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for January 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, provided an update on the Quagga Mussel Mitigation Plan.

He also reported that USGVMWD entered into an agreement with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) for the Reverse Cyclic Program in the amount of 15,000 acre-feet.

Lastly, Mr. Love stated that the USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for January 11, 2023 will be held virtually.

Ms. Sylvie Lee, Chief Water Resources Officer, reporting on behalf of TVMWD, reported that TVMWD entered into an agreement with MWD for the Reverse Cyclic Program in the amount of 3,000 acre-feet.

Mr. Placido, reporting on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), reported that a SGVMWD Board of Directors meeting was held on December 12, 2022, stating that the discussion included the following:

- Water Quality Authority Update
- Resolution in appreciation for Thomas Wong
- Resolution – salary adjustment
- Drought relief grant
- Resolution – 2022-23 budget
- Director position vacancy

Ms. Evelyn Reyes, External Affairs Manager, also reporting on behalf of SGVMWD, further added related to the Director position vacancy, that candidate interviews will be held on January 9, 2023 with the expectation of making a selection to be presented at the SGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting on January 23, 2023.

## **REPORT FROM OUTSIDE COMMITTEE LIAISONS**

The Chair 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) Temporary assignment or lease of 162.65 acre-feet of Production Right from Anton C. and Anita Garnier Family Trust to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2022-23
- b) ACWA-JPIA “President’s Special Recognition Award”
- c) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Monthly Report for November 2022

## **COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

Chair Noriega welcomed Ms. Santana to the Watermaster Board. She then provided an update on the upcoming educational series (Watermaster 101s) being developed by Watermaster.

Dr. Fellow thanked Watermaster staff for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and presentation. He also welcomed Ms. Santana to the Watermaster Board.

Ms. Santana thanked everyone for the kind words and looks forward to representing the interests of the Main Basin and the Producers on the Watermaster Board.

Mr. Michalko welcomed Ms. Santana to the Watermaster Board and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Tesfaye welcomed Ms. Santana to the Watermaster Board. He acknowledged and congratulated Watermaster on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and looks forward to continuing on the Watermaster Board.

Mr. DeJesus welcomed Ms. Santana to the Watermaster Board.

Mr. Lewis welcomed Ms. Santana to the Watermaster Board.

Mr. Placido welcome Ms. Santana to the Watermaster Board.

Mr. Zvirbulis welcomed Ms. Santana to the Watermaster Board and looks forward to continuing on the Watermaster Board.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No agenda items were provided.

**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 in honor and memory of Ms. Vickie Hyland, to the next regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, February 1, 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

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