

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA  
HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025 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 on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 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**

Mr. Dan Arrighi, Water Resources Manager, San Gabriel Valley Water Company, 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, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Garry Hofer, David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido, Jennifer Santana, and Martin Zvirbulis.

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Staff present at the meeting included: Russ Bryden, Executive Officer; Fred Fudacz (via conference call), Attorney; Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer; Steve Johnson, 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, Dan Arrighi, Nathan Au, Eric Batman, Carlos Cardona, Ed Chavez, Jacob Chavira, Dan Colby, Cris Fealy, Casey Feilen, Steve Kiggins, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., Stephanie Lobos, Charles Luas, Colleen Malaiba, Stephanie Moreno, Jeffrey Pellissier and Paul Zampiello.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Garry Hofer presented a slate of officers for appointment: Lynda Noriega, Chair; David Michalko, Vice Chair; Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary, and Melissa Barbosa, Treasurer. There being no further nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Watermaster's 2025 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. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, for any comments.

Mr. Johnson referred to the Plan, stating that it had been presented in detail at the November 6, 2024 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 7, 2024. 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. David Michalko, Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary, and unanimously carried, Watermaster closed the Public Hearing.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Secretary Zvirbulis, 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 Dr. Anthony Fellow, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Santana, and unanimously carried, the agenda was adopted as presented.

## **TIME RESERVED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were offered.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Watermaster held December 11, 2024;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20714 through 20739, and five electronic debits, in the amount of \$443,238.14 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0225-S, 0225-U, 1124-T and 1124-U in the amount of \$2,111,358.04 on the Replacement Water Fund;

c) Financial Statements, December 2024.

## **REPLACEMENT WATER/SURCHARGE ACCOUNTING**

Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer, provided an overview and a detailed explanation of the funds and corresponding water purchases on the Replacement Water/Surcharge Accounting. She 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.

Mrs. Gardner 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. She noted that as a result, Watermaster adjusted the affected Producer production rights for FY 2024-25 and has requested that TVMWD deliver 78.4 acre-feet of water at the 2024 rate of \$903.00 per acre-foot from its current cyclic account or transferred from the water pre-delivered during calendar year 2024; and USGVMWD deliver 5.64 acre-feet of water at the 2024 rate of \$1,006.00 per acre-foot from its cyclic account or transferred from the cyclic water pre-delivered as part of the 2024 letter agreement.

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

## **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT AND WATERMASTER FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT REVERSE CYCLIC PROGRAM AND PURCHASE UP TO 3,000 ACRE- FEET OF TREATED WATER FOR 2024**

Mr. Russ Bryden, Executive Officer, referenced the staff report and related materials included in the Board packet.

On motion by Mr. Hofer, seconded by Ms. Melissa Barbosa, Treasurer, and unanimously carried, the purchase up to 3,000 acre-feet of treated water for 2024.

On motion by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Mr. Cranmer, and unanimously carried, authorized the Executive Officer to enter into an agreement between USGVMWD and Watermaster for participation in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Reverse Cyclic Program subject to the provisions related to cost savings and investment benefit.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, reported that a confirmation hearing of Watermaster Board of Directors' nominees for calendar year 2025 was held on December 6, 2024 before

Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis. He congratulated the Watermaster Board and stated he is looking forward to working with them.

Mr. Fudacz reported that the Baldwin Park Operable Unit Project Agreement is up for renewal in 2027, noting that discussions will be underway soon as negotiations can take up to two years.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Johnson reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 247.3 feet on December 27, 2024, an increase of about 0.5 feet from the prior week, an increase of 2.0 feet from the prior month, and about 23.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 118,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 15.0 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 December 31, 2024, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 0.04 inches, which is about one percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 0.16 inches, which is four percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of December 31, 2024, was 14,031 acre-feet, about 17 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of December 31, 2024, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 41 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 0 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 6 cfs, release was 30 cfs. 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. Bryden referenced that a written copy of his report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

He recognized and commended Mrs. Ana Mata, Executive Assistant, for her seven years of service as an employee of Watermaster.

## **REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES**

Dr. Fellow reported on behalf of USGVMWD, provided a brief discussion on MWD activities.

Mrs. Santana also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stating that the USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting on December 11, 2024 included the certification of election of Charles M. Trevino (Division 2), Ed Chavez (Division 3) and Katarina Garcia (Division 4).

Additionally, Mrs. Santana stated that due to the challenging circumstances related to the wildfires and the emergency conditions affecting many of the Producers, she reported that today's USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting is cancelled.

Mr. Placido, reported on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), stating that the SGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting on December 9, 2024, included the following:

- Adoption of Resolution No. 12-2024-842 in Appreciation for David Dolphin on his retirement
- Contract Approval - Civiltec for Pressure Reducing Stations Refurbishment Project

Mr. Steve Kiggins, Assistant General Manager, also reported on behalf of SGVMWD, providing an operational update.

## **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 20.30 acre-feet of Production Right from Carolyn R. Heinrich Trust Dated January 23, 2023 to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- b) ACWA-JPIA "President's Special Recognition Award"
- c) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Monthly Report for November 2024

## **COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

Dr. Fellow requested that today's Board meeting be adjourned in memory of Mr. Jimmy Carter, 39<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, who passed away on December 29, 2024.

Mrs. Santana wished everyone safety during the windstorm and wildfire conditions.

Mr. Cranmer thanked the Producers for the vote of confidence and is looking forward to serving on the Watermaster Board. He stated that the City of Arcadia's Emergency Operations Center has been in place for about 33 hours due to the wildfire and windstorm conditions.

Secretary Zvirbulis welcomed Mr. Cranmer and Mr. Hofer to the Watermaster Board

and is looking forward to a great 2025. He also wished everyone safety during the windstorm and wildfire conditions.

Treasurer Barbosa stated that the City of Azusa has activated its Emergency Operations Center. She then commended the water professionals and firefighters for all their hard work during these challenging times. Lastly, Treasurer Barbosa introduced Ms. Stephanie Lobos with the San Gabriel River Water Committee.

Mr. Hofer expressed excitement to be back on the Watermaster Board and is looking forward to working with everyone.

Chair Noriega thanked and expressed appreciation to the Watermaster Board members for their vote of confidence in the election of the Slate of Officers presented today. She added that there is a good amount of work done behind the scenes that the Officers and the Executive Officer manage in order to ensure that the Main San Gabriel Basin and its operations are sustainable and continue serving our customers at the highest level.

Chair Noriega emphasized the importance of remaining engaged and continuing to attend Board and Committee Meetings, specifically, the Basin Water Management Committee Meeting led by Vice Chair Michalko. She looks forward to a productive 2025.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) Consideration of Extension Agreement for Vulcan Materials Company for Producer Cyclic Storage

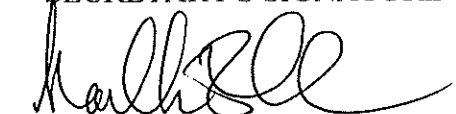
#### **CLOSED SESSION**

A Closed Session was not held.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

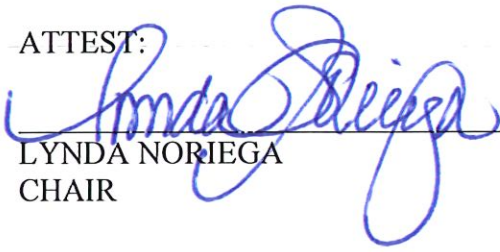
The Chair asked if there were other business to come before Watermaster, and there being none, the meeting was adjourned in honor and memory of Mr. James "Jimmy" Earl Carter Jr., 39<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, to a regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 2:30 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:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lynda Noriega", is written over a horizontal line.

LYNDA NORIEGA  
CHAIR