

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 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 on Wednesday, March 6, 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

Mr. Anthony Zampielo, Executive Officer, 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, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido, Anteneh Tesfaye and Martin Zvirbulis.

ABSENT: Jennifer Santana

(Mrs. Jennifer Santana joined later in the meeting.)

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, Stephanie Alvarado, Mikayla Coleman, Tom Coleman, John Corona, Paul Cranmer, Roy Frausto, Greg Galindo, Wayne Goehring, Steve Kiggins, Tom Love, Victor Magana, Jose Martinez, Dusty Moisisio, Stephanie Moreno, Lenet Pacheco, Jeffrey Pellissier, Tara Robinson, Ernesto Venegas, Dale Wert and Paul Zampielo.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda. On motion made by Mr. David Michalko, Vice Chair, 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 Mr. Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary, seconded by Mr. Benjamin Lewis, Jr., and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Watermaster held February 14, 2024;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20397 through 20421, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$354,184.39 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0324-S and 0324-U in the amount of \$161,946.42 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, February 2024.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fred Fudacz, Attorney, reported that a Status Conference before Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis regarding Main San Gabriel Basin conditions is scheduled for April 8, 2024.

He provided a brief 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, stating that an interim agreement is in place while extension discussions continue.

(Mrs. Santana joined the meeting.)

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 222.4 feet on February 26, 2024, an increase of about 0.4 feet from the prior week, no change from the prior month, and about 35.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 77,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 10.0 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 February 29, 2024, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 19.62 inches, which is about 149 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 20.93 inches, which

is 194 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of February 27, 2024, was 55,766 acre-feet, about 67 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of February 27, 2024, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 484 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 0 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 34 cfs, release was 200 cfs.

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.

Lastly, Mr. Johnson provided a general overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 San Gabriel River Watermaster's 60th Annual Report (Report). Copies of the Report were distributed to all members of the Board. He noted that coming into FY 2022-23, the upper area (Main Basin) had an accrued credit of 240,277 acre-feet. It was determined that the lower area's annual entitlement, based on 10-year rainfall average, was 75,600 acre-feet. The amount of water the lower area received was 231,895 acre-feet of useable water. Based on these amounts, the upper area's credit increased by 156,295 resulting in a total credit of 396,572 acre-feet, as of September 30, 2023.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Anthony Zampielo, Executive Officer, reported that a written copy of his report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

He acknowledged and congratulated Mr. Paul Zampielo, Water Treatment and Supply Superintendent, La Puente Valley County Water District, in obtaining a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Administration from the University of La Verne.

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Fellow reported on behalf of USGVMWD, reporting that the Lower Basin States (Arizona, California and Nevada) in the Colorado River Basin met today regarding a proposed alternative for long-term Colorado River operations. Lastly, he provided an update on MWD activities.

Ms. Jennifer Santana also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, referenced a report provided by USGVMWD to Watermaster. She reported that on February 14, 2024, the USGVMWD Board of Directors approved Senator Alex Padilla's legislative bill related to the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program Act. Ms. Santana added that also on February 14th, the USGVMWD Board of Directors received a presentation highlighting USGVWMD's major objectives. Lastly, she stated that the USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting on March 27, 2024 is cancelled.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stating that the Producer Meeting on March 11, 2024 is cancelled. He added that the USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting on April 10, 2024 will include a discussion on MWD's budget. Lastly, he provided an imported water supply update.

Mr. Steven Placido, reported on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), stating that on February 12, 2024, the SGVMWD Board of Directors approved its Strategic Plan.

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 75.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Valencia Heights Water Company to Covina Irrigating Company for FY 2023-24
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 0.75 acre-feet of Production Right and 0.75 acre-feet of Carryover Right from NCL Co, LLC to Vulcan Materials Company for FY 2023-24
- c) Temporary assignment or lease of 32.64 acre-feet of Production Right from Rados Bros. to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2023-24
- d) San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District transmittal of monthly report for January 2024

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Ms. Santana stated that she experienced a firsthand look of the storm in Northern California.

Mr. Placido reported that on February 23, 2024, he attended the water supply tour hosted by USGVMWD, stating that it was fantastic and very informative.

Chair Noriega also thanked USGVMWD for hosting the water supply tour that included Assemblymembers Blanca Rubio and Diane Papan.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were offered.

RECESS

At 3:06 p.m., Chair Noriega called for a recess to allow the Watermaster Board of Directors to assemble in the Watermaster Conference Room for a Closed Session.

RECONVENE

At 3:10 p.m., reconvened the Watermaster Board of Directors in Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session was held for conference with Legal Counsel regarding a Personnel Matter:

- a) Approval of Executive Officer Contract
- b) Approval of Chief Administrative Officer Contract

RECONVENE

At 4:02 p.m., the Watermaster Board of Directors reconvened in the Conference Room of the City of Azusa Light and Water Administration Facility.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMES

At 4:05 p.m., the Chair reported that in Closed Session, actions were taken.

Mr. Fudacz reported that the following actions were taken:

On motion by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Treasurer Tesfaye, the Board of Directors approved the terms of an agreement with Mr. Russ Bryden to serve as the Executive Officer for 12 months including a six-month introductory period by the following vote:

ACTION: Passed [9 to 0]
 AYES: Barbosa, Fellow, Lewis, Michalko, Noriega, Placido, Santana, Tesfaye and Zvirbulis.
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None

On motion by Chair Noriega, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, the Board of Directors approved the terms of an agreement with Mr. Anthony Zampielo to serve as Chief Administrator Officer for a six-month period followed by a three-month consulting period by the following vote:

ACTION: Passed [9 to 0]
 AYES: Barbosa, Fellow, Lewis, Michalko, Noriega, Placido, Santana, Tesfaye and Zvirbulis.
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None

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, April 3, 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