

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023 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, November 1, 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

Mr. Dan Arrighi, 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: 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 Zampiendo, 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; Lauren Augino, Water Analyst II and Christian Gonzalez, Temporary Administrative/Accounting Assistant.

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Dan Arrighi, Melissa Barbosa, Robert Bowcock, Kyle Cason, Ed Chavez, Dan Colby, Mikayla Coleman, John Corona, Paul Cranmer, Paul DiMaggio, Cris Fealy, Casey Feilen, Roy Frausto, Greg Galindo, Wayne Goehring, Erik Hitchman, Steve Kiggins, Matt Litchfield, Tom Love, Jared Macias, Victor Magana, Jose Martinez, Stephanie Moreno, Chisom Obegolu, Jeffrey Pellissier, James Prior, Evelyn Reyes, Carlos Solis and Ernesto Venegas.

ELECTION OF PRODUCER NOMINEES FOR WATERMASTER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

Chair Noriega stated that, as part of this regular meeting and in accordance with notice, the amended Judgment provides that a meeting of the Parties of said action will be held for the purpose of electing six Producer Representatives for Court appointment as Watermaster members for Calendar Year (CY) 2024, pursuant to Watermaster's petition to the Court.

Chair Noriega then called for the nomination of Producer Members to Watermaster for CY 2024. Mr. Jose Martinez, General Manager, Valley County Water District, nominated the following individuals to serve as Producer Members: Melissa Barbosa, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Anteneh Tesfaye and Martin Zvirbulis.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Chair Noriega directed that a unanimous ballot be cast for those nominated and she directed the Attorney, Mr. Fred Fudacz, to submit the names of those elected as Producer Members to the Court for appointment to Watermaster for the CY 2024 term. Mr. Fudacz noted that he will submit the names to the Court, noting that a confirmation hearing before The Honorable, Presiding Judge Maureen Duffy-Lewis is scheduled for December 15, 2023.

- a) Certification of appointment of Steven T. Placido by San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District for Calendar Year 2024 - Chair Noriega reported that San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD) has certified Mr. Steven T. Placido as its Public Representative for Watermaster for CY 2024.
- b) Certification of appointment of Dr. Anthony Fellow and Jennifer Santana by Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District for Calendar Year 2024 - Chair Noriega reported that Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD) has certified Dr. Anthony Fellow and Ms. Jennifer Santana as its Public Representatives for Watermaster for CY 2024.

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 Treasurer Anteneh Tesfaye, 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 David Michalko, seconded by Mr. Benjamin Lewis, Jr., and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Watermaster held October 4, 2023;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20266 through 20301, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$427,646.20 on the Administrative Fund and Items 1123-S and 1123-U in the amount of \$148,872.48 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, October 2023.

REQUEST TO EXECUTE EXTENSION AGREEMENT FOR VALENCIA HEIGHTS WATER COMPANY FOR PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE ACCOUNT

Mr. Anthony Zampiello, Executive Officer, reported that Valencia Heights Water Company requested an extension agreement to the terms of its Individual Producer Cyclic Storage Account. He stated that this is a routine item, and no additional storage has been requested by Valencia Heights Water Company.

On motion made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Secretary Martin Zvirbulis, with Vice Chair Michalko abstaining, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the extension agreement for Valencia Heights Water Company/Watermaster Cyclic Storage Agreement for a period of five years, to expire on December 5, 2028.

RENEWAL OF THREE VALLEYS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT CYCLIC STORAGE AGREEMENT

Mr. Zampiello referenced the Cyclic Storage Agreement (Agreement) among Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD) and Watermaster included in the Board packet. He reported that an extension has been requested to renew the current Agreement requirements to meet the needs of a program offered by MWD. He added that there is no change in language and will work with the Attorney in amending the Agreement to reflect amendment language.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Dr. Fellow, authorized the Executive Officer to execute the Agreement upon final amendment language.

RECEIPT OF FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Zampiello reported that Watermaster's 51st Annual Report, describing activities of Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23, was submitted to all Parties and to the Court as required by the Judgment. Mr. Zampiello noted that the report is also available on the Watermaster website.

On motion made by Secretary Zvirbulis, seconded by Mr. Lewis, and unanimously carried, the FY 2022-23 Watermaster Annual Report has been received and filed.

RECEIPT OF DRAFT ANNUAL 5-YEAR WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY PLAN

The Consulting Engineer, Mr. Steve Johnson, explained that in accordance with Section

28 of Watermaster's Rules and Regulations, each year a Five-Year Water Quality and Supply Plan (Five-Year Plan) is prepared which consists of four parts: an introduction, a report of current water supply conditions, a report of current water quality conditions, and the actual water quality and supply plan.

The report on water supply conditions includes information on recent rainfall and groundwater conditions, and, in general, gives background on determination of how much water will be produced in the Basin over the next five years. The water quality report, likewise, provides information on water quality issues, including concerns relative to specific contaminants and the vulnerability of Basin wells. Finally, the Five-Year Plan presents all the different programs in which Watermaster is engaged, including the groundwater quality monitoring and groundwater elevation monitoring programs, and it ends with an update of current and future cleanup projects.

Mr. Zampiello stated that it is staff's recommendation that the Five-Year Plan public comment period be set starting today, November 1, 2023, and continue through the public hearing, which would be set for the Watermaster meeting on January 3, 2024.

On motion made by Mr. David DeJesus, seconded by Mr. Placido, and unanimously carried, Watermaster set the public comment period for the Five-Year Plan to begin Wednesday, November 1, 2023, and continue through the public hearing set for the regular Watermaster meeting on January 3, 2024. Chair Noriega then instructed staff to send notice to all Parties and to interested parties of the availability of the Five-Year Plan and the date and time of the scheduled hearing.

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE RELIABILITY STORAGE WATER USING RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-23

Mr. Zampiello reported that in FY 2022-23 Watermaster collected funds from the Water Resource Development Assessment for the Stormwater Augmentation Program (RDA II), for a total of \$29,361,195.50. He noted that, upon approval, Watermaster will purchase Reliability Storage Water from each Responsible Agency based on funds collected from the RDA II each year. He also noted the estimated requirement for delivery during FY 2022-23 is 31,528.00 acre-feet.

Following a short discussion, Chair Noriega directed Watermaster staff to develop and identify ideas for buying power of the RDA for review by the Watermaster Committees.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Santana, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the Executive Officer to make the appropriate purchases.

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE REPLACEMENT WATER REQUIREMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-23

Mr. Zampiello reported that this is a routine item and noted that staff had calculated the amount of Replacement Water that should be purchased from each Responsible Agency for overproduction during FY 2022-23. He also reported detailed information relative to each Responsible Agencies' obligation, noting that specific calculations are shown in

the staff report.

On motion made by Treasurer Tesfaye, seconded by Chair Noriega, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the purchase of Replacement Water from the appropriate Responsible Agencies, as presented by staff, for overproduction during FY 2022-23.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. 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, stating that discussions continue.

Related to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, Mr. Fudacz provided an update on the proposed act expanding the monument's current size, access and protections, stating that he is working with Watermaster staff to ensure that groundwater rights and supply are protected.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Johnson reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 227.5 feet on October 20, 2023, an increase of 0.3 feet from the prior week, an increase of 0.5 feet from the prior month, and about 51.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 115,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 14.0 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 October 25, 2023, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 28.06 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 October 24, 2023, was 13,493 acre-feet, about 16 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of October 24, 2023, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 64 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 64 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 62 cfs, release was 20 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. Zampello reported that a written copy of his report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Fellow reported on behalf of Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD), providing an update on MWD activities.

Ms. Santana also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, referenced a report provided by USGVMWD to Watermaster. She reported that on October 25, 2023, the USGVMWD Board of Directors received a presentation by Mr. John Robinson, John Robinson Consulting, Inc., on USGVMWD's Recycled Water Program.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, providing an update on water deliveries. He also provided the following key dates:

- USGVMWD Water Resources and Facility Management Committee Meeting – November 1, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.
- Producer Meeting – November 8, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.
- USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting – November 8, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Matt Litchfield, General Manager, reported on behalf of TVMWD, thanked the Watermaster Board of Directors on the renewal of their cyclic storage agreement. He stated that TVMWD has submitted a request for a delivery of 25,000 acre-feet of water with a purchase schedule with MWD to be completed within ten years.

Lasty, Mr. Litchfield reported that a meeting between TVMWD and MWD to discuss water storage is scheduled for November 7, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Placido, reported on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), stated that on October 9, 2023 the SGVMWD Board of Directors reappointed him as its Public Representative for Watermaster for CY 2024. Also on October 9, 2023, he stated that the SGVMWD Board considered candidates for the Alternate Member for the Local Agency Formation Commission Special District.

Mr. Steve Kiggins, Assistant General Manager, also reported on behalf of SGVMWD, providing an update on their pipeline maintenance project.

REPORT FROM OUTSIDE COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Chair Noriega reported that any reports from the Outside Committee Liaisons are included in the Board packet.

INFORMATION ITEM

The following item listed on the agenda for information of Watermaster was noted, and ordered received and filed:

- a) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Monthly Report for September 2023

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Ms. Santana announced that she is pregnant and is due on January 3, 2024 so would be absent for the January 2024 meeting.

Vice Chair Michalko thanked everyone for their continued support and vote of confidence for another year serving on the Watermaster Board.

Treasurer Tesfaye thanked the Producers for the vote of confidence and is looking forward to serving another year.

Secretary Zvirbulis also thanked the Producers for the vote of confidence and is looking forward to serving another year.

Mr. DeJesus expressed appreciation to all the Producers, in particular, City of Azusa, City of Glendora and Covina Irrigating Company for their trust and confidence for having served on the Watermaster Board.

Mr. Lewis stated that he has enjoyed working with Mr. DeJesus over the years while serving on the Watermaster Board. He also thanked the Producers for the vote of confidence in serving another year.

Mr. Placido also thanked everyone for their continued support and vote of confidence for another year serving on the Watermaster Board.

Chair Noriega thanked Mr. DeJesus for his service on the Watermaster Board and expressed appreciation for his reporting on MWD's activities. She also wished him the very best. Lastly, Chair Noriega thanked the Producers for the vote of confidence for another year serving on the Watermaster Board.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Consideration of Extension Agreement for Producer Cyclic Storage for the following:
 - i. City of Alhambra
 - ii. City of Arcadia
 - iii. City of Azusa
 - iv. California American Water - Duarte
 - v. California American Water - San Marino
 - vi. California Domestic Water Company
 - vii. Covina Irrigating Company
 - viii. City of Glendora
 - ix. Golden State Water Company - San Gabriel
 - x. La Puente Valley County Water District
 - xi. City of Monrovia
 - xii. City of Monterey Park
 - xiii. San Gabriel County Water District
 - xiv. Suburban Water Systems
 - xv. Sunny Slope Water Company

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 to the next regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, December 6, 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

MARTIN ZVIRBULIS

ATTEST:

LYNDA NORIEGA
CHAIR