

**A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 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, October 2, 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. 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, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Jennifer Santana, Anteneh Tesfaye and Martin Zvirbulis.

ABSENT: Steven Placido

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT

Staff present at the meeting included: Russ Bryden, Executive Officer; Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer; Alfred Smith, Attorney; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Jenny Savron, Consulting Engineer; Lupe Artis, Controller; Jackie Tsao, Senior Accountant; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant; Lauren Augino, Water Resources Analyst II and Ana Rodriguez, Accountant II.

Others present included: Dennis Ahlen, Anthony Alberti, Stephanie Alvarado, Chris Arrighi, Dan Arrighi, Carlos Cardona, Jacob Chavira, Dan Colby, Ray Cordero, Patricia Cortez, Paul Cranmer, Casey Feilen, Jason Forsberg, Roy Frausto, Garry Hofer, Steve Kiggins, Sylvie Lee, Tom Love, Jose Martinez, Dusty Moisio, Stephanie Moreno, Tara Mullaly, David Muse, Lenet Pacheco, Jeffrey Pellissier, William Saunders, Carlos Solis, 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. Anteneh Tesfaye, Treasurer, 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 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Watermaster held September 4, 2024;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20590 through 20617, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$429,732.85 on the Administrative Fund and Items 1024-S, 1024-U and 1024-U2 in the amount of \$205,949.44 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, September 2024.

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION, COMMEMORATING, AND INVITING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE OUTSTANDING SERVICES RENDERED BY LUPE ARTIS UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT (Resolution No. 10-24-329)

Resolution No. 10-24-329 – Chair Noriega stated that a Resolution has been prepared expressing appreciation, commemorating and inviting public attention to the outstanding services rendered by Mrs. Lupe Artis upon the occasion of her retirement.

Mr. Russ Bryden, Executive Officer, stated that Mrs. Artis is honorably retiring after 34 years of service with Watermaster on October 31, 2024, making her the longest tenured employee since its creation.

On motion made by Chair Noriega, seconded by Mr. David Michalko, Vice Chair, and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was adopted and passed as read:

RESOLUTION NO. 10-24-329

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION, COMMEMORATING, AND INVITING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE OUTSTANDING SERVICES RENDERED BY LUPE ARTIS UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

(see next page)



RESOLUTION NO. 10-24-329

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION,
COMMEMORATING AND INVITING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE OUTSTANDING
SERVICES RENDERED BY**

Lupe Artis

UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, **Lupe Artis** is honorably retiring after 34 years of service with the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster making her the longest tenured employee since its creation; and

WHEREAS, during all of her said service to the Main San Gabriel Basin (Main Basin), Mrs. Artis has rendered dedicated, professional and outstanding services to Watermaster, the Court, the Main Basin, water community and the public at large; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as a committed water industry professional, the Main Basin and Producers have benefited from her knowledge, technical capabilities, and intuitive understanding of Watermaster's complex responsibilities for water management in the San Gabriel Valley; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Artis has demonstrated professional leadership and oversight in the accounting aspects of the Main Basin's adjudicated water rights and supply management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER as follows:

1. Full measure of appreciation is hereby expressed and acknowledged for the effective and beneficial services rendered by **Lupe Artis** during her employment, duties and affairs with Watermaster; and
2. Public attention is hereby called and directed to the exemplary services rendered by **Mrs. Artis** during her 34 years of service; and
3. This Resolution shall be maintained in the permanent records of Watermaster in recognition of **Mrs. Artis'** outstanding performance of duty.

Dated this 2nd day of October, 2024

ATTEST:

Secretary

Chair

Mrs. Artis thanked the Watermaster Board for the opportunity to deliver a farewell speech, sharing her history and experiences throughout her career. At 18 years old, she started her career at a small Certified Public Accounting firm. With the objective to obtain an accounting bookkeeping position and work closer to home, she contacted a temporary employment agency, noting her first assignment was at Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD) then located in the City of El Monte in November 1990 at the age of 21 years old, at the same time Dr. Fellow and the late, Mr. Marvin Cichy, were elected to USGVMWD's Board of Directors. She then transitioned to a newly created company, San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA), as a secretary/receptionist.

Within a few months Watermaster split from USGVMWD and Mrs. Artis remained with Watermaster, noting that in less than one year, she was an employee of WQA, USGVMWD and Watermaster, where she ended up calling home.

Mrs. Artis recalled Watermaster's former Executive Officers and credited her many mentors. She commended Watermaster's accomplishments highlighting Mr. Anthony Zampielo's introduction of the Replenishment Development Assessment. She attributed Watermaster's success to the Watermaster Board comprised of water managers with an understanding of the Main Basin's needs. She added that the Watermaster Board has been good to the staff and in return believes that staff has been good to Watermaster. She stated that she was blessed with good managers and surrounded by skilled staff.

In closing, it being her 55th birthday, Mrs. Artis stated that she is ready to retire. She will miss everyone and gave a heartfelt thank you for the recognition for her years of service and a career that she loved.

Dr. Fellow wished Mrs. Artis a Happy Birthday and congratulated her on her retirement.

Mrs. Jennifer Santana recognized Mrs. Artis as well-respected and expressed appreciation for her remarks. She congratulated her on her retirement and wished her the best in retirement.

Treasure Tesfaye congratulated Mrs. Artis on her 34 years of service and wished her the best in her retirement.

Secretary Zvirbulis congratulated Mrs. Artis on her retirement and for a great career in water and Watermaster.

Vice Chair Michalko congratulated Mrs. Artis on her retirement and wished her the best. He expressed appreciation to Mrs. Artis for the hard work and challenges during the transition.

Ms. Melissa Barbosa thanked and expressed appreciation to Mrs. Artis for taking the time to explain the financials at Watermaster. She also appreciated hearing about her history and the instrumental role she held at Watermaster. She congratulated Mrs. Artis on her retirement and wished her the best.

Mr. Lewis stated that it has been great working with Mrs. Artis. He expressed appreciation and congratulated her on her retirement.

Chair Noriega congratulated Mrs. Artis on her retirement. She thanked her for all her hard work and contributions to Watermaster, commending her for managing the auditing and financial reporting processes as a tremendous accomplishment.

RECEIVE AND FILE THREE-YEAR PURCHASED WATER PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024-25 TO 2026-27

Mr. Bryden explained that the Three-year Purchased Water Plan was developed to assist with facilitating coordination between Watermaster and the Responsible Agencies relative to anticipated imported water needs.

The Consulting Engineer, Mrs. Jenny Savron, then provided an overview of the Plan including how it relates to Watermaster's responsibilities under the amended Judgment.

Mrs. Savron added that many aspects of Watermaster's operations are considered in the preparation of the Plan, including Replacement Water obligations, Supplemental Water Reliability Storage Programs (Resource Development Assessment I and II), the In-Lieu Programs, the Operating Safe Yield, and pumping restrictions.

On motion by Chair Noriega, she moved to receive and file the Three-Year Purchased Water Plan to include that Watermaster continue the collaboration with USGVMWD on their Integrated Resources Plan (IRP). She stressed the importance for Watermaster's assumptions and projections included in the Three-Year Purchased Water Plan are to be reflected in USGVMWD's IRP as a more useful planning and guidance document going forward. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lewis, and unanimously carried, the Three-Year Purchased Water Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 to 2026-27 was received and filed.

REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Treasurer Tesfaye reported that the Finance Committee met on September 23, 2024 and discussed two items requiring Watermaster action. Treasurer Tesfaye provided an overview on the following items:

- a) Receive and File Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2023-24 – as presented by CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA). Treasurer Tesfaye discussed the audit components and reported that all accounting standards have been met. He stated that the Committee recommends that Watermaster receive and file the audit report.

Additionally, Treasurer Tesfaye commended Mrs. Artis and Watermaster staff for a job well done in coordinating and preparing the Audit Report.

On motion made by Vice Chair Michalko, seconded by Ms. Barbosa, and unanimously carried, the Audit Report for FY 2023-24 as presented by CLA be received and filed.

- b) Reaffirm Cash Investment Policy – Treasurer Tesfaye reported that, as required each year, the Finance Committee has also reviewed Watermaster's Cash Investment Policy. He stated that the consensus of the Committee was to recommend that Watermaster approve and reaffirm the Cash Investment Policy.

On motion made by Secretary Zvirbulis, seconded by Vice Chair Michalko, and unanimously carried, Watermaster reaffirmed its Cash Investment Policy.

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE EXTENSION AGREEMENT FOR SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT FOR PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE ACCOUNT

Mr. Bryden reported that the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD) 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 SGVMWD.

On motion made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Treasurer Tesfaye, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the extension agreement for the SGVMWD/Watermaster Cyclic Storage Agreement for a period of five years, to expire on October 2, 2029.

REQUEST FROM CITY OF ARCADIA TO PURCHASE 3,322.16 ACRE-FEET OF WATER FROM UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT FOR PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE

Mr. Bryden reported that the City of Arcadia has submitted a request to purchase 3,322.16 acre-feet of water from USGVMWD for its producer cyclic storage account. He noted that there is available capacity within their existing account.

On motion made by Treasurer Tesfaye, seconded by Ms. Barbosa, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the purchase of 3,322.16 acre-feet of cyclic storage water from USGVMWD for the City of Arcadia's individual producer cyclic storage account.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Alfred Smith, Attorney, reported that the Stipulation Re Intervention After Judgment of Michael Robert Dawes was approved by the Court on September 20, 2024. He then reminded everyone of the following key dates scheduled before Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis:

- October 24, 2024 – Status Conference on Main 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 243.1 feet on September 20, 2024, an increase of about 0.3 feet from the prior week, an increase of about 1.4 feet from the prior month, and about 16.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 97,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 12.0 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 September 25, 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 September 24, 2024, was 13,804 acre-feet, about 17 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of September 24, 2024, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 49 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 49 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 45 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 Water Committee. 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.

Lastly, he, along with Mrs. Sherrie Johnson, congratulated Mrs. Artis on her retirement and wished her the best.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Bryden reported that a written copy of his report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet. He highlighted discussions with USGVMWD on their rate structure and Integrated Resources Plan.

He reported that he has begun attending Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Board of Directors and Committee Meetings with the goal to more informed and better partner with the Responsible Agencies,

Mr. Bryden provided a brief discussion on continuing discussions with USGVMWD and Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD) on the Pure Water Southern California Project.

Related to the Main Basin's health, he stated that all three Responsible Agencies are continuing to deliver imported water, noting some challenges such as the Army Corps and the County's maintenance, algae control, and San Gabriel - Devil Canyon Maintenance.

He reported that Assessments were due September 20, 2024, and was pleased to announce 100 percent received.

Mr. Bryden then reported that staff is currently working on the Annual Report for FY 2023-24, noting it will be distributed to All Parties and to the Court by November 1, 2024.

Regarding the Nomination of Producer Members of Watermaster for Calendar Year 2025, Mr. Bryden reported that the election will take place at the Watermaster Board of Directors Meeting on November 6, 2024.

He reported that the next Basin Water Management Committee is scheduled for October 9, 2024 at 1:30 p.m., stating that the discussion will include the Pure Water Southern California Project, and an update on the Strategic Plan process. He encouraged everyone to attend in planning for a collective future.

He also reported that an Administrative Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. that will include discussion on the Executive Officer's goals.

Lastly, Mr. Bryden highlighted that Mrs. Arrica Jimenez, Administration Manager, celebrated eight years with Watermaster and is currently attending the 2024-25 Leadership Essentials for the Water Industry Program: A Leadership Development Program from the ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA). He added that he has challenged her to come back and teach the staff what she has learned.

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Fellow reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stated that MWD Committee and Board of Directors Meetings are scheduled to be held on October 7 and 8, 2024. He noted that he has requested for the Pure Water Southern California Project as a future agenda item to include discussion on the costs associated with the project including the costs for the Delta Conveyance and Site Reservoir projects.

Lastly, he provided an update on MWD's recommendation in naming the Colorado River Aqueduct after former United States Senator Dianne Feinstein.

Mrs. Santana also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, referenced a report provided by USGVMWD to Watermaster. She reported that on September 11, 2024, the USGVMWD Board of Directors approved an audio/visual and security upgrade. She additionally stated that for the month of October 2024, Committee meetings will be dark.

Mr. Love also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, providing a brief discussion on MWD's Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance Meeting held on September 24, 2024, stating that the discussion included phasing alternatives.

Lastly, he announced that on October 17, 2024 at 4:00 p.m., a special briefing on the Delta Conveyance Project will be held with all five MWD member agencies at the Doubletree Hotel in the City of Monrovia, featuring keynote speaker Mr. David Sunding, Emeritus Professor, UC Berkely, who led the benefit-cost analysis on Delta Conveyance Project.

Mr. Steve Kiggins, Assistant General Manager, reported on behalf of SGVMWD, stating that the SGVMWD Board of Directors approved the following on September 9, 2024:

- Approved the City of Azusa’s Loan Request in the amount of \$3.4 million for their South Reservoir Replacement Project
- Adopted a Support position on Proposition 4 – The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond of 2024.

Also on September 9, 2024, Mr. Kiggins reported that the SGVMWD Board of Directors considered funding for the Delta Conveyance Project; however, was tabled to their next Board meeting on October 14, 2024 to revise the draft resolution.

Lastly, he announced that SGVMWD’s Executive Assistant is retiring at the end of 2024, and the SGVWMD Board of Directors has approved funding for a replacement to backfill the position.

REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Mr. William Saunders, Civil Engineer, Los Angeles County Public Works, provided an update on current Los Angeles County Flood Control District activities.

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) Change of Designee for Moon Valley Nursery of California, Inc. to Robert Bowcock
- b) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Monthly Report for August 2024

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Dr. Fellow stated that former City of Monrovia Councilwoman, Ms. Gloria Crudington passed away on September 25, 2024. She was commended for having worked closely with USGVMWD through the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. He thanked Watermaster for adjourning today’s meeting in her honor and memory.

Mrs. Santana stated that she was pleased to see the collaboration between Watermaster and USGVMWD. She then mentioned that she toured the Water Replenishment District (WRD) Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning and highly recommends others doing the same. She added that WRD is excited that they are getting off imported water. Mrs. Santana recognized Dr. Fellow’s comments on the need for advocacy for Northern California imported water and is looking forward to seeing additional advocacy for the Pure Water Southern California project.

Treasurer Tesfaye thanked Mrs. Artis for all her hard work and picking Watermaster through the “divorce.”

Vice Chair Michalko congratulated Mrs. Artis on her retirement and stated he enjoyed working with her.

Ms. Barbosa thanked Mr. Saunders for the update on Los Angeles County Flood Control activities, adding the importance of collaboration on replenishment. She stated that her staff are scheduled to tour the Pure Water Southern California Demonstration Facility to educate them on the project.

Chair Noreiga announced that today’s meeting will also adjourn in memory of Mr. Anthony Poli, former General Manager of Rowland Water District, who passed away on September 19, 2024.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were offered.

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 Mrs. Gloria Crudginton and Mr. Anthony Poli, to a regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, November 6, 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