

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
725 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA  
HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022 AT 2:30 O'CLOCK P.M.**

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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, and via Zoom Meeting (web-based video conferencing) on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 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, Garry Hofer, David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Anteneh Tesfaye, Charles Treviño and Martin Zvirbulis.

**ABSENT:** Steven Placido

(Mr. Placido joined later in the meeting)

**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 and Lauren Augino, Water Resources Analyst.

Others present included: Anthony Alberti, Dan Arrighi, Melissa Barbosa, Ron Bow, Ed Chavez, Dan Colby, Tom Coleman, John Corona, Paul Cranmer, Bob DiPrimio, Cris Fealy, Roy Frausto, Greg Galindo, Steve Kiggins, Reiner Kruger, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., Sylvie Lee, Matthew Litchfield, Tom Love, Charles Luas, Jared Macias, Jose Martinez, Dusty Moisis, Stephanie Moreno, Don Nguyen, Chisom Obegolu, Jeffrey Pellissier, Martin Ray, Jennifer Santana, Randy Schoellerman, Sherry Shaw, Alex Tachiki, Jessica Taylor, Mike Ti, Ernesto Venegas and Paul Zampiendo.

## **ELECTION OF PRODUCER NOMINEES FOR WATERMASTER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023**

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) 2023, pursuant to Watermaster's petition to the Court.

Chair Noriega then called for the nomination of Producer Members to Watermaster for CY 2023. Mr. Roy Frausto, General Manager, La Puente Valley County Water District, nominated the following individuals to serve as Producer Members: David DeJesus, 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 2023 term. Mr. Fudacz noted that he will submit the names to the Court.

- a) Certification of appointment of Steven T. Placido by San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District for Calendar Year 2023 - Chair Noriega reported that San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD) has certified Steven T. Placido as its Public Representative for Watermaster for CY 2023.
- b) Certification of appointment of Dr. Anthony Fellow and Jennifer Santana by Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District for Calendar Year 2023 - Chair Noriega reported that Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD) has certified Dr. Anthony Fellow and Jennifer Santana as its Public Representatives for Watermaster for CY 2023.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chair Noriega asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda. On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Mr. Treviño, 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. Treviño, seconded by Mr. DeJesus, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Watermaster held October 5, 2022;

- b) Lists of Demands: Items 19917 through 19948, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$421,916.09 on the Administrative Fund and Items 1122-S and 1122-U in the amount of \$140,235.30 on the Replacement Water Fund;
- c) Financial Statements, October 2022.

### **RECEIPT OF FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Executive Officer, Mr. Anthony Zampiendo, reported that Watermaster's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, describing activities of Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22, was submitted to all Parties and to the Court as required by the Judgment. Mr. Zampiendo noted that the report is also available on the Watermaster website.

On motion made by Mr. Tesfaye, seconded by Dr. Fellow, and unanimously carried, the FY 2021-22 Watermaster Annual Report has been received and filed.

(Mr. Placido joined the meeting)

### **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 of 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 of 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. Zampiendo stated that it is staff's recommendation that the Five-Year Plan public comment period be set starting today, November 2, 2022, and continue through the public hearing, which would be set for the Watermaster meeting on January 4, 2023.

On motion made by Mr. Michalko, seconded by Mr. Treviño, and unanimously carried, Watermaster set the public comment period for the Five-Year Plan to begin Wednesday, November 2, 2022, and continue through the public hearing set for the regular Watermaster meeting on January 4, 2023. 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 2021-22**

Mr. Zampielo reported that in FY 2021-22 Watermaster collected funds from the Water Resource Development Assessment for the Stormwater Augmentation Program (RDA II), for a total of \$32,412,773.75. 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 36,219 acre-feet.

On motion made by Mr. DeJesus, seconded by Mr. Zvirbulis, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the Executive Officer to make the appropriate purchases for emergency water supply.

## **AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE REPLACEMENT WATER REQUIREMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22**

Mr. Zampielo 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 2021-22. 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 Dr. Fellow, seconded by Mr. Michalko, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the purchase of Replacement Water from the appropriate Responsible Agencies, as presented by staff, for overproduction during FY 2021-22.

## **WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Golden State Water Company, Section 28 "Application to Destroy Well" – Columbia Well No. 4 - Mr. Johnson, reported that Golden State Water Company (GSWC) has submitted an application for destruction of its Columbia Well No. 4, located in the City of Glendora, due to the construction, condition and age. GSWC considers it an unreliable groundwater supply source that may be prone to casing failure and has indicated that well rehabilitation would be impractical due to potential casing damage or failure.

He also stated that it was constructed in 1925 to a depth of 248 feet below ground surface (bgs) and is perforated from 103 feet to 112 feet bgs, and 122 feet to 190 feet bgs. The pumping capacity of Columbia Well No. 4 is approximately 450 gallons per minute. Based on groundwater elevation data from January 2022, the regional groundwater flow in the vicinity of Columbia Well No. 4 is generally from an easterly to westerly direction. Recent water quality data for GSWC Columbia Well No. 4 indicates that the groundwater quality was below all maximum contaminant levels or non-detect and is

not included in any of United States Environmental Protection Agency's operable unit extraction plans.

Mr. Johnson recommended that Watermaster approve GSWC's application to destroy Columbia Well No. 4, subject to conditions stated in the staff report.

On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Mr. Hofer, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved Golden State Water Company's application to destroy its Columbia Well No. 4, subject to the conditions in the staff report.

Golden State Water Company, Section 28 "Application to Drill Water Well" – Sunflower Well No. 1 - Mr. Johnson reported that Golden State Water Company (GSWC) has submitted an application to drill a water well for the proposed Sunflower Well No. 1 as replacement well for the existing Columbia Well No. 4.

Mr. Johnson added that the proposed Sunflower Well No. 1 is to be drilled to a depth of about 275 feet bgs and perforated from 175 feet to 235 feet bgs. To be considered a Replacement Well, the Sunflower Well No. 1 must have similar total depths and perforation intervals as the existing Columbia Well No. 4.

The proposed Sunflower Well No. 1 is designed to treat about 725 acre-feet per year and will stay within the same pumping range and should have no impact on contaminant migration in the area. He recommended that Watermaster approve GSWC's application to construct proposed replacement Sunflower Well No. 1, subject to conditions stated in the staff report.

On motion made by Mr. Treviño, seconded by Chair Noriega, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved Golden State Water Company's application to drill Sunflower Well No. 1, subject to the conditions in the staff report.

## **REPORT FROM BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Michalko reported that the Basin Water Management Committee met on October 12, 2022 and referenced the Committee report included in the Board packet. He stated that discussion included the Los Angeles County Water Plan Survey, a water supply outlook and potential Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Water Supply Allocation, and Reverse Cyclic Storage Program.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Related to the Status Conference before Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis held on September 15, 2022, the Attorney, Mr. Fred Fudacz, stated that Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer, and Mr. Johnson provided an in-depth overview of MWD's Pure Water of Southern California project. As a result, at the Honorable Duffy-Lewis' request, an on-site visit/tour and hearing has been scheduled for April 26, 2023.

Additionally, Mr. Fudacz reported that a confirmation hearing of Watermaster Board of Directors' nominees for CY 2023 is scheduled for December 16, 2023.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Johnson, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 176.9 feet on October 21, 2022, noting no change from the prior week; about 1.3 feet lower from the prior month, and about 7.0 feet lower than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 110,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 14 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, 2022, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 0.84 inches, which is about 76 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 0.39 inches, which is 41 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of October 25, 2022, was 12,546 acre-feet, about 15 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of October 25, 2022, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 6 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 6 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 8 cfs, release was 15 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. Zampielo reported that a written copy of his report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet. He referenced the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings for the Pure Water Southern California project, encouraging Producers to review and take the opportunity to ask questions and submit any comments.

Related to the Reverse Cyclic Storage Program, he stated that Board action will be required to allow the delivery of Colorado River water through USG-3.

Lastly, he provided a brief discussion on water supplies and possible next steps.

## **REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES**

Dr. Anthony Fellow, reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, stated that this past weekend, he along with Mr. DeJesus hosted a MWD Inspection Trip that included a tour of Hoover Dam and the Colorado River Basin. He thanked Mrs. Gardner for providing an informational presentation on Watermaster.

He also reported that Ms. Patricia Cortez, Director of Government and Community Affairs, USGVMWD, was awarded the Kathy Cole Award by the Southern California Water Coalition for her leadership and work as a coalition builder for California water.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, USGVMWD, also reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, announced that the USGVMWD's offices will be moving to their new office late this week/early next week. He added that the Producer Meeting scheduled for November 9, 2022 is cancelled and a water supply/drought actions update will be provided at Watermaster's BVMC Meeting on November 9, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. Lastly, he stated that the USGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting will be held remotely as scheduled on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Matthew Litchfield, General Manager, reporting on behalf of Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD), reported that beginning November 7, 2022, TVMWD will be making a water delivery of 200 acre-feet from PM-26/Little Dalton Spreading Grounds. He also reported that at this morning's TVMWD Board of Directors Meeting, the discussion included a draft Reverse Cyclic Storage Program agreement recommending a commitment of 3,000 acre-feet of water purchase for future replenishment needs and will present to TVMWD Board of Director's for consideration on November 16, 2022.

Mr. Steve Kiggins, Assistant General Manager, reporting on behalf of SGVMWD, stated that at the SGVMWD Board of Directors Meeting on October 10, 2022, the discussion included a legislative update, approval of Annual Report and re-appointment of Mr. Steven Placido as their representative on the Watermaster Board. He then provided an operational update stating that water deliveries resumed at the Canyon Spreading Grounds last week and State Water Project allocation delivery is expected to be completed in the first of week of December 2022.

## **REPORT FROM OUTSIDE COMMITTEE LIAISONS**

Chair Noriega 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 was noted, and ordered received and filed:

- a) Change of Designee for Pico Water District to Joe D. Basulto
- b) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District monthly report for September 2022

## **COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

Dr. Fellow was pleased to see Mr. Paul Cranmer, Public Works Director, City of Arcadia, in attendance and stated that he looks forward to seeing the City of Arcadia's updated plant regarding Per- and polyfluoroalkyl efforts. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Zvirbulis stated that it was great to see in-person meetings resuming.

Mr. Michalko thanked everyone for their vote of confidence for another year serving on the Watermaster Board. He provided an update related to the one-on-one meetings with the water agencies, stating that he along with Chair Noriega and Watermaster staff are working on the details and will continue to keep everyone apprised.

Mr. DeJesus expressed appreciation for the nomination in serving on the Watermaster Board another year.

Mr. Hofer congratulated the returning and new members to the Watermaster Board.

Mr. Placido apologized for his absence noting a recent COVID exposure, then wished everyone a safe holiday.

Chair Noriega thanked the Producers for their vote of confidence to continue serving another year on the Watermaster Board. She emphasized for continuous collaboration and focus on Producer engagement in 2023.

She encouraged everyone to attend the San Gabriel Valley Water Association Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. at the Pomona Valley Mining Company, that will include a CityWorks workshop on drought management.

Chair Noriega acknowledged Walnut Valley Water District's "Young Professionals Development Program," a professional leadership development program to assist in guiding professionals in the water industry. She encouraged those interested to participate.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM**

- a) Consideration of Extension Agreement for City of Industry Waterworks System for Producer Cyclic Storage

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

A Closed Session was not held.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Noriega 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 7, 2022 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 and via Zoom Meeting.



SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE

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MARTIN ZVIRBULIS

ATTEST:

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LYNDA NORIEGA  
CHAIR

DRAFT