

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA  
HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025 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 5, 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. Martin Zvirbulis, Secretary, 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: Kelly Gardner, Executive Officer; Fred Fudacz, Attorney; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Jenny Savron, Consulting Engineer; Arrica Jimenez, Director of Administrative Services; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant; Lauren Augino, Water Resources Analyst II, and Jocelyn Garcia, Student Intern.

Others present included: Dennis Ahlen, Anthony Alberti, Chris Arrighi, Nathan Au, Carlos Cardona, Dan Colby, John Corona, Dana Diaz, Robert DiPrimio, Cris Fealy, Casey Feilen, Roy Frausto, Shawn Harkness, Geo Herrera, Steve Kiggins, Matt Litchfield, Stephanie Lobos, Tom Love, Victor Magana, Toby Moore, Stephanie Moreno, Jeffrey Pellissier, Jose Reynoso, Nabil Saba, Carlos Solis, Jessica Taylor, Anteneh Tesfaye, and Paul Zampiello.

**ELECTION OF PRODUCER NOMINEES FOR WATERMASTER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

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) 2026, pursuant to Watermaster's petition to the Court.

Chair Noriega then called for the nomination of Producer Members to Watermaster for CY 2026. Mr. Toby Moore, Water Resources Manager/Chief Hydrogeologist, Golden State Water Company, nominated the following individuals to serve as Producer Members: Melissa Barbosa, Paul Cranmer, Cris Fealy, Garry Hofer, David Michalko, and Lynda Noriega.

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 2026 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 5, 2025.

### **APPOINTMENTS OF PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

- a) Certification of appointment of Steven T. Placido by San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District for CY 2026 - 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 2026.
- b) Certification of appointment of Dr. Anthony Fellow and Jennifer Santana by Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District for CY 2026 - Chair Noriega reported that Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD) has certified Dr. Anthony Fellow and Mrs. Jennifer Santana as its Public Representatives for Watermaster for CY 2026.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Chair asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda. On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Mr. Paul Cranmer, and unanimously carried, the agenda was adopted as presented.

### **TIME RESERVED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were offered.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion made by Secretary Zvirbulis, seconded by Mr. Placido, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Watermaster held October 1, 2025;
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 20992 through 21018, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$736,269.12 on the Administrative Fund and Items 1125-S and 1125-U in the amount of \$201,801.00 on the Replacement Water Fund, and
- c) Financial Statements, October 2025.

**2026 BOARD MEETING DATES**

Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Executive Officer, reported on the 2026 Watermaster Board of Directors meeting dates, stating that the first Wednesday for the months of May and December 2026 conflicts with the Association of California Water Agencies Conference (ACWA). Due to the conflicts, Mrs. Gardner stated that Watermaster staff has recommended moving the regular meeting dates to the second Wednesday of the month, May 13, 2026 and December 9, 2026, respectively.

The Chair asked for any questions, and with none offered, ordered the 2026 Watermaster Board of Directors meeting dates received and filed.

**RECEIPT OF FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT**

Mrs. Gardner reported that Watermaster's 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report, which described activities of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25, was submitted to all Parties and to the Court as required by the Judgment. Mrs. Gardner noted that the report is also available on the Watermaster website.

The Chair asked for any questions, and with none offered, ordered the FY 2024-25 Watermaster Annual Report received and filed.

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

Mr. Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer, 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. Johnson stated that it is staff's recommendation that the Five-Year Plan public comment period be set starting today, November 5, 2025, and continue through the public hearing, which would be set for the Watermaster meeting on January 7, 2026.

On motion made by Dr. Fellow, seconded by Ms. Melissa Barbosa, Treasurer, and unanimously carried, Watermaster set the public comment period for the Five-Year Plan to begin Wednesday, November 5, 2025, and continue through the public hearing set for the regular Watermaster meeting on January 7, 2026. 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 2024-25**

Mrs. Jenny Savron, Consulting Engineer, reported that in FY 2024-25 Watermaster collected funds from the Water Resource Development Assessment for the Stormwater Augmentation Program (RDA II), for a total of \$33,094,931.31. She noted that, upon approval, Watermaster will purchase Reliability Storage Water from each Responsible Agency based on funds collected from the RDA II each year. She also noted that the estimated requirement for delivery during FY 2024-25 is 30,641.00 acre-feet.

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

**AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE REPLACEMENT WATER REQUIREMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25**

Mrs. Savron 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 2024-25. She also reported detailed information relative to each Responsible Agencies' obligation, noting that specific calculations are shown in the staff report.

On motion made by Mr. Cranmer, seconded by Secretary Zvirbulis, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the purchase of Replacement Water from the appropriate Responsible Agencies, as presented by staff, for overproduction during FY 2024-25.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Fudacz reported that on December 5, 2025 a hearing before Presiding Judge Duffy-Lewis is scheduled to confirm the Watermaster Board of Directors' nominees for CY 2026 and a Status Conference on Main San Gabriel Basin (Main Basin) conditions. He added that updates on impacts related to the Golden Mussel and the BPOU Project Agreement renewal process will also be presented at the Status Conference.

Related to the BPOU Agreement renewal process, Mr. Fudacz reported that a preliminary call with the Water Entities is scheduled for November 10, 2025 followed by a strategy meeting with representatives from Environmental Protection Agency on November 17, 2025.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Johnson reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 248.9 feet on October 24, 2025, a decrease of about 0.6 feet from the prior week, a decrease of about 1.4 feet from the prior month, and about 4.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 230,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 29.0 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 31, 2025, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 1.50 inches, which is about 136 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 1.38 inches, which is 145 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of October 28, 2025, was 17,956 acre-feet, about 22 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of October 28, 2025, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 25 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 40 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 25 cfs, release was 40 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**

Mrs. Gardner referred to a report on Outside Activities included in the Board packet.

She highlighted and congratulated Mrs. Arrica Jimenez, Director of Administrative Services, on her graduation from the professional program, “Leadership Essentials for the Water Industry Managers” through the ACWA – Joint Powers Insurance Agency.

Mrs. Gardner reported that the San Gabriel Valley Water Association’s Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2025 where the membership will ratify the slate and budget for CY 2026. The meeting will also include a discussion on “Everything Pure Water: A Joint Regional Effort” with Mr. Robert Ferrante, General Manager, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts and Mr. Deven Upadhyay, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD).

She thanked Mrs. Jimenez and the staff for their dedicated work in modernizing and elevating the branding of the Watermaster agenda.

Additionally, Mrs. Gardner reported that the Basin Water Management Committee meeting on November 12, 2025 will include a review on the history and purpose of the Resource Development Assessment and a draft letter in response to Azusa Land Reclamation regarding Zone V Operations Plan.

Lastly, she provided an update on current Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) activities referencing a report submitted in advance by the LACFCD to Watermaster.

## **REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES**

Mrs. Santana reported on behalf of USGVMWD, stating that on October 22, 2025, the USGVMWD Board of Directors approved the appointment of Dr. Fellow and Mrs. Santana as representatives to Watermaster for CY 2026. She added that also on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the USGVMWD Board of Directors received a presentation on the “Delta

Conveyance Emergency Preparedness” by Mr. Randall Neudeck, Manager of Bay-Delta Programs, MWD. Lastly, Mrs. Santana reported that the Water Resources and Facility Management Committee met on November 3, 2025 and the Administrative and Finance Committee on November 4, 2025. The Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee will meet on November 5, 2025.

Dr. Fellow provided a brief update on current MWD activities, stating that the MWD Subcommittee on Imported Water meeting held on October 28, 2025, included a discussion on the Sites Reservoir Project Plan, the Delta Conveyance Project and the Colorado River.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reported on behalf of USGVMWD, providing a brief discussion on the “Readiness-to-Serve” fee and Golden Mussel. He added that the USGVMWD Board of Directors meeting on November 12, 2025, will include honoring and commemorating the outstanding service and accomplishments of Mr. Ruben Gallegos, Community Outreach Specialist, upon his retirement.

Lastly, he added that a Producer meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. that will include a presentation on MWD’s Exchange Program by Ms. Kira Alonzo, Team Manager, MWD.

Mr. Matt Litchfield, General Manager, reported on behalf of Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD), added brief comments regarding TVMWD concurring with USGVMWD’s approach and strategy in addressing the Golden Mussel issue.

Mr. Placido reported on behalf of SGVMWD, stating that the SGVMWD Board of Directors met on November 3, 2025, and the discussion included an update on the Golden Mussel and the Delta Conveyance Project.

Mr. Jose Reynoso, General Manager, also reported on behalf of SGVMWD, stating that although the Delta Conveyance Project Trailer Bill did not pass, legislators in Sacramento remain focused of the issue, and the project continues to build momentum as it stays on track for 2027.

Lastly, he provided an update on the State Water Contractors, stating that the reservoir levels are about 30%.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

- a) Temporary assignment or lease of 600.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Vulcan Materials Company to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for Fiscal Year 2025-26
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 25.10 acre-feet of Production Right from Nicholson Family Trust – Marital Trust to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for Fiscal Year 2025-26

- c) Permanent transfer of 100% Prescriptive Pumping Right and 100% Carryover Right from Valencia Heights Water Company to Covina Valley Water Company
- d) Change of Designee for City of Glendora to Paul Zampielo
- e) Change of Designee for Estate of David Loucks to David Loucks and Aubrey Loucks
- f) Change of Designee for the City of Monterey Park to Inez Alvarez
- g) Transmittal of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's Monthly Report for September 2025
- h) "California puts all of its water rights online for the first time." *Politico Pro*, October 21, 2025

### **COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

Dr. Fellow thanked Mr. Litchfield and staff for a wonderful event in celebration of TVMWD's 75th Anniversary.

He stated that ACWA will be holding its fall Conference from December 2 – 4, 2025 in San Diego.

Mrs. Santana recognized and commended Watermaster's inclusion of an employee birthday holiday on the holiday schedule. She also commented on the new options and opportunities that would benefit the Main Basin related to MWD's Exchange Program.

Treasurer Barbosa commended and thanked Watermaster and the Responsible Agencies for their continued efforts and commitment in restoring imported water considering the Los Angeles County Public Works' shutdown, without notice on September 24, 2025 for maintenance. She emphasized the importance of presenting the County with a comprehensive mitigation plan to address the Golden Mussel issue, demonstrating Watermaster's full commitment to restoring imported water deliveries, and recharging the aquifer which is how the Main Basin is managed.

Lastly, Treasurer Barbosa congratulated the new slate of Watermaster Board of Directors for CY 2026.

Vice Chair Michalko thanked the Producers for their continued support in serving another year on the Watermaster Board. He congratulated Mrs. Jimenez on successfully completing the ACWA-JPIA Leadership course, noting that it is a significant accomplishment.

Chair Noriega echoed Treasurer Barbosa's comments. She also commended the efforts of the collective group working with the County to address the Golden Mussel issue.

Lastly, she congratulated Mr. Cris Fealy on his appointment to the Watermaster Board for CY 2026.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) Rescind Resolution No. 07-24-322 of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster in Support of the Los Angeles County Water Plan

**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 10, 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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
LYNDA NORIEGA  
CHAIR