

**A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER  
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA  
HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020 AT 2:30 O'CLOCK P.M.**

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A regular meeting of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster was duly and regularly held via Zoom Meeting (web-based video conferencing), on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at the hour of 2:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Lynda Noriega, Chair, provided an explanation of protocol for the Watermaster Zoom Meeting. Following this guidance, Chair Noriega officially called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. and presided thereover.

**ROLL CALL OF WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

The following members of Watermaster were present on roll call:

**PRESENT:** Dan Arrighi, David DeJesus, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido and Charles Treviño

**ABSENT:** Ron Bow

**STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Staff present at the meeting included: Anthony Zampiello, Executive Officer; Fred Fudacz, Attorney; Kelly Gardner, Assistant Executive Officer; Arrica Jimenez, Administration Manager; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; and Ana Mata, Executive Assistant.

Others present included: Brian Bowcock, Andy Bullington, Al Contreras, Ed Chavez, Ray Cordero, Patty Cortez, Paul DiMaggio, Casey Feilen, Greg Galindo, Wayne Goehring, Richard Gonzales, Ed Hills, Erik Hitchman, Garry Hofer, Matthew Litchfield, Tom Love, Jared Macias, Myra Malner, Bob Noonan, Steve Patton, Jefferey Pellissier, Jim Prior, Evelyn Reyes, Jose Reynoso, Manny Robledo, Brandon Saeturn, Kevin Sage, Randy Schoellerman, Jessica Taylor, Anteneh Tesfaye, Dave Warren and Paul Zampiello.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

- a) Minutes of the Annual Hearing on Determination of Operating Safe Yield and Regular Meeting of Watermaster held May 13, 2020
- b) Lists of Demands: Items 18981 through 19010, and two electronic debits, in the amount of \$1,011,057.54 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0620-S, and 620-U in the amount of \$152,495.90 on the Replacement Water Fund.
- c) Financial Statements, May 2020

### **REQUEST FROM SAN GABRIEL VALLEY WATER COMPANY TO PURCHASE 5,000 AF ATER FROM USGVMWD FOR PRODUCER CYCLIC STORAGE**

The Executive Officer reported that San Gabriel Valley Water Company has submitted a request to purchase 5,000 acre-feet of water from Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD) for its producer cyclic storage account.

On motion made by Dr. Michalko, seconded by Mr. Lewis, with Mr. Arrighi abstaining, and unanimously carried, Watermaster authorized the purchase of 145.40 acre-feet of cyclic storage water from USGVMWD, for San Gabriel Valley Water Company's individual producer cyclic storage account.

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE GOVERNMENTAL EXECUTIVE RETIREMENT PLAN**

Adoption of Resolution No. 06-20-302 Approving Contribution – The Executive Officer, Mr. Anthony Zampielo, stated that this plan has been in place for several years, and is an item that comes before Watermaster for approval each year. He noted that this is part of the evaluation process and requires Board action and adoption of a Resolution.

On motion made by Mr. DeJesus, seconded by Mr. Treviño, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was then read, adopted, and passed as read:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 06-20-302**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE GOVERNMENTAL EXECUTIVE RETIREMENT PLAN**

(see next page)

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

The Attorney, Mr. Fred Fudacz, provided a brief update on the matter with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (LACDPR) related to Watermaster assessments for Legg Lakes water usage as part of a water production agreement for the Whittier Narrows Operable Unit. He reported that progress and discussions continue, stating that an on-site visit has been requested by LACDPR engineers to better understand the outflow issues.

Mr. Fudacz provided an update stating that as of now, it appears the status conference regarding Basin conditions before Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis scheduled for July 20, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, will go on as scheduled. It is yet determined if the meeting will be held in-person or by video-conference. He applauded the Honorable Duffy-Lewis for her on-going interest in the status of basin conditions.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The Consulting Engineer, Mr. Steve Johnson, reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 204.2 feet on May 29, 2020, noting a decrease of 0.4 feet from the prior week; about 1.8 feet from the prior month, and about 9.0 feet higher than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 216,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 27 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.

The Consulting Engineer then reported briefly on hydrologic conditions as of May 31, 2020, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 16.44 inches, which is 91 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 14.83 inches, which is 98 percent of average, for this time of year. He added that the average rainfall from July 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020 at Puddingstone Dam is about 18.0 inches, and at the Los Angeles Civic Center is about 15.08 inches.

He provided an overview on Basin-wide water deliveries from July 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of May 26, 2020, was 70,918 acre-feet. Excluding minimum pool storage, about 60,400 acre-feet is available for direct use or groundwater replenishment. He also stated that as of May 26, 2020, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 122 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 0 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 0 cfs, release was 53 cfs.

He reported that all four 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.

Mr. Zampielo reported that Watermaster worked with Mr. Fudacz in preparing a comment letter to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, a statutory part of the Office of Management and Budget within the Executive Office of the President regarding the Clean Water Act; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Reissuance and Modification of Nationwide Permits; Groundwater Recharge and Storage Activities. He added that Watermaster's comments included support for a new proposed nation-wide permit for projects that recharge groundwater, provide flexibility in nation-wide permit as to the size of groundwater storage projects and sources of water and include preamble language that provides notice that a final reissuance or modification of nationwide permits may include a nationwide permit that covers groundwater recharge projects.

He thanked Chair Noriega and Secretary Arrighi on conducting his annual performance evaluation and the rest of the Board for the confidence they have expressed in his work. Mr. Zampielo stated that he will be working on a comprehensive manual outlining the role and responsibilities of Watermaster that will include the history, mission, vision and its collaboration with the outside agencies.

Related to the Basin Outreach Campaign, Mr. Zampielo provided an update stating that May was Water Awareness Month and Watermaster launched a four-week social media campaign through *The Waters That Connect Us*; telling the story of the Main San Gabriel Basin and the status of its waters on social media platforms. Mr. Zampielo added that the campaign included an e-blast series and a series of videos including a question and answer to introduce our underground water supply to the community. He also added that there was an increase of about 500 subscribers. Additionally, Mr. Zampielo stated that the Ad Hoc Committee met on May 20, 2020 and reviewed the focus group's market research analysis, noting that an update on the campaign/communications plan for July – December 2020 will be presented to the Board at an upcoming Board meeting.

## REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Anthony Fellow, reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, referenced a report provided by USGVMWD to Watermaster. He reported that at the May 13, 2020 USGVMWD Board meeting, Mr. Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), provided an update regarding Bay Delta issues that included an overview of the reservoirs and pumping systems that are part of the State Water Project (SWP), environmental components and lawsuits related to the SWP.

He also reported on the following item approved by the USGVMWD Board on May 27, 2020:

- Adopted Ordinance No. 20-1 Imposing Standby Charges for Fiscal Year 2020-21 Commencing July 1, 2020

Additionally, Dr. Fellow reported that also at the May 27, 2020, USGVMWD Board meeting, Mr. Johnson, USGVMWD's Consulting Engineer provided a detailed overview of the management and structure of the Main San Gabriel Basin and referenced

the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster Report and San Gabriel River Watermaster Annual Report. He stated that Mr. Johnson also discussed the history and background of the Long Beach Judgment and the Main Basin Judgment, and an overview of the Raymond Basin and the Raymond Basin Management Board. Dr. Fellow thanked Mr. Johnson for a very informative and comprehensive presentation.

Mr. Treviño, also reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, echoed Dr. Fellow's comments regarding Mr. Johnson's presentation on the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster and San Gabriel River Watermaster to the USGVMWD Board on May 27, 2020. He added that he it's the most comprehensive presentation he has seen and hopes Mr. Johnson will continue providing presentations.

Mr. Tom Love, also reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, related to its standby charge for FY 2020-21, stated that it is a very important revenue source for USGVMWD to maintain and support programs such as recycled water and water conservation.

Mr. Love reported that the USGVMWD Administration & Finance Committee met on May 28, 2020 and the discussion included the Fiscal Year 2020-21 consolidated budget and 2021 water rates, stating the Committee recommends that the USGVMWD Board approve the budget and water rates and charges on June 10, 2020. He stated that recommendation is no increase to USGVMWD's current surcharge of \$103.00 per acre-foot.

Mr. Matthew Litchfield, reporting on behalf of Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD), reported that he provided a presentation to the TVMWD Board on the Cyclic Storage Agreement among MWD, TVMWD and Watermaster, noting that the term of the agreement is for ten years and increasing the cyclic storage from 40,000 acre-feet to 50,000 acre-feet. He added that the agreement will be considered for approval by the TVMWD Board on June 17, 2020.

Additionally, Mr. Litchfield announced the launch of the new TVMWD's website and invited everyone to take a look at it.

Mr. Ed Hills, reporting on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, reported that SGVMWD Board in closed session unanimously voted to join the pending litigation filed by the State Water Contractors and Kern County Water Agency against the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding DWR's issuance of a final EIR regarding long-term operations of the SWP and the related issuance of an Incidental Take Permit. He added that a press release is currently being drafted and will be available upon request.

Mr. Hills also provided an operational update, stating that operations resumed operations to the Basin on June 2, 2020 at a rate of 40 cfs from the San Dimas Wash Turnout, noting that deliveries will continue through the month of June. He added that SGVMWD has 3,645 remaining to be delivered of its SWP allocation, noting that it was increased to 20 percent for the 2020 calendar year.

Lastly, Mr. Hills stated that the SGVMWD staff has resumed a full on-site working schedule.

**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 1,000.00 AF Production Right from County of Los Angeles to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2019-20
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 1,350.00 AF Production Right from Workman Mill Investment Company to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2019-20
- c) Temporary assignment of lease of 562.54 AF Production Right from Covina Irrigating Company to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2019-20
- d) Temporary assignment of lease of 1,560.00 AF Production Right from Hanson Aggregates West Inc. to California Domestic Water Company for FY 2019-20
- e) Change of Designee for Walter Green to James M. Byerrum
- f) Transmittal of SGVMWD Monthly Report for April 2020

**COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS**

Dr. Fellow congratulated Mr. Zampiello on his annual performance evaluation and thanked him for his continued leadership of Watermaster.

Chair Noriega echoed Dr. Fellow's sentiments on Mr. Zampiello's annual performance evaluation. She congratulated Mr. Zampiello on his performance and for his leadership and being the driving force of Watermaster. She additionally acknowledged Mr. Zampiello for bringing good ideas on how to take the Basin forward and managing it responsibly. Chair Noriega expressed appreciation especially in helping her getting settled in and gaining an understanding. She closed it by saying that everything the Board has approved on his behalf is well deserved.

Lastly, Chair Noriega thanked everyone for their participation in today's meeting and continued support of Watermaster.

Mr. Zampiello thanked the Board for their support.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**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, July 1, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. to be held via Zoom Meeting.

SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE

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DAN ARRIGHI

ATTEST:

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LYNDA NORIEGA  
CHAIR