

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING
AND REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER
729 NORTH AZUSA AVENUE, AZUSA, CALIFORNIA
HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 AT 2:30 O'CLOCK P.M.**

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and as a precaution to protect both staff, its constituents, and elected officials, a public hearing and regular meeting of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) was duly and regularly held via Zoom Meeting (web-based video conferencing), on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at the hour of 2:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Lynda Noriega, Chair, officially called the meeting to order and presided thereover.

ROLL CALL OF WATERMASTER MEMBERS

The following members of Watermaster were present on roll call:

PRESENT: Ron Bow, David DeJesus, Dr. Anthony Fellow, Garry Hofer, David Michalko, Lynda Noriega, Steven Placido, Charles Treviño 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; Arrica Jimenez, Administration Manager; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Ana Mata, Executive Assistant; and Lauren Augino, Water Resources Analyst.

Others present included: Dan Arrighi, Brian Bowcock, Robert Bowcock, Andy Bullington, George Cambero, Dan Colby, Ray Cordero, Patricia Cortez, Paul Cranmer, Greg Galindo, Ed Hills, Shawn Igoe, Steve Kiggins, Benjamin Lewis, Jr., Matthew Litchfield, Jazmin Lopez, Tom Love, Jared Macias, Jose Martinez, Stephanie Moreno, Chisom Obegolu, Lenet Pacheco, Jenny Savron, Randy Schoellerman, Jessica Taylor, Anteneh Tesfaye and Paul Zampiendo.

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. DeJesus, and unanimously carried, the agenda was adopted as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED WAIVER OF ASSESSMENTS

In accordance with Section 45(b)(5) of the Amended Judgment, the Chair opened the public hearing for public comments regarding one request for waiver of assessments for water pumped, treated and discharged in association with water treatment facilities. The Chair asked if there was any public comment associated with the application. There being no public comment, the Chair called on the Consulting Engineer to review the staff report.

San Gabriel Valley Water Company - The Consulting Engineer, Mr. Steve Johnson, reported that the waiver application before Watermaster today is from the San Gabriel Valley Water Company (SGVWC) for 13.12 acre-feet of water treated and discharged from its Plant B6 to the Big Dalton Wash. SGVWC constructed a water treatment facility at its Plant B6 for testing, protecting and improving the water quality of the Main Basin) as part of the Baldwin Park Operable Unit (BPOU) cleanup plan. The treatment facility consists of air-strippers with off-gas granular activated carbon (GAC) for volatile organic compound (VOC) removal, and ion exchange facility to remove Perchlorate, an ultraviolet light (UV)/oxidation facility to remove N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) and 4-dioxane.

SGVWC constructed a new ultraviolet light/oxidation pilot treatment system during Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 at its Plant B6. Upon successful demonstration of the UVFlex system's capabilities, SGVWC will expand the pilot treatment system to a full-scale treatment system for treatment of NDMA and 1,4-dioxane and decommission the existing UV/oxidation treatment system. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) required the pilot UVFlex system to be tested by SGVWC to evaluate the system's treatment efficiency. During the DDW testing, fully treated groundwater was required to be discharged to Big Dalton Wash.

SGVWC produced water from its off-site wells (Wells B25A, B25B, B26A, and B26B), operated the Plant B6 treatment facility, collected water quality samples, and discharged the treated water to Big Dalton Wash during October 2020 for DDW testing and permitting for a total of four consecutive days. Water quality sampling of the discharge was conducted in accordance with the discharge permits issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

He explained that in accordance with Section 18(f) of Watermaster's Rules and Regulations, a Producer may apply in writing to Watermaster for a waiver of all or part of Watermaster assessments for water pumped for the purpose of testing, protecting, or improving water quality. SGVWC has requested a Waiver of Assessments for 13.12 acre-feet produced from the BPOU extraction wells and discharged from the Plant B6 treatment facility for DDW testing and permitting to Big Dalton Wash occurred between October 26, 2020 and October 29, 2020.

The staff recommendation on the request from SGVWC is that Watermaster waive the appropriate assessments associated with SGVWC's Plant B6 treatment facility operations and discharge to Big Dalton Wash from October 26, 2020 to October 29, 2020, totaling 13.12 acre-feet.

On motion made by Mr. Michalko, seconded by Mr. Bow and unanimously carried, with Mr. Zvirbulis abstaining, Watermaster approved the waiver of the Replacement Water Assessments associated with SGVWC's Plant B6 discharge.

TIME RESERVED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Bow asked that the meeting minutes be considered by separate action due to his previous absence.

On motion made by Mr. Zvirbulis, seconded by Mr. Treviño, with Mr. Bow abstaining, and unanimously carried, the following item was approved:

- a) Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Watermaster held on August 4, 2021

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

- b) Lists of Demands: Items 19465 through 19492, and three electronic debits, in the amount of \$335,275.75 on the Administrative Fund and Items 0921-S, 0921-T and 0921-U in the amount of \$192,041.20 on the Replacement Water Fund and Item 0921-U in the amount of \$97,000.00 on the Make-up Fund.
- c) Financial Statements, August 2021

REQUEST TO ACCEPT LEASE

The Executive Officer, Mr. Anthony Zampello, reported that one agency has submitted a request to Watermaster to approve late transfers/leases of production rights for FY 2020-21. He noted that this request will require an assessment invoice adjustment and staff will also update year-end production numbers for annual report purposes.

Temporary transfer or lease of 118.00 acre-feet of Prescriptive Pumping Right from IBY Property Owner, LLC to Azusa Valley Water Company for FY 2020-21 - On motion made by Mr. DeJesus, seconded by Mr. Placido, and unanimously carried, Watermaster approved and accepted the late lease as presented.

REPORT FROM BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Michalko referred to a written Committee report included in the agenda packet. He reported that the Basin Water Management Committee met on August 11, 2021, and discussed a few items.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The Attorney, Mr. Fred Fudacz, confirmed that the status conference regarding the Main Basin conditions before Presiding Judge, the Honorable Maureen Duffy-Lewis will be held on September 9, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles. Mr. Fudacz will continue to monitor the method of participation either in-person or by teleconference and will provide the information as soon as it is available.

Chair Noriega encouraged Producer engagement, noting that Judge Duffy-Lewis is actively involved in Main Basin conditions.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Johnson reported that the Baldwin Park Key Well level was 187.6 feet on August 27, 2021, noting a decrease of 0.4 feet from the prior week; about 1.3 feet lower from the prior month, and about 16.0 feet lower than one year ago. He also reported that it includes about 171,000 acre-feet of untreated imported water in cyclic storage accounts, which represents about 21 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 August 31, 2021, stating that total rainfall at Puddingstone Dam is 6.23 inches, which is about 34 percent of average; and at the Los Angeles Civic Center, rainfall is 5.82 inches, which is 38 percent of average, for this time of year.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson stated that total combined canyon storage, as of August 23, 2021, was 10,654 acre-feet, about 13 percent of capacity. He also stated that as of August 23, 2021, the San Gabriel Reservoir inflow was 7 cubic feet per second (cfs), release was 10 cfs and the Morris Reservoir inflow was 6 cfs, release was 10 cfs.

He also reported that all three 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 reported that production for FY 2020-21 was 206,596.17 acre-feet, reflecting an increase of 16,000 acre-feet.

Mr. Zampielo highlighted and provided a brief overview related to communication with Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (USGVMWD) on the need to begin discussions with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) regarding the delivery of about 39,000 acre-feet of wet water out of USG-3 to the Main Basin. He added that he will keep the Board apprised including an update at the October Board meeting.

Additionally, he then provided an overview and update on anticipated water deliveries, including the possibility of meeting the minimum purchase out of the pre-delivery contract of about 14,000 acre-feet and coordinate with MWD to begin deliveries as of October 1, 2021, to avoid the capacity charge. He added that letters have been sent to Producers encouraging participation in the in-lieu program as a way of maximizing Colorado River water as well. Mr. Zampielo commended the City of Azusa for their efforts in coordinating water deliveries through the San Gabriel pipeline into their treatment plant and small amount into the Canyon Basin.

Mr. Zampielo provided a detailed update on the status of MWD's Regional Recycled Water Project, noting that the newly appointed MWD General Manager, Mr. Adel Hagekhalil, has indicated strong interest in new options to expedite the project.

Chair Noriega thanked and expressed appreciation to Mr. Zampielo on his update regarding MWD's Regional Recycled Water Project.

REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Dr. Anthony Fellow, reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, referenced a report provided by USGVMWD to Watermaster. He reported on the following item approved by the USGVMWD Board on August 25, 2021:

- Adopted Resolution No. 8-21-624, Activating Level 2 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Additionally, he stated that the USGVMWD Board received the following presentation on August 25, 2021:

- Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) Recycled Water Treatment presentation by Mr. Basil Hewitt, Senior Engineer, LACSD and Ms. Erika Bensch, Supervising Engineer, LACSD.

Dr. Fellow also reported that USGVMWD received the WaterSense award by the United States Environmental Protection Agency recognizing USGVMWD's public outreach and communication programs.

Mr. Tom Love, General Manager, also reporting on behalf of USGVMWD, provided an overview on current wet water deliveries, stating that USGVMWD has re-engaged in discussions with MWD and Watermaster regarding the Quagga Mussel Mitigation Plan. In response to MWD's Water Supply Alert, Mr. Love stated that USGVMWD has enhanced their outreach communications/messaging plan to assist city officials, customers and constituents encouraging implementation of conservation measures.

Mr. Matthew Litchfield, General Manager, reporting on behalf of Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD) reported that effective today, that as part of the Operational Shift Cost Offset Agreement between TVMWD and MWD, operations have shifted from the Miramar Treatment Plant to the Weymouth Plant at 5 cfs, resulting in a savings of about \$300.00 per acre-feet.

He announced that during the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Annual Conference, TVMWD was awarded the “*District of Distinction*” and “*District Transparency Certificate of Excellence*” by the Special District Leadership Foundation.

In response to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order that called upon all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent, TVMWD has increased conservation messaging including Board consideration of adopting a resolution in support of the MWD Water Supply Alert at their meeting on September 15, 2021.

Chair Noriega congratulated TVMWD on their recognition by CSDA and to continue the good work.

Mr. Steven Placido, reporting on behalf of SGVMWD, provided a brief operational update stating that their Schedule 1 Pipeline Inspection/Assessment is currently in progress. He added that he along with several other board members attended the 2021 Independent Cities Association Summer Seminar last month.

Mr. Ed Hills, Assistant General Manager, also reporting on behalf of SGVMWD, acknowledged and ensured those who have any concerns of a potential outage later this year on the pipeline, that SGVMWD are examining all options and will be reaching out very soon. Additionally, he provided an update on SGVMWD continuing efforts to procuring additional water.

Lastly, he introduced Mr. Steve Kiggins, Supervising System Operator/Inspector, noting that he has taken on additional responsibilities and will be participating in Watermaster Board and BWMC meetings.

Mr. Kiggins greeted everyone and looks forward to meeting them when in-person meetings resume.

Chair Noriega welcomed Mr. Kiggins to the group.

REPORT FROM OUTSIDE COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Chair Noriega reported that any 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 41.99 acre-feet of Production Right from Vulcan Materials Company to City of Azusa for FY 2021-22
- b) Temporary assignment or lease of 500.00 acre-feet of Carry-Over Right from Golden State Water Company-San Dimas to Covina Irrigating Company for FY 2021-22
- c) Permanent transfer of 1,407.69 acre-feet of Prescriptive Pumping Right from

East Pasadena Water Company to California American Water

- d) Temporary assignment or lease of 700.00 acre-feet of Production Right from Vulcan Materials Company to San Gabriel Valley Water Company for FY 2021-22
- e) Change of Designee for City of La Verne to Shawn Igoe
- f) Transfer of Stored Water Correspondence from Three Valleys Municipal Water District
- g) Coalition per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) Funding Correspondence

COMMENTS FROM WATERMASTER MEMBERS

Dr. Fellow requested for today's meeting to be adjourned in honor and memory of Ms. Sally Tanner, former California State Assemblymember, stating that she is best remembered for her many contributions and leadership, helping create and chairing the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, introducing the Tanner Consumer Protection Act and the Hazardous Water Bill and being a founding member of the California Women's Caucus.

Dr. Fellow also requested that today's meeting be adjourned in honor and memory of Mr. Uriel Macias, Councilmember, City of Azusa.

Mr. Bow requested that today's meeting also be adjourned in honor and memory of the thirteen United States (U.S.) service members who were killed in the Kabul, Afghanistan airport attack on August 26, 2021.

Chair Noriega thanked everyone for their continued support and participation. She urged everyone to continue staying safe and healthy.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Three-year Purchased Water Plan
- b) Consideration of Extension Agreement for Valley View Mutual Water Company for Producer Cyclic Storage

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 Ms. Sally Tanner, Mr. Uriel Macias and the thirteen U.S. service members, to the next regular meeting of Watermaster on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. to be held via Zoom Meeting.

SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE

MARTIN ZVIRBULIS

ATTEST:

LYNDA NORIEGA
CHAIR

DRAFT