

**A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
APRIL 15, 2020 AT 12:00 P.M.**

To the extent authorized by the Governor's Executive Order N-25-20 dated March 12, 2020 ("Executive Order") issued in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, the WQA Board Reserved the Right to Suspend Application of Certain Public Meeting Requirements Under the Brown Act during the term of the Executive Order, Including Restrictions and Noticing Requirements Relating to the Conduct of Teleconferenced Board Meetings.

Due to the essential nature of the WQA Board Meetings in conducting Authority business, the WQA Board meeting took place on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 12:00pm online and teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER	The Chairman called the regular meeting of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority to order and reviewed the actions anticipated on the agenda for the meeting.
ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS	Jorge Marquez (online), Bob Kuhn (phone), Lynda Noriega (online), Valerie Munoz (online), Mike Whitehead (online), Mark Paulson (online) and Ed Chavez (online)
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	None.
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Ken Manning, Executive Director; Randy Schoellerman, Assistant Executive Director/Sr. Engineer; Mary Saenz, Director of Finance; Stephanie Moreno, Executive Assistant/Outreach Coordinator; Michelle Sanchez, Admin/Accounting Assistant; Richard Padilla, Legal Counsel
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT	None.
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT PARTICIPATED VIA ONLINE/TELECONFERENCE	Jennifer Santana, Upper District; Lenet Pacheco, Valley County Water District; David Muse, Valley County Water District; Al Contreras, Upper District; Tom Love, Upper District; Chris Lancaster, Civic Publications
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED	None.
CONSENT CALENDAR	Mr. Kuhn moved to approve the consent calendar. Mr. Paulson seconded the motion and it was approved. Mr. Whitehead abstained from Project Demand Nos: E9079, E90801, E90805 Noriega abstained from Project Demand E90804
BUDGET WORKSHOP	Ms. Munoz entered the meeting.
<i>Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021</i>	Ms. Saenz reviewed the draft budget for fiscal year 20/21. She reported that the draft budget anticipates a \$12/acre foot assessment. She reviewed all the costs that were funded by the annual assessment which totaled \$2,624,405. She indicated

that there was an increase of use of assessment reserves to cover the budgeted cost for the fiscal year.

Mr. Kuhn asked if WQA was able to get federal funding, would it be used for site remediation?

Mr. Manning confirmed that it would be used for remediation.

Mr. Whitehead asked about the availability of the South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU) funds that EPA is holding from settlement agreements, and if there is any side-door funding available.

Mr. Manning indicated that there is SEMOU funding available from settlement agreements subject to EPA approval, and that all SEMOU purveyors that were party to the agreements would have to agree on how the remaining side-door funds are to be used.

Ms. Noriega asked if there is Title XVI funding available.

Mr. Manning responded that Title XVI funds are not since they require a 75% match and can only be used for capital costs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board convened to closed session pursuant to:

- (a) Government Code Section 54957 – Public Employee Employment/Appointment. Title: Executive Director
- (b) Government Code Section 54957.6 – Conference with Labor Negotiator(s) - Unrepresented Employee – Title: Executive Director. Authority’s Designated Negotiator(s): Ad Hoc Committee (Bob Kuhn, Lynda Noriega and Michael Whitehead)

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

Roll call was taken and all members were present online.

Mr. Padilla reported that the Board met in closed session, a report was given and no final action was taken. He indicated there would be discussed on the next item on the agenda in open session.

OTHER ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS

***Discussion/Action Regarding
Possible Approval of Executive
Director Employment Agreement
Pending Closed Session***

Prior to Board action on this item, a presentation of the salient terms of the agreement shall be stated on the record and copies of the same shall be made available to members of the public.

Discussion and Deliberation.

Subject to Board direction from closed session it is recommended that the Board move to:

1. Affirm the appointment of Randy Schoellerman as Executive Director
2. Approve the finalized written employment agreement
3. Authorize the Board President to execute the written agreement on behalf of the Authority

Mr. Padilla reported that after negotiations, the Board has finalized the terms of an agreement between the WQA and Randy Schoellerman as the new Executive Director. The summary of the terms of the agreement are that Mr. Schoellerman will receive a \$210,000 annual salary along with medical and dental benefits according to Board policy. The term of the agreement is for 2 years and 2 months with an option for WQA to extend after the 1-year anniversary. The severance was set at 6 months and vacation leave is noted in section 8 and 9 of the agreement. He noted that if there was a motion to approve these terms that it would be done contingent of the text in section 10 of the agreement that refers to certain memberships Mr. Schoellerman could request for Board approval.

Mr. Whitehead moved to approve all three items with the terms noted above. Mr. Kuhn seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Discussion/Action Regarding Budget Line Item Transfer

Mr. Manning reported that the WQA operating expense budget for the expense accounts “Salaries – Full Time Employees” and “Retirement Plan” were approved at \$860,000 and \$110,000, respectively for the FY 19-20. These amounts were based on projected staffing for the fiscal year, noting his retirement of June 30, 2020, and the newly engaged Executive Director will be contracted effective May 1, 2020. As a result of these staffing changes the costs related to both “Salaries – Full Time Employees” and the related expense account “Retirement Plan” increased to \$895,000 and \$116,000, respectively. He indicated that in accordance with WQA procedures, staff is submitting a request for budget line item transfers as detailed on the attached Line Item Transfer Form SGBWQA A-15.

Mr. Kuhn moved to approve the budget line item transfer. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Report on Cash and Investments for 1st Quarter 2020

Mr. Manning reported that the report on cash and investments for the 1st quarter of 2020 was enclosed for review.

Discussion/Action Regarding \$15,000 Grant for Eco Voices Institute Educational Programs

Mr. Manning reported that last year the WQA participated in a Summer Youth Outreach Program with EcoVoices to target a segment of the community that we are currently not reaching, the youth of our communities. EcoVoices is a STEM’s rich

hands-on program that provides young people lessons on the San Gabriel River watershed that includes: groundwater quality, drought preparedness, mitigation measures for the prevention of pollution and restorative biodiversity. It is delivered in a dynamic and theatrical way that helps students remember and retain what they hear. This year the program would be expanding to include at least 15 K-8 schools within the area of the WQA. He also reminded everyone that this program was the recipient of the 2019 Groundwater Awareness Award from the National Groundwater Association. He noted that staff would like to consider participating in this program again and the cost to the WQA for the summer program is \$15,000, which is currently available within the WQA budget, and would reach an estimated 1,000 youth within the region.

After brief discussion, Ms. Munoz moved to approve the agreement with Eco Voices Institute Educational Programs and Demand No. E90795. Mr. Paulson seconded the motion and it was approved by a 6 – 1 vote.

***Discussion/Action Regarding
Proposition 1 Whitmore Street
Groundwater Remediation
Facility Planning Grant
Amendment***

Mr. Schoellerman reported that in 2018, WQA was awarded a Proposition 1 planning grant to investigate and area upgradient of the Whitmore Street Groundwater Remediation Facility using CPT/Hydropunch technology. After reviewing the data from that project it was determined that an additional investigation and data gathering would be necessary in a location further east and adjacent to the Whitmore facility. The State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) was supportive of the additional work and suggested that staff submit a request to amend the original Proposition 1 grant for the additional scope of work and funding. Staff submitted the amendment request to DFA in mid-March and was able to obtain their approval for the amendment in early April. Staff is now requesting Board approval to execute a grant amendment agreement to increase the overall project budget by \$400,000 to \$636,528, and the required 50% WQA match by \$200,000 to \$318,264. The \$200,000 match increase has been included in the draft FY20/21 budget projections.

After brief discussion, Mr. Whitehead moved to approve the grant amendment. Mr. Kuhn seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Schoellerman gave a brief update on the Whitmore project. He also noted that the SEMOU Prop 1 grant agreement amendment should be finalized soon. He lastly noted that DFA was still reviewing Prop 68 applications.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Mr. Manning reported that not much was happening up in Sacramento. He noted that he emailed out a report on the

Federal activities to the Board. He reported that the Water Forum has been postponed. He indicated that he would participate in a conference call with the San Gabriel Basin managers the following day. He gave a brief update on the WQA staff and how the office is operating during the quarantine and noted that all staff members can be reached by email. He lastly noted that Mr. Schoellerman would participate in the City of Irwindale's Planning Commission meeting that evening to discuss continued site access for MW5-01 on the AMVETS's property.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All committee meetings for the month of May have been cancelled. The regular Board meeting will take place on May 20, 2020 at 12 p.m. online and teleconference.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS/ REPORTS

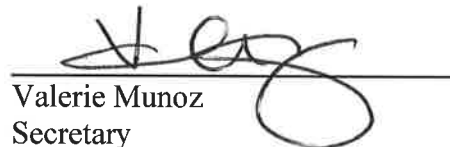
Many members of the Board congratulated Mr. Schoellerman on his new position.

Mr. Whitehead commended staff on their work on the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman asked if there were any other items of business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting was adjourned to May 20, 2020.


Jorge Marquez
Chairman


Valerie Munoz
Secretary