

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

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*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, July 15, 2020 at 12:00pm online and teleconference.*

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**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, Bob Kuhn, Lynda Noriega, Valerie Munoz, Mike Whitehead, and Ed Chavez.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mark Paulson.

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Randy Schoellerman, Executive Director; Mary Saenz, Director of Finance; Stephanie Moreno, Executive Assistant/Outreach Coordinator; Dan Colby, Project Resource Manager; 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; David Muse, Valley County Water District; Al Contreras, Upper District; Craig Gott, Suburban Water Systems; Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Contreras indicated his greetings to the board and noted that he was attending the meeting from Arizona.

**ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED**

None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Ms. Munoz moved to approve the consent calendar. Ms. Noriega seconded the motion and it was approved. Mr. Whitehead abstained from Project Demand No: E90890 and Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand E90889.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**OTHER ACTION/INFORMATION**

## ITEMS

### ***Discussion/Action Task Order for Avocet Environmental to Implement Proposition 1 SEMOU Site Source Investigation Project***

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance awarded WQA a Proposition 1 Planning Grant for the Regional Site Investigation South El Monte Operable Unit in the amount of \$2,500,000 which includes a 20% match of \$500,000. He indicated that staff is recommending issuing a Task Order to Avocet Environmental Inc. to implement the project based on their proposal for \$2,395,000 to implement the project. He noted that the costs are included in the FY20/21 budget. The funding under this grant is for the purpose of conducting site assessments at a minimum of twelve sites identified by the L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Department of Toxic Substance Control to characterize the extent of volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination and evaluate or develop cleanup alternatives for the prevention of VOC contamination in the SEMOU.

Ms. Munoz moved to approve the task order for Avocet Environmental to implement Proposition 1 SEMOU Site Source Investigation Project. Mr. Kuhn seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### ***Report on Cash and Investments for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020***

Ms. Saenz reported that report on cash and investments as of June 30, 2020 was enclosed for review. She noted that the average monthly effective yields for the Pooled Money Investment Account (PMIA) for April and May 2020 are 1.648% and 1.363%, respectively. The Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) quarterly rate for April through June 2020 had not yet been issued.

## PROJECT REPORTS

Mr. Colby provided a report on the Whitmore Street Groundwater Remediation Facility Project. He reported that a notice of violation was received for a one-time exceedance of CrVI in May 2019 due to a failed transducer. He noted that a notice of violation was given with a \$3,000 fine.

Mr. Whitehead asked if Avocet Environmental might have some responsibility here.

Mr. Schoellerman indicated that Avocet had reimbursed WQA in the past and that this situation was different.

Mr. Colby reported that staff was working to secure site access for WQA's Prop 1 Whitmore Street Expanded Site Investigation project. Staff had conducted a site walk with the property management to discuss well locations and were waiting approval of the property owners.

## ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Padilla provided a report on AB5 and how it could affect the contract with Mr. Manning. He indicated that AB5 does not apply since it does not apply to public agencies.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Schoellerman noted that staff is generally working remotely during the current COVID-19 situation. However, some staff are also in the office occasionally.

He reported that the House Energy and Water Appropriations bill had passed out of the committee and included \$15M in the United State Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) budget with language similar to the prior year's request as submitted by Rep. Napolitano on behalf of WQA. He reported that the Senate probably would not discuss their Energy and Water Appropriations bill until after their August recess. He noted that WQA is working to broaden the language in the Senate bill to improve its chances of success. He also reported that staff is still monitoring the \$10M approved in the prior budget that has yet to be allocated by USBR.

He lastly reported that grant agency staff for the Prop 68 Groundwater Treatment and Remediation Grant Program were recommending approval of a \$35M award for WQA. The grant program is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA). He noted that the original application was for \$18M and that staff worked with DFA to increase to amount to \$35M, which requires State Water Board approval to exceed the \$20M limitation per applicant. He indicated that the request was scheduled for their August 18<sup>th</sup> board meeting and was expected to be a consent calendar item. The grant would provide several years of funding for the 21 treatment facilities listed in the application.

## **FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The next WQA Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 12pm.

An Admin/Finance Committee Meeting was scheduled for August 11, 2020 at 10 am.

A Legislative/Public Information Committee was scheduled for August 11, 2020 at 11:00 am.

## **BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS/ REPORTS**

Ms. Munoz requested an item on the next Legislative/Public Information Committee meeting to discuss briefings to update the cities on PFAS.

Ms. Noriega commended staff on the grant funding and commended Stetson Engineers on the outreach they did to help prepare the application.

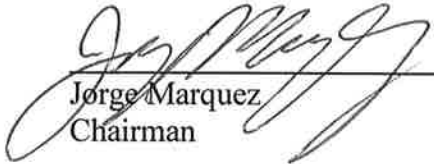
Mr. Whitehead commended Mr. Schoellerman and staff on the grants.

Mr. Kuhn commended Mr. Schoellerman and requested that he have Mr. Manning attend the Legislative/Public Information Committee meetings.

Mr. Marquez reported that he created an ad hoc committee to review the Monares Group contract.

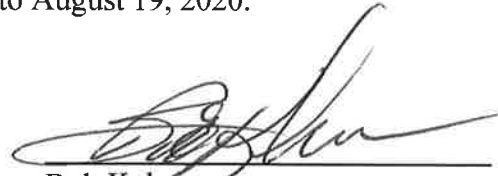
**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chairman asked if there were any other items of business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting was adjourned to August 19, 2020.



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Jorge Marquez  
Chairman



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Bob Kuhn  
Vice-Chairman