

**A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY  
SEPTEMBER 16, 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, September 16, 2020 at 12:00pm online and teleconference.*

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<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	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.
<b>ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS</b>	Jorge Marquez, Bob Kuhn, Mark Paulson, Lynda Noriega, Valerie Munoz, Mike Whitehead, and Ed Chavez.
<b>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	None.
<b>STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Randy Schoellerman, Executive Director; Mary Saenz, Director of Finance; Stephanie Moreno, Executive Assistant/Outreach Coordinator; Dan Colby, Assistant Executive Director/Senior Project Manager; Michelle Sanchez, Admin/Accounting Assistant; Richard Padilla, Legal Counsel
<b>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT</b>	None.
<b>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT PARTICIPATED VIA ONLINE/TELECONFERENCE</b>	Lenet Pacheco, Valley County Water District; Al Contreras, Upper District; Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group; Patty Cortez, Upper District; Ben Lewis, Golden State Water Company; Ken Manning, WQA Consultant; Robert DiPrimio, San Gabriel Valley Water Company; Greg Galindo, La Puente Valley County Water District; Craig Gott, Suburban Water Systems; Garry Hoffer, Cal American Water Company; Denise Jackman, Three Valleys Municipal Water District; Jose Martinez, Valley County Water District; Dave Michalko, Valencia Heights Water Company; David Muse, Valley County Water District; Tom Love, Upper District; David DeJesus, Three Valleys Municipal Water District
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	None.
<b>ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED</b>	None.
<b>CONSENT CALENDAR</b>	Ms. Munoz moved to approve the consent calendar. Mr. Kuhn seconded the motion and it was approved. Mr. Whitehead

abstained from Project Demand Nos: E90948.

Ms. Noriega was briefly disconnected from the meeting and was absent for the vote.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

## OTHER ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Ms. Noriega returned to the meeting.

### *Discussion/Action Regarding Professional Services Agreement with The Monares Group, LLC*

Mr. Schoellerman reported for the last 10 years WQA has contracted with Mr. Monares for professional policy consulting, government relations and legislative education services. His scope of work includes developing and maintaining relationships with and providing liaison to local, state and federal elected officials and their staffs for educational purposes regarding the scope of contamination in the San Gabriel Basin and funding needs for groundwater cleanup activities. He indicated that a Board ad hoc committee was established to make recommendations for a new agreement. He noted that the committee included Chairman Jorge Marquez, and Directors Lynda Noriega and Mike Whitehead. Upon reviewing the prior scope of work the committee recommended that local efforts continue to be a focus of Mr. Monares and that monthly written reports be provided to improve the visibility of his work. Additionally, the committee recommended a two-year term with one-year extensions over the previous 5-year terms. Furthermore, the contract includes a termination for convenience clause that allows WQA to end the contract at any time with a 60-day notice. Lastly, he noted that taking these terms into consideration and noting Mr. Monares' professional qualifications, his retainer would remain at \$16,000/month.

Mr. Kuhn indicated that he wanted to address rumors he heard that were concerning to him about the involvement of Mr. Marquez and Mr. Monares in trying to influence a potential candidate to campaign against Mr. Chavez for his Upper District seat.

Mr. Marquez stated that this was not the place to discuss rumors and requested that Mr. Kuhn continue with the discussion regarding the contract that was before the Board.

Mr. Kuhn commented on some of the terms of the contract that he had concerns with. He noted that he has never seen a report from the Monares Group and would like to receive one on a monthly basis. He indicated that he had an issue with the compensation and had hoped that compensation would be lower this time and questioned how that amount was agreed on.

Mr. Schoellerman commented that Mr. Monares had rejected

lower offers.

Mr. Whitehead commented that the rates have been the same for 10 years.

Mr. Kuhn had expressed concerns with the automatic renewal of the contract and requested that this contract should be reviewed annually.

Mr. Whitehead commented that the contract would automatically renew unless the WQA decides otherwise.

Mr. Kuhn requested that under the section referring to indemnification, that insurance be required by the Monares Group. He lastly requested that the reports from the Monares Group be provided to the Executive Director who then can provide it to the Board.

After detailed discussion, Ms. Munoz thanked the Committee for their work on negotiating the contract and moved to approve the contract as presented with no changes. Mr. Whitehead seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYE: MARQUEZ, PAULSON, MUNOZ, NORIEGA,  
WHITEHEAD

NO: KUHN AND CHAVEZ

## **PROJECT REPORTS**

Mr. Colby reported that the Whitmore Street Facility continues to operate, and he indicated that staff is still waiting for an agreement for the expanded site investigation.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

None.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Schoellerman gave a brief update on the Prop 68 funds. He reported that staff has scheduled a webinar for the cities on October 1, 2020 to provide them with an update on WQA activities. He indicated that the Policy 97-005 User Guide that WQA staff helped to produce with the Coalition for Environmental Restoration and Development was finished and now available on the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water website. He noted that he would like to continue working with CEPRD as they are now changing their focus to the PFAS issue and would bring this back to the Board next month for discussion. He also noted that there will be a workshop on the budget next month at the Admin/Finance Committee to discuss the budget in more detail. He lastly congratulated Mr. Colby on his new position as the Assistant Executive Director/Senior Project Manager.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**FUTURE BOARD AND  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Admin/Finance Committee Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 10:00 am.

The Engineering Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 11am.

A Legislative/Public Information Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 11:00 am.

The next WQA Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 12pm.

**BOARD MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS/  
REPORTS**

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

Mr. Kuhn commented that it has been rumored that Mr. Marquez and Mr. Whitehead along with Mr. Monares are involved with funding campaigns to run against members of this Board.

Ms. Munoz congratulated Mr. Colby on his new position and requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Dan Hallaway, the former La Puente city council member.


Mr. Whitehead congratulated Mr. Colby on his new position and congratulated Mr. Schoellerman on his plan going forward. He also expressed his disappointment with the comments made by Mr. Kuhn regarding the rumors.

Mr. Marquez commented that he was very disappointed in the comments that were made by Mr. Kuhn. He remarked that he is supporting a candidate that is running for Upper District from his own district and, as a constituent, he should have that right.

In conclusion, Mr. Marquez reminded everyone that the comments that Board Members make are of their own and do not reflect the WQA Board as a whole.

**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 October 21, 2020 in honor Dan Hallaway, former La Puente City Councilman.

  
Jorge Marquez  
Chairman

  
Bob Kuhn  
Vice-Chairman