

**A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
FEBRURAY 17, 2021 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 online and teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER	The Chairwoman 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	Valerie Munoz, Mark Paulson, Lynda Noriega (entered late), Michael Whitehead, Ed Chavez
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Jorge Marquez and Bob Kuhn
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Randy Schoellerman, Executive Director; Stephanie Moreno, Executive Assistant/Outreach Coordinator; Dan Colby, Assistant Executive Director/Senior Project Manager; Mary Saenz, Director of Finance; Michelle Sanchez, Admin/Accounting Assistant; Richard Padilla, Legal Counsel
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT	None.
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT PARTICIPATED VIA ONLINE/TELECONFERENCE	Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group; Tara Robinson, Valley County Water District; Lenet Pacheco, Valley County Water District; Katrina Garcia, Upper District; Jose Martinez, Valley County Water District; Chris Lancaster, Civic Publications; Charles Trevino, Upper District
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED	None. Ms. Noriega enters the meeting.
APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS	The Chairwoman made the following committee appointments: Administrative/Finance Committee – Paulson, Noriega and Whitehead Legislative/Public Information Committee – Munoz, Marquez and Kuhn Regular scheduling of the Engineering Committee was discontinued, and no members were appointed.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Whitehead moved to approve the consent calendar. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion, and it was approved by a roll call vote.

AYES: MUNOZ, PAULSON, NORIEGA, WHITEHEAD, CHAVEZ

NO: NONE

ABSTENTIONS: Mr. Whitehead abstained from Project Demand Nos: E91095. Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand No. E91094

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative/Finance Committee Report

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the minutes for the committee meeting were enclosed for review.

Discussion/Action Regarding Draft Reserve Fund Policy

Ms. Saenz reported that staff was recommending that a reserve policy be adopted to enable the WQA to establish a prudent level of reserve funds to provide financial resources for daily operations as well as planned projects and scheduled and unscheduled expenses. She indicated that the Reserve Fund Policy would establish a designated assessment reserve with a recommended minimum level of 75% of current year budgeted expenses as well as a policy for restricted reserves. She noted that the Reserve Fund Policy would be used in conjunction with the annual WQA budget process to assist in the determination of the annual assessment level necessary to fund WQA's operations.

Ms. Noriega asked if there was a time frame that this policy needed to be adopted by and questioned if this item went along with the budget and assessment discussion that is to come for the next fiscal year. She also commented that we may or may not receive federal funds and that needed to be considered.

Mr. Whitehead agreed with Ms. Noriega and that going forward this item should be discussed when determining the fiscal year assessment. He also said he supported funding sustainability policy.

Ms. Munoz commented that raising the assessment looks to be inevitable in order to keep the reserves at 75% and would have to raise it sooner rather than later. She was concerned with how the water companies felt regarding this.

Mr. Whitehead commented that some water companies have already projected their costs for 2022 and it was important to get these policies done as soon as possible. He questioned that if we follow the schedule that staff has presented will that

increase be sufficient.

Ms. Noriega commented that some water companies must go through a Prop 218 process in order to raise rates and as much notice that water companies can get is best. She also commented that she was concerned with the funding sustainability.

Mr. Paulson commented that we haven't had a policy thus far and advanced notice is needed. He noted that he supported a gradual increase.

Ms. Saenz commented that an option to be considered was to start with a 50% reserve level right now and note that the goal was to reach 75%. This was to avoid having to raise the assessment sooner.

Approve Administrative Procedure No. 41

After detailed discussion, Mr. Paulson moved to approve Administrative Procedure No. 41 with the following language: "Maintain minimum assessment reserves at six (6) months or 50 percent of current year budgeted expenses with a goal of achieving assessment reserves of nine (9) months or 75 percent of current year budgeted expenses." Mr. Whitehead seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: MUNOZ, PAULSON, NORIEGA, WHITEHEAD, CHAVEZ

NO: NONE

Discussion/Action Regarding Operation and Maintenance Task Order for Avocet Environmental, Inc.

Mr. Schoellerman reported that Avocet Environmental, Inc. (Avocet) has been operating and maintaining WQA's Whitmore Street Groundwater Remediation Facility for the past 13 years and the current Task Order authorization concludes February 28, 2021. He indicated that the Admin/Finance Committee is recommending issuing a Task Order to Avocet to extend operation of the system for an additional two years. Finally, he noted that the project was expected to receive Prop 68 funding.

After brief discussion, Mr. Paulson moved to approve the task order for Avocet Environmental, Inc. Mr. Whitehead seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: MUNOZ, PAULSON, NORIEGA, WHITEHEAD, CHAVEZ

NO: NONE

Legislative/Public Information Committee Report

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the minutes for the committee meeting were enclosed for review.

He noted that invitations to city council members for the next special update for cities webinar had gone out.

**OTHER
ACTION/INFORMATION
ITEMS**

***Draft San Gabriel Basin
Groundwater Quality
Management and Remediation
Plan “§406 Plan” for 2021***

Mr. Schoellerman reported that on January 20, 2021 the Board authorized staff to post the Draft §406 Plan for 2021 for a 25-day public comment period ending February 16, 2021. He noted that staff posted notices of the public comment period in La Opinion and the San Gabriel Valley Tribune as well as WQA’s website. Additionally, the item was reviewed at February’s Admin/Finance Committee meeting. He indicated that no comments were received during that meeting and none had been submitted otherwise. He noted that staff updated a section noting that in 2020 EPA had declined to set a federal MCL for perchlorate.

Mr. Whitehead noted that regardless of the lack of a federal MCL for perchlorate, the state MCL of 6 ppb still applies.

After brief discussion, Ms. Noriega moved to adopt the San Gabriel Basin Groundwater Quality Management and Remediation Plan for 2021. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: MUNOZ, PAULSON, NORIEGA, WHITEHEAD,
CHAVEZ

NO: NONE

PROJECT REPORTS

Mr. Colby reported that there was good progress with Hydropunch work at the Arbor Courtyard property. He also reported that WQA has received written access from 10 of the 12 sites for the Prop 1 Regional Site Investigation project in the SEMOU. He noted that Regional Board would follow up with the remaining two sites. He lastly noted that staff was working with legal counsel on an agreement for the 10 sites that have granted access.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

None.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Monares reported that the last day for state bills to be submitted was February 19, 2021 and he would get a list for the Executive Director to review for possible recommendations to the Board. He also reported that there would be a hearing to confirm Xavier Baccera for Health and Human Services Secretary, and if he is confirmed California would get a new Attorney General. He noted that there could be some possible federal funding opportunities for PFAS.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S
REPORT**

Mr. Schoellerman reported that letters went out to cities asking for support of WQA’s resolution calling for the return of limited earmarks and funding for basin cleanup projects. Additionally, letters were sent to SGV federal representatives

and the two Senators. He indicated that staff is working with Kadesh & Associates to schedule meetings with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) regarding WQA's budget requests. He noted that a Deputy Commissioner has been appointed and that the Commissioner would be appointed after the Secretary of the Interior is confirmed.

Next, Mr. Schoellerman reported that he would providing a briefing on WQA to the new directors from Three Valleys and Upper District to introduce them to the WQA. He also reported that the Gualco Group was working to set up meetings with the State Water Board and other agencies in the next few weeks. He also noted that staff continued to work on the Prop 68 grant agreements.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Admin/Finance Committee Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 10:00 am.

A Legislative/Public Information Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 11:00 am.

The next WQA Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 12 pm.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS/ REPORTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairwoman asked if there were any other items of business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting was adjourned to March 17, 2021.



Valerie Munoz
Chairwoman



Bob Kuhn
Secretary