

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

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<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	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.
<b>ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS</b>	Valerie Munoz, Mark Paulson, Jorge Marquez, Bob Kuhn, Lynda Noriega, Michael Whitehead, Ed Chavez
<b>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	None.
<b>STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	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
<b>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT</b>	None.
<b>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT PARTICIPATED VIA ONLINE/TELECONFERENCE</b>	Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group; Tara Robinson, Valley County Water District; Lenet Pacheco, Valley County Water District; Jose Martinez, Valley County Water District; Charles Trevino, Upper District; Brian Bowcock, Three Valleys MWD; Ralph Galvan, Valley County Water District; Jazmin Lopez, Valley County Water District; Mike Ti, Three Valleys MWD; Klaus Rohwer, Equipoise
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	None.
<b>ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED</b>	None.
<b>CONSENT CALENDAR</b>	Mr. Kuhn temporarily lost connection to the meeting.  Mr. Marquez moved to approve the consent calendar. Ms. Noriega seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote.  AYES: MUNOZ, PAULSON, MARQUEZ, NORIEGA, WHITEHEAD, CHAVEZ

NO: NONE

ABSENT: KUHN

ABSTENTIONS: Mr. Whitehead abstained from Project Demand Nos: E91122. Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand No. E91121.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### *Administrative/Finance Committee Report*

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

Mr. Kuhn re-entered the meeting.

### *Discussion/Action Regarding Board of Directors Cost-of-Living Adjustment ("COLA") for Fiscal Year 2021-2022*

Mr. Schoellerman reported that each year at this time the Board considers a cost-of-living adjustment for the daily stipend per WQA procedures. He indicated that at the March 9th Administrative/Finance Committee meeting, the Committee reviewed and discussed the relevant cost of living indicators and applicable CA Water Code requirements in considering this option. He noted that the Committee recommended no increase in the board stipend at this time and that the full Board discuss the options available.

Mr. Kuhn commented that it might be better to take a \$1 increase now to protect the future Board Members from any increases.

Mr. Paulson commented that he did not need to protect future Board Members.

Mr. Whitehead commented that at a time like this it would not be appropriate to take an increase.

Mr. Paulson asked if the ability to go back five years to collect increases, part of the water code.

Ms. Saenz responded that yes, that ability is part of the water code.

After some discussion, Mr. Paulson moved not take a COLA increase. Mr. Whitehead seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote.

AYES: MUNOZ, PAULSON, MARQUEZ, KUHN  
NORIEGA, WHITEHEAD, CHAVEZ

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

*Discussion/Actin Regarding San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Membership Renewal*

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the WQA has a Leader Level Membership with San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership (SGVEP) and the annual renewal amount of \$20,000 is discounted from the regular price of \$25,000. He indicated that the WQA's membership has been beneficial in putting the WQA's issues out in front of the community by allowing the WQA to participate in local events with local and state legislators. He noted that it also gives the WQA a seat on the Board of the Directors. He also indicated that the Administrative/Finance Committee reviewed this item and recommended renewing the SGVEP membership.

After brief discussion, Mr. Kuhn moved to approve the renewal of the WQA membership to the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership and to approve Demand No. E91123. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: MUNOZ, PAULSON, MARQUEZ, KUHN  
NORIEGA, WHITEHEAD, CHAVEZ

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

*Discussion/Action Regarding Site Access License Agreement Template for the Prop 1 Regional Site Investigation South El Monte Operable Unit Project*

Mr. Schoellerman reported that WQA's Regional Site Investigation South El Monte Operable Unit Proposition 1 Grant Project will require site access for 12 properties. The work will include the collection and analysis of soil matrix, soil vapor and groundwater samples at each location. He indicated to facilitate the site access agreement process, staff and WQA legal counsel have developed a license agreement template for use at each location. He reported that staff is recommending approval of the agreement template and authorization for the Executive Director to execute the 12 agreements with each property owner subject to final legal counsel review. He noted that the Administrative/Finance Committee reviewed this item and recommended approval.

After brief discussion, Ms. Noriega moved to approve the site access agreement template for the Prop 1 Regional Site Investigation South El Monte Operable Unit. Mr. Marquez seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: MUNOZ, PAULSON, MARQUEZ, KUHN  
NORIEGA, WHITEHEAD, CHAVEZ

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

*Legislative/Public Information Committee Report*

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

*Discussion/Action Regarding  
Request for Support for AB 703 –  
Enhancing Public Access Through  
Teleconferencing.*

Mr. Schoellerman reported that as part of his response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 in March 2020 to expand public access to meetings of local agencies by suspending some of the restrictions on teleconferencing. Allowing local agencies to utilize teleconferencing for meetings of the legislative body has enhanced public access and increased participation by the public. He indicated that with the expiration of Executive Order N-29-20, local agencies will again be required to comply with antiquated provisions of existing law which make it much more difficult to hold meetings of the legislative body by teleconference. He noted that current law refers to “teleconference locations” and requires various actions to be taken at “teleconference locations” by local governments wishing to teleconference meetings. He indicated that AB 703 (Rubio) will eliminate the previously existing concept of “teleconference locations”; will revise existing law to ensure minimum standards for public participation; and will revise notice requirements to allow for greater public participation in teleconference meetings of local agencies. He noted that the Legislative/Public Information Committee recommended that the board consider supporting AB 703.

After brief discussion, Mr. Kuhn moved to approve a letter of support for AB 703. Mr. Paulson seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: MUNOZ, PAULSON, MARQUEZ, KUHN  
NORIEGA, WHITEHEAD, CHAVEZ

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

**OTHER  
ACTION/INFORMATION  
ITEMS**

*Discussion/Action Regarding  
Monitoring Well MW5-18 License  
Agreement with Southern  
California Edison*

Mr. Schoellerman reported that Monitoring well MW5-18 was constructed on a vacant portion of Edison’s Dalton Substation property in the City of Irwindale. The current 5-year agreement is set to expire March 31, 2021 and Edison has offered another 5-year renewal (their maximum length) through March 31, 2026. He indicated the initial annual license fee due at execution of the agreement is \$761.32 with annual payments increasing 3% each year to a maximum of \$856.88 in the fifth year. Additionally, a new requirement was added for this renewal that requires WQA to obtain a \$15,000 performance bond for the restoration of the site should the agreement be terminated. The costs of this agreement are reimbursable to WQA under the BPOU Project Agreement.

Mr. Paulson asked if it was usual for us to pay a license fee.

Mr. Schoellerman commented that it was quite common for us to pay a license fee for monitoring well agreements.

Mr. Whitehead asked how much does a bond like this cost.

Mr. Schoellerman commented that the bond would cost approximately \$200 per year.

Mr. Kuhn suggested that staff ask if Edison would accept a letter of credit instead of a bond.

After some discussion, Mr. Kuhn moved to approve the Monitoring Well MW5-18 License agreement with Southern California Edison. Mr. Paulson seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: MUNOZ, PAULSON, MARQUEZ, KUHN  
NORIEGA, WHITEHEAD, CHAVEZ

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

## **PROJECT REPORTS**

Mr. Colby reported that staff met with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) representative and provided them with an update on current USBR agreements, including the ongoing treatment plant construction by Northrup Grumman in the Puente Valley Operable Unit (PVOU). He provided an update on the Prop 1 Whitmore project expanded site investigation and noted that field work had been completed and that it would take a couple of months for the final report to be finished. Regarding the Prop 1 SEMOU Regional Site Investigation project, he indicated that WQA now has verbal agreements from all 12 sites for access and staff is going to start working on completing the access agreements. He lastly noted that a PVOU technical meeting was scheduled for the following week.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

None.

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Monares briefly reviewed some of the bills that he reported on at the Legislative/Public Information Committee meeting. He indicated that Congressional earmarks are back, at least in the House, and staff has received some guidance on how to proceed.

Mr. Schoellerman reported that staff was going to be asking for support letters from San Gabriel Valley cities and agencies for backing WQA's earmark requests, known as Community Project Funding. He also noted that staff is setting up a meeting with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to discuss funding for the current fiscal year.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT**

Mr. Schoellerman reported that he expected the Prop 68 grant agreement to be completed in April. He indicated that staff had scheduled a meeting with all the Prop 68 recipients for the following week to provide them with an overview of the process going forward. He reported that the proposal for accounting consultant for the Prop 68 support agreements had been postponed until staff meets with the Department of Financial Assistance to see if there are any updates to the scope of work. He reported that he had meetings scheduled with several State Water Resources Control Board members the following week to brief them on WQA activities and funding goals. He briefly reviewed the budget schedule and noted that the budget was scheduled for adoption on May 19, 2021. He reported that he met with the Coalition for Environmental Protection, Restoration and Development to discuss the 97-005 User Guide and next steps of increasing awareness and usage of it. They also discussed statewide policies for Contaminants of Emerging Concern. He lastly noted that staff was working on a fee policy and anticipated the policy would go to the Administrative/Finance Committee in April.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**FUTURE BOARD AND  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Admin/Finance Committee Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 10:00 am.

A Legislative/Public Information Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 11:00 am.

The next WQA Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 12 pm.

**BOARD MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS/  
REPORTS**

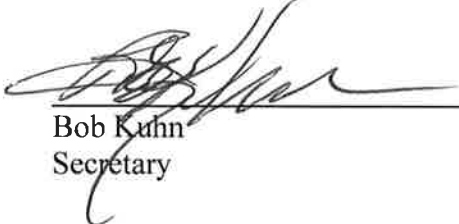
Mr. Marquez commented that he appreciated the comments and discussion regarding the Board stipend earlier in the meeting. He indicated that he would like to talk to staff about the meetings that are being attended by Board Members and wants to make sure they are relevant to the WQA mission.

Mr. Kuhn agreed with Mr. Marquez's comments.

**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 April 21, 2021.

  
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Valerie Munoz  
Chairwoman

  
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Bob Kuhn  
Secretary