

**A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
NOVEMBER 18, 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 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, Bob Kuhn, Mark Paulson, Lynda Noriega (entered late), Mike Whitehead, and Ed Chavez.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

None.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT PARTICIPATED VIA ONLINE/TELECONFERENCE

Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group; Ken Manning, WQA Consultant; Garry Hoffer, Cal American Water Company; Mike Antos, Santec; Tricia Carter, State Water Resources Control Board; Craig Gott; Suburban Water Systems; Stefanie Hada, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB); Arthur Heath, LARWQCB; Carlos Landaverde, LARWQCB; Tom Love, Upper District; Jillian Ly, LARWQCB; Klaus Rohwer, Equipoise; Rene Salas, City of South El Monte; Veva Weamer, Wildermuth Environmental, Inc.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

WORKSHOP

"Proposition 1 – Regional Site Investigation South El Monte Operable Unit"

Mr. Schoellerman provided a brief overview of WQA's Proposition 1 funded Regional Site Investigation in the South El Monte Operable Unit that is being conducted in conjunction with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). He reminded everyone that in 2014

Proposition 1 authorized \$720M to the State Board and would be administered by the Division of Financial Assistance. He noted that this was a planning grant and all the projects would take place in the South El Monte Operable Unit. He noted that the WQA applied for the Prop 1 planning grant to expedite the investigation of these facilities. He indicated that 12 of the highest priority sites were selected. He also noted that the \$2M grant qualified for a reduced 20% match based on a disadvantage community status. He reported that staff was working on site access agreements and so far, 5 of the 12 sites have agreed to allow accesses. He indicated that they would follow up with the remaining sites. He reported that Avocet Environmental would carry out all of the site investigations. He noted that a final report would be created for each site that would provide specific recommendations for remediation at each site. Lastly, he reported that all supporting documentation would be provided to apply for a future Proposition 1 implementation grant.

Mr. Paulson asked if the WQA or the Regional Board has the authority to gain access to these sites if the property owners prohibit it.

Mr. Schoellerman commented that the Regional Board has the authority to issue orders which would only be used as a last resort.

Mr. Kuhn asked who is responsible for the matching funds.

Mr. Schoellerman responded that under this current grant agreement the WQA is responsible for the matching funds.

Mr. Kuhn commented that this emphasizes the need for Federal Funds.

ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Kuhn moved to approve the consent calendar. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion and it was approved. Mr. Whitehead abstained from Project Demand Nos: E90998, E91000 and E91006. Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand No. E91005

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative/Finance Committee Report

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

Discussion/Action Regarding Wildermuth Task Order for Database and Animation Updates

Mr. Schoellerman reported that Wildermuth Environmental Inc (WEI) created an integrated groundwater database for WQA and developed four groundwater animations that show the

historical movement of the contaminant plume in the San Gabriel Basin. He noted that this information has been helpful as a public relations tool to inform the public and elected officials about the impact the groundwater remediation efforts are having on the various contaminant plumes. He reported that staff is recommending issuing a Task Order to WEI not to exceed \$50,064 to update WQA's groundwater database and animations through June 2020. He indicated that the Admin/Finance Committee reviewed this item on November 10, 2020 and recommended approval.

After brief discussion, Ms. Munoz moved to approve the task order for database and animation updates. Mr. Marquez seconded the motion, and it was approved.

*Discussion/Action Regarding
Wildermuth Task Order for 3D
Transport Model Needs Assessment*

Mr. Schoellerman reported that there were concerns raised about this item by the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster and that he preferred to remove the item from the agenda to have additional discussions.

***Legislative/Public Information
Committee Report***

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

**OTHER
ACTION/INFORMATION
ITEMS**

None.

PROJECT REPORTS

Mr. Colby reported that staff was still negotiating a final access agreement for monitoring well MW5-1 on the former AMVETs property. He also reported that WQA continues to work with Arbor Courtyard property owner for site access. He noted that since the property owner had not provided an indication that they will allow WQA access to the site, the Regional Board would provide an additional letter to require cooperation from the owner.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Monares gave a brief update on the election and indicated that he would be setting up meetings with the new legislators to introduce them and brief them on the WQA.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Mr. Schoellerman reported on federal funding activities noted that the recently released Senate E&W appropriations bill containing language WQA sought was too general. He indicated that the language in the previously approved House bill would be more beneficial to the WQA. Therefore, efforts would be focused on the House language in the conference committee. He reported that staff is still monitoring \$10M in the Bureau of Reclamation budget from FY20. He noted that staff was continuing to move ahead with the Prop 68 process. He indicated that the WQA staff has completed the newly required Sexual Harassment Prevention training. He reported

that the WQA Annual Report for fiscal year 2019/2020 has been completed and printed. He noted that if anyone would like printed copies to please contact Ms. Moreno. He reported that the ACWA Fall Conference would be held virtually December 2nd – 3rd. He lastly reported that the WQA office would be closed on Thursday and Friday of the following week for the Thanksgiving holiday.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Admin/Finance Committee Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 10:00 am.

The Engineering Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 11am.

A Legislative/Public Information Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 11:00 am.

The next WQA Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 12 pm.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS/ REPORTS

Mr. Kuhn asked legal counsel about the voting format for the Board meeting, and if a roll call vote was necessary for all action items.

Ms. Noriega thanked the WQA staff for their hard work and Randy for coordinating the workshop today. She also thanked Mr. Monares for his legislative reports and indicated that they were helpful.

Mr. Whitehead congratulated Mr. Chavez on his new appointment as the Chief of Staff to the newly elected Joe Baca Jr. on the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors.

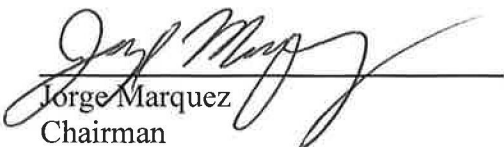
Mr. Chavez congratulated Mr. Kuhn on his re-election and reported that he was re-elected to the Upper District and was also re-appointed the WQA.

Mr. Marquez congratulated Mr. Kuhn and Mr. Chavez on their re-elections.

Many members of the Board wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

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 December 16, 2020.


Jorge Marquez
Chairman


Valerie Munoz
Secretary