

**SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY  
LEGISLATIVE/PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE AND  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MAY 12, 2021 AT 11:00 A.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 Legislative/Public Information Committee and Special meeting of the Board took place 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.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

Valerie Munoz, Bob Kuhn and Jorge Marquez

**WATERMASTER LIASON**

Marty Zvirbulis

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
ABSENT**

None

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Randy Schoellerman, Executive Director; Stephanie Moreno, Executive Assistant/Public Outreach Coordinator; Dan Colby, Assistant Executive Director/Senior Project Manager; Mary Saenz, Director of Finance; Michelle Sanchez, Administrative/Accounting Assistant

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC  
PRESENT**

Chris Lancaster, Civic Publications; Brian Bowcock, Three Valleys MWD; Tara Robinson, Valley County Water District; Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group; Richard Shope, World Space Foundation; Mike Ti, Three Valleys MWD

***Discussion Regarding Next  
Advertorial***

Ms. Moreno reported that the next advertorial would be later this month and would focus on the projects that are receiving funding from the Proposition 68 grant. She indicated that article could highlight the partnership with the State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance. She noted that the article may also contain quotes from our funding partners and officials.

Mr. Kuhn recommended adding context to the ad that lets the reader know why they are receiving this ad.

Mr. Lancaster commented that he would add language to the

advertorial to explain the reason for the ad.

***Discussion Regarding Eco Voices  
Institute Educational Programs***

Ms. Moreno reported that the WQA has partnered with Richard Shope and the Eco Voice program for the past five years. She indicated that this program educates the youth in the community and provides lessons on the San Gabriel River watershed. She noted that this program is unique because it is delivered in a dynamic and theatrical way that helps the students to retain the information they have learned.

Mr. Schope provided a brief update on his program. He indicated that despite the pandemic he was able to continue his program through virtual platforms and held most of their classes through Zoom. He noted that they hope to get back in person soon.

Ms. Moreno also reported that this program includes about 15 schools and reaches about 1,000 youth students within the WQA area.

Mr. Lancaster commented that he has seen Mr. Shope's program and commended the way he is able to capture the attention of the student to educate them on the watershed.

After brief discussion, the committee recommended that the proposal for the participation in the Eco Voices program go to the full Board for approval.

***Legislative Activities/Reports***

**State**

Mr. Monares reported that the Governor announced a \$2B ratepayer assistance program for utilities. He noted that the May Revise of the State budget would be out later in the week. He also reported that he had a meeting with WQA staff, The Gualco Group and the Division of Financial Assistance to discuss DFA's plans for the unallocated Proposition 68 funding.

**Federal**

Mr. Monares reported that earmarks are back and the WQA has submitted \$10M requests in both the House and the Senate.

Mr. Kuhn asked what the limits were for the earmark requests.

Mr. Monares commented that each representative was to create a list of 10 ranked projects to submit for request.

Mr. Kuhn asked if Senator Padilla has been briefed on the WQA and if he knows what the WQA does.

Mr. Monares reported that he has known Senator Padilla for many years and that he is aware of the needs in the valley. He noted that staff would work to set up a meeting with his office to provide him with an update.

Mr. Schoellerman reported that he met last week with the Bureau of Reclamation to discuss any available funding in their current budget. He indicated that the attorneys for the Bureau of Reclamation have determined that they cannot transfer any money into the Restoration Fund without direct language from congress. He noted that there is disagreement in this area and noted that staff would work with the WQA's federal lobbyist to follow up on the opinion. He explained that this is why earmarks are so important for WQA's funding.

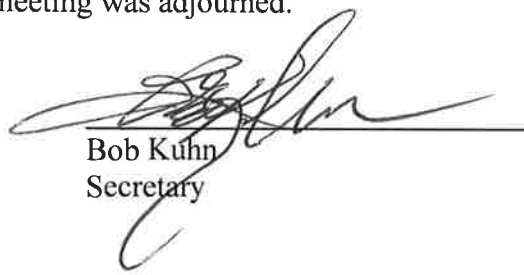
### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Schoellerman reported that staff has set up a meeting with new Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board members and the Executive Officer for May 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss our collaboration investigating sites in the South El Monte Operable Unit. He lastly reported that there have been many announcements regarding new state and federal funding programs and indicated that staff would be look at all of them for possible funding opportunities.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

  
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Valerie Munoz  
Chairwoman

  
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Bob Kuhn  
Secretary