

**A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY  
MARCH 16, 2022 AT 12:00 P.M.**

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*With passage and signing of AB 361 and in light of the ongoing Statewide State of Emergency originally declared by Governor Newsom on March 4, 2020, WQA Board Meetings will continue to be conducted via remote teleconferencing, subject to the requirements of Government Code Section 54953(e). Due to the essential nature of the WQA Board Meetings in conducting Authority business, this WQA Board meeting took place online and teleconference.*

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**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, Bob Kuhn, Lynda Noriega, Michael Whitehead, Ed Chavez, and Robert Gonzales

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT** None.

**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** Brian Bowcock, Three Valleys MWD; Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group; Lenet Pacheco; Valley County Water District; Steve Kiggins, San Gabriel Valley MWD; Mike Phillips, California American Water; Garry Hofer, California American Water

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None.

**ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED** None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR** Mr. Gonzales moved to approve the consent calendar. Mr. Paulson seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote.

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTENTIONS:

Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand No. E91467 and Mr. Whitehead abstained from Project Demand No. E91468.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***Administrative/Finance  
Committee Report***

*Discussion/Action Regarding  
Board of Directors Cost of Living  
Adjustment ("COLA") for Fiscal  
Year 2022-2023*

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

Ms. Saenz reported that each year at this time, the Board considers a cost-of-living (CPI) adjustment for the daily stipend per WQA procedures. She indicated that CPI increases in Board Member stipends need to comply with the requirements of WQA Procedure No. 23 and the CA Water Code. She noted that the CPI-U Table 4 indicates that the CPI for January 2022 is 7.5%. Per Water Code Section 20202, the annual increase to Board compensation may not exceed 5%, therefore the CPI increase is limited to 5.0%. She reported that if the Board elects to increase the stipend by 5.0%, the rate will increase from \$149.43 to \$156.90. She also noted that the Board has the option to increase the stipend based on cumulative increases from 2015 to 2022, which could be an increase of up to 20.80%, and could increase the board fees from \$149.43 to \$180.51. She lastly noted that for any proposed increase, the Board needs to approve an ordinance at a noticed public hearing pursuant to the CA Water Code.

Mr. Kuhn pointed out that if the Board were to increase the stipend minimally to \$150 now, that would prevent future boards from being able to approve the 20%+ cumulative increase in the future should they go going back to 2015. He noted that the CPI increases would start over at zero again and this was a way to show that the board was fiscally responsible.

After some discussion, Mr. Kuhn moved to increase the Board stipend from \$149.43 to \$150. Mr. Paulson seconded the motion it was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

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

*Discussion/Action Regarding AB  
2449 (Rubio) – Enhancing Public  
Access Through Teleconferencing*

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

Mr. Schoellerman reported that The Three Valleys Municipal Water District sponsored AB 2449, which would eliminate the previously existing concept of teleconference locations and will revise notice requirements to allow for greater public

participation in teleconference meetings of local agencies. The bill does not require teleconferencing, rather, it modernizes existing law to ensure greater public participation in meetings of the legislative bodies of local agencies who choose to utilize teleconferencing.

Mr. Kuhn noted that the bill would require that 2/3 of the Board must be present at the meeting location and would provide for more public participation.

After brief discussion, Ms. Noriega moved to approve a letter of support for AB 2449. Mr. Gonzales seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

**OTHER  
ACTION/INFORMATION  
ITEMS**

None

**PROJECT REPORTS**

Mr. Colby reported that the first payment request for Prop 68 funds will be submitted in May. He reported that the SEMOU Cooperative Agreement with EPA will expire August 2022. He indicated that there is discussion to extend that agreement for one more year. He also reported that staff was working with Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to discuss the transition from EPA to DTSC control and the future in operations.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

None.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Monares reported that AB 2163 would be heard in a committee hearing on Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30pm. He noted that the hearing would be held virtually. He also noted that the WQA has received many support letters for AB 2163 and more were still to come. He reported that WQA received \$10M for the Restoration Fund and has started working on the application for the next fiscal year's appropriation request.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT**

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the \$10M that the WQA received was a long time coming due to the earmark ban. He indicated that this money was important to the San Gabriel Valley and would help in leveraging state funding for cleanup projects. He thanked Senators Feinstein & Padilla along with Congresswomen Napolitano & Chu for including the funding in their budget requests. He also recognized Mr. Monares and Chris Kierig of the Kadesh Group for their work with this funding. He reported that staff would put together some

recommendations on how to allocate these funds and open a new round of the Federal Funding Program Administration.

Mr. Whitehead asked if the \$10M could be used for treatment and remediation costs.

Mr. Schoellerman confirmed that \$10M could be used for treatment and remediation costs.

He reported that AB 2163 was scheduled for a committee hearing next week and he appreciated all of the support from the various agencies. He reported that staff held a workshop on March 9<sup>th</sup> for the SGV Water Association to discuss AB 2163 and the pumping right assessment limitation adjustment. He noted that the SGV Water Association voted to support AB 2163, if amended. He indicated that they wanted to discuss the assessment limitation adjustment further. He indicated that he would continue to work with them to get their final support of AB 2163. He reported that WQA is hosting along with the Department of Drinking Water and the Coalition for Environmental Protection Restoration and Development a training webinar on 97-005 on April 7<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the webinar was free, open to everyone and would include contact hours. He reported that a DC trip was tentatively scheduled for the end of April. He noted that a WQA budget workshop would be held at the April Administrative/Finance Committee and WQA Board Meetings in April. He lastly reported that staff participated with Mr. Gonzales in a tour of the B6 Treatment Facility. He thanked the San Gabriel Valley Water Company for their assistance.

Ms. Munoz asked if the WQA will be hosting tours soon.

Mr. Schoellerman commented that staff would be looking to coordinate additional tours as soon as the COVID situation allows.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The next Administrative/Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 10am.

The next Legislative/Public Information Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 11:00am.

The next WQA Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 12:00pm.

**BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS/ REPORTS**

Mr. Kuhn asked that Mr. Schoellerman remind the SGV Water Association that they have two representatives on the WQA Board and at least one of them has to vote in the affirmative when the Board decides to take action on the WQA Budget and Assessment or it will not pass.

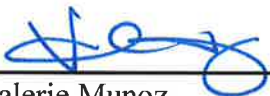
Mr. Whitehead commented that he didn't think that the procedure that Mr. Kuhn brought up has ever been invoked and is confident that all issues would work out. He also conveyed that the WQA has made great progress in groundwater cleanup. He also congratulated Mr. Schoellerman and the WQA team on securing the \$10M for the Restoration Fund.


Ms. Noriega agreed with the comments made by Mr. Whitehead. She noted that she would like to attend the DC trip in April. She commented that she felt the producers were close to an amenable solution and approving AB 2163. She commented that she completely agreed with Mr. Kuhn's comments regarding the stipend and noted that the action taken today was a way to show that the WQA is taking precautions for the future.

Ms. Munoz thanked everyone for their hard work.

#### **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 20, 2022.

  
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Valerie Munoz  
Chairwoman

  
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Bob Kuhn  
Secretary