

**A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
FEBRUARY 22, 2023 AT 12:00 P.M.**

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.

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	Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group; Steve Kiggins, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; Dave Michalko, Valencia Heights Water Company; Jeff Maloney, City of Alhambra; Roy Frausto, La Puente Valley County Water District; Lenet Pacheco, Valley County Water District; Brian Bowcock, Resident; Jody Roberto, Three Valleys MWD; Ken Sansone, SL Environmental ; Garry Hofer, California American Water Company; Jessica Taylor, California American Water Company
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED	None.
CONSENT CALENDAR	Ms. Noriega moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Mr. Kuhn 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:

Mr. Whitehead abstained from Project Demand Nos. E91775.

Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand No. E91776.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Legislative/Public Information
Committee*

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

OTHER ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS

*Draft San Gabriel Basin
Groundwater Quality Management
and Remediation Plan “§406
Plan” for 2023*

- 1. Presentation on Comments
Received*
- 2. Adopt Plan for 2023*

Mr. Colby reported that on January 18, 2023, the Board authorized staff to open the 30 day public comment period on the Draft Groundwater Quality Management and Remediation Plan §406 (406 Plan) for 2023. He noted that the Draft 406 Plan was posted on WQA’s website and noticed on January 23, 2023 in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune and La Opinion newspapers. He stated that the 30 day comment period closed February 17, 2023, and no comments were received.

After some discussion, Mr. Whitehead moved to adopt the §406 Plan for 2023 as presented. Ms. Noriega 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: NONE

*Discussion/Action Regarding the
San Gabriel Valley Economic
Partnership*

- 1. Approve Renewal for 2023*
- 2. Approve Demand No.
91777*

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. 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. It also gives the WQA a seat on the Board of the Directors.

Mr. Kuhn moved to approve the renewal for 2023 and to approve Demand No. 91777. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTENTIONS: NONE

*Discussion/Action Regarding
Federal Funding Program
Administration February
Recommendations (FFPA)*

Mr. Colby reported that on December 21, 2022, the WQA Board approved \$10.275M in Round X FFPA recommendations based on applications received in November 2022. Subsequent to that meeting, an additional \$10M appropriation for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund was made available upon the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. Staff revisited the Round X applications received in November 2022 and is making additional award recommendations totaling \$9.7M. The combined awards total \$19.975M.

Mr. Paulson asked if the awards from the first \$10M have been given out.

Mr. Colby commented that the funds are in WQA's account, and no reimbursements have been made.

Mr. Kuhn asked if the funds awarded to WQA's Whitmore Street Groundwater Remediation Facility (WSGRF) project would be enough to complete the project.

Mr. Colby commented that the WSGRF would be operating beyond two years and more funding would be needed.

Ms. Noriega asked how many projects were included in the \$2.125M for treatment and remediation in the Baldwin Park Operable Unit (BPOU) and would the funding go through the WQA.

Mr. Colby commented that it would be for all the BPOU projects and that the funding would go through the BPOU Project Committee which includes WQA as outlined in the Project Agreement.

Ms. Noriega stated that the funding recommended for WQA's WSGRF and the WQA Separate Costs are typically paid by its assessment so this funding would help to offset those costs.

Mr. Colby confirmed that those two projects do not have any other funding sources and these costs would traditionally be funded by the WQA assessment.

After detailed discussion, Ms. Munoz moved to approve the Federal Funding Program Administration February

Recommendations as presented. Mr. Kuhn seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote.

AYES: MUNOZ, PAULSON, KUHN, CHAVEZ,
GONZALES

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTENTIONS: NORIEGA AND WHITEHEAD

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

Mr. Colby reported that Avocet Environmental, Inc. (Avocet) has been operating and maintaining WQA's WSGRF for the past 15 years and the current Task Order authorization concludes February 28, 2023. He indicated that the WQA's WSGRF project is an orphan site located within the South El Monte Operable Unit with no responsible party to cleanup it up. The site is contaminated with 1,4-Dioxane, TCE and other volatile organic compounds. The cleanup project was constructed by Avocet with a \$1.42M grant from the SWRCB. A subsequent grant of \$995,646 was awarded in 2012 to continue its operation through September 2018. Since that time Proposition 68 award has reimbursed WQA for those costs and provide additional funding for operations. He noted that the task order would be for two years of operation and maintenance.

After brief discussion, Ms. Munoz moved to approve the task order for Avocet Environmental, Inc. 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

ABSTENTIONS: NONE

*Discussion/Action Regarding
Nomination for ACWA Joint
Powers Authority ("JPIA")
Executive Committee*

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the Valley County Water District has requested support for the nomination of Director Lenet Pacheco to the ACWA/JPIA Executive Committee. He indicated that staff has not received any other request for nominations.

*1. Adopt Resolution No. 23-
004*

After brief discussion, Ms. Munoz moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-004, Resolution Of The Board Of Directors Of The San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Concurring In Nomination To The Executive Committee Of The Association Of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority ("JPIA"). Ms. Noriega seconded the motion, and it

was adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTENTIONS: NONE

PROJECT REPORTS

Mr. Colby gave a brief update on the Prop 1 site investigations. He noted that site investigations began at two new properties this week; the BIG property and the former L&L Screw property that are located right next to each other. He indicated that the current site investigation agreement with Department of Funding Assistance expires in May of 2023 but staff has reached out to do a no cost extension for another year to continue the work to get all the properties investigated.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Padilla reported that a closed session will take place.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Monares reported that staff has started the federal appropriations requests in Washington, DC. He also reported that AB 279 will go before the Assembly ESTM committee on March 14, 2023 in Sacramento. He noted that staff has scheduled some pre-meetings to discuss the bill with legislators. He lastly noted that he would be attending the Bear Flag Republic event at the Gualco Group on March 1, 2023 in Sacramento.

Mr. Paulson asked if the federal earmark appropriations would continue.

Mr. Monares commented that he felt the federal government would continue with earmarks for the FY24 budget.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the San Gabriel Valley Water Association voted to support AB 279. He reported that he provided a WQA update presentation to the Upper District Board of Directors on February 8th and that they voted to support AB 279 as well. He reported that staff met with the EPA Region 9 Administrator Martha Guzman for a tour of the Puente Valley Operable Unit treatment facility that is under construction along with County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Bob Pence from Congresswoman Napolitano's office, and Roy Frausto, general manager of the La Puente Valley County Water District, and Northrop Grumman staff. He reported that DTSC is taking over the operation of the WNOU and that EPA was able to get \$6M through their Superfund program to put towards a pump station that will be an integral part of the WNOU remedy. He also reported that WQA's SEMOU Cooperative Agreement with EPA is coming to an end later

this year and DTSC will take over providing funding for the remedy per its fund-lead agreement with EPA. WQA is in the process of drafting a cooperative agreement with DTSC similar to the it had with EPA and will continue facilitating the payments to the SEMOU remedy project proponents. He reported that there may be additional Prop 68 grants in addition to the \$35M already awarded to WQA for the operation of 21 treatment projects across the valley. He noted that there would be more information on this to come. He reported that this would be the last remote meeting for the WQA now that the Governor's emergency order is expiring at the end of February. Therefore, future WQA meetings would be in-person with a remote option for the public starting with the Legislative/Public Information Committee meeting on March 8, 2023. He noted that there has been legislation introduced to increase the availability of remote teleconferencing.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next Legislative/Public Information Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

The next Administrative/Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 10 a.m.

The next WQA Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

Due to the ACWA Spring Conference in May, the Board approved the following date changes to the May meeting schedule:

- Administrative/Finance Committee to May 16, 2023 at 10am
- Legislative/Public Information Committee to May 17, 2023 at 11am
- WQA Board Meeting to May 24th at 12pm

CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)

– Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – One (1) potential matter

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

Mr. Padilla reported that the Board met in closed session where and update was provided. He noted that there was no reportable action.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS/ REPORTS

None.

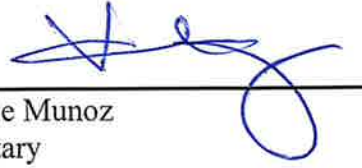
ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman asked if there were any other items of business

to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned to March 22, 2023.



Mark Paulson
Chairman



Valerie Munoz
Secretary