

**A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
JANUARY 17, 2024 AT 12:00 P.M.**

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.
REMOTE PARTICIPATION DECLARATION – AB 2449	None.
ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS	Mark Paulson, Lynda Noriega, Valerie Munoz, Jeffery Maloney (alternate), Bob Kuhn, Ed Chavez, and Robert DiPrimio
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Robert Gonzales
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; Jackie Montgomery, Admin/Accounting Assistant; Michelle Sanchez, Admin/Accounting Assistant (online); Richard Padilla, Legal Counsel
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT	Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT PARTICIPATED VIA ONLINE/TELECONFERENCE	Mike Philips, California American Water; Lenet Pacheco, Valley County Water District; Denise Dolor, Orchard Dale Water District; Jose Velasco, Orchard Dale Water District
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED	None.
ELECTION OF OFFICERS	Mr. Kuhn made a motion to approve the following slate of officers for 2024: Chairman – Mark Paulson Vice-Chairwoman – Lynda Noriega Secretary – Valerie Munoz Treasurer – Robert Gonzales Mr. Chavez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chairman requested that the committee assignments remain the same as the previous year:

Legislative/Public Information Committee-
Valerie Munoz, Robert Gonzales, and Bob Kuhn

Administrative/Finance Committee –
Mark Paulson, Lynda Noriega, and Robert DiPrimio

CONSENT CALENDAR

Ms. Moreno reported that there was a printing error on the list of demands and noted that the amended list of demands with the correct check numbers were provided for the Board.

Ms. Munoz moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Mr. Kuhn seconded the motion, and it was approved with the following abstentions:

Mr. DiPrimio abstained from Project Demand No. E92114.

Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand No. E92115.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative/Public Information Committee Report

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

Administrative/Finance Committee Report

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

Discussion/Action Regarding Oliveras Madruga Law Organization Proposed Rate Adjustment

Mr. Schoellerman reported that WQA's general legal counsel, Oliveros Madruga Law Organization (OMLO), was retained in 2015. He indicated that since that time the firm has not increased their rates. He reported that OMLO is respectfully requesting an adjustment to their hourly rate schedule effective February 2024 with additional adjustments in July 2026 and July 2027. He made note of the inflationary pressures in costs since 2015 and worked with OLMO on the recommended hourly increases. He indicated that OLMO does not charge a monthly retainer and has provided outstanding, efficient legal services to the WQA. He reported that the Administrative/Finance Committee reviewed the proposed rate adjustments on January 8th and has recommended Board approval. He noted that the rate adjustments have been incorporated into the attached first amendment to OMLO's initial agreement. He also noted that the amendment updates the firm's current name.

Mr. Kuhn asked if the contract has an automatic renewal.

Mr. Padilla commented that the contract was indefinite and the firm could be terminated at any time with a 30-day notice.

After brief discussion, Mr. Kuhn moved to approve the proposed rate adjustment and the amended agreement with OMLO. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion and it was

unanimously approved.

Report on Cash and Investments

Ms. Saenz reviewed the quarterly report on cash and investments as of December 31, 2023. She reported that the WQA holds its investment funds at the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF). She noted that the average monthly effective yield for the Pooled Money Investment Account (PMIA)/LAIF for October and November is 3.67% and 3.843%, respectively. She also noted that the December effective yield has not yet been published and the LAIF quarterly rate for October through December has not yet been issued. She reported that WQA holds its cash funds at BMO Bank. She indicated that the funds held at BMO exceed the FDIC insured limit of \$250,000. She noted that all funds in excess of the FDIC limits are collateralized by BMO in accordance with California Government Code Title 5, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 4, Article 2 – Deposit of Funds. She reported that BMO has agreed to pay interest of 4.00%, effective 10-1-23, on the funds held in the Project/Admin Fund Money Market Account if WQA agreed to hold a minimum balance of \$10M in that account. She noted that in October 2023, funds totaling \$6M were transferred from LAIF to BMO, bringing the balance up to \$10M, with the interest being accrued monthly rather than quarterly. She indicated that interest earned from October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 totals \$89,203.

**OTHER
ACTION/INFORMATION
ITEMS**

***Adopt Resolution No. 24-001, for
Authorization to Contract for
Service and Establish Accounts
with BMO Bank***

After a brief discussion, Ms. Munoz moved to adopt Resolution No. 24-001. Ms. Noriega seconded the motion, and it was adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES: PAULSON, NORIEGA, MUNOZ, MALONEY,
KUHN, CHAVEZ, AND DIPRIMIO

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

***Draft San Gabriel Basin
Groundwater Quality
Management and Remediation
Plan “§406 Plan” for 2024***

Mr. Colby reported that Section 406 of WQA’s enabling act requires the WQA to develop and adopt a basinwide groundwater quality management and remediation plan. The plan includes a characterization of the contamination, a comprehensive cleanup plan, a summary of financing available, a description of public outreach efforts and a discussion about the authorities of other agencies the WQA interacts with to facilitate the basin cleanup effort. He noted some of the updates that were made for this year. He reviewed

the public comment process for the plan a indicated that once the 30-day public comment period closes, staff would present any comments that were received to the Board. He reported that the plan was scheduled for adoption at the February Board meeting.

Open of 30-day Public Comment Period

After brief discussion, Ms. Noriega moved to open the 30-day public comment period for the 2024 406 Plan. Mr. DiPrimio seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

PROJECT REPORTS

Mr. Colby reported that there are two technical meetings scheduled, one is for the EMOU on January 23rd and the other is for the SEMOU on January 30th. He noted that this will be the first SEMOU technical meeting in two years due to turnovers in EPA's project managers. He reported that work continues on the final site in the Prop 1 site investigation grant. He indicated that work started earlier this month and would continue into the beginning of February. He lastly reported that there is a new Project Manager for Area 3 also known as the Alhambra Operable Unit. He indicated that he did not have the name of the new Project Manager and would email it out to the Board once he received it.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the state legislature is starting the second year of the current legislative session. He noted that the legislature was focused on getting the bills out of their original house of origin. He reported that they are also working on the budget and looking at a deficit of about \$68B. He reported that he along with Mr. Paulson and Mr. Monares traveled to Washington, DC last week to meet with WQA's Federal lobbyist and legislators. He noted that they had some good meetings with the staff from the House and Senate Resources committees to discuss the amendments to the Restoration Fund. He also noted that they met with Congresswomen Napolitano and Chu personally. He indicated that staff will be working with the congresswomen's offices to get the language drafted for the amendments.

Mr. Paulson commented that they attended 6 meetings in DC and Mr. Schoellerman did a great job presenting in each of the meetings on the history of the WQA and what the WQA does.

Mr. Schoellerman noted that it was nice to meet in-person as opposed to having the meetings on Zoom. He also reported that they reminded everyone they met regarding the \$5.5M appropriations request for fiscal year 2024 and let them know that WQA will be requesting \$10M for fiscal year 2025. He reported that staff is working with the Division of Financial Assistance on getting the first payment request processed for Prop 68. He indicated that he has executed a Prop 68 grant

amendment for \$14M which is in addition to the original \$35M. He noted that they also extended the reimbursement period another 3 years. He lastly reported that he has hired Paul Conner Consulting to perform an organizational assessment where he will review job descriptions and salary ranges of the organization for competitiveness and effectiveness.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next Legislative/Public Information Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

The next Administrative/Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 10 a.m.

The next WQA Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was not held.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS/ REPORTS

Ms. Munoz congratulated the officers on their re-appointments for this year.

Ms. Noriega thanked the Board for their confidence with her at Vice-Chairwoman. She also wished everyone a happy new year


Mr. DiPrimio commented that he does review the 406 Plan every year. He indicated that the plan is very well done and he has used it many times when he has had to do some research about the basin.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman asked if there were any other items of business to come before the Board, there being none, the meeting was adjourned in the memory of Steven Sham until the next meeting on February 22, 2024.



Mark Paulson
Chairman



Valerie Munoz
Secretary