

**A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
APRIL 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**

Ms. Moreno reported that at least a quorum of WQA Board Members were physically present for the meeting. She also reported that Mr. Kuhn was participating remotely with “just cause” and has duly notified the WQA as required under AB 2449.

Mr. Kuhn reported that he had no disclosures.

**ROLL CALL OF BOARD
MEMBERS**

Mark Paulson, Lynda Noriega, Valerie Munoz, Robert Gonzales, Bob Kuhn (online), Ed Chavez, and Robert DiPrimio

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephanie Moreno, Executive Assistant/Outreach Coordinator; Dan Colby, Assistant Executive Director/Senior Project Manager; Mary Saenz, Director of Finance; Jackie Montgomery, Admin/Accounting Assistant; Richard Padilla, Legal Counsel

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
PRESENT**

Michelle Sanchez, Davide Muse, Valley County Water District; Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
THAT PARTICIPATED VIA
ONLINE/TELECONFERENCE**

Steve Kiggins, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; Mike Phillips, Cal American Water Company; Jody Roberto, Three Valleys MWD; Chris Lancaster, Civic Publications; Jose Martinez, Valley County Water District

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

**ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE
AGENDIZED**

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Gonzales enters the meeting.

***Draft Budget for Fiscal Year
2024/2025***

Mr. Paulson opened the public hearing to receive comments on the draft budget for fiscal year 2024/2025. There being none the public hearing was closed.

WORKSHOP

Daft Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025

Ms. Saenz reported that WQA's budgeted costs are funded by assessments that the WQA charges on prescriptive pumping rights in the Main San Gabriel Basin. Funding also includes grants from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) Proposition 1 and Proposition 68, and RPs (also known as PRPs or CRs). She indicated that there are a total of 197,610-acre feet of prescriptive pumping rights in the Basin. She reported that the WQA assessment is budgeted at \$12 per acre foot, for total assessment funding of \$2,371,320. Ms. Saenz also reviewed the WQA reserve policy and noted that WQA will perform an annual review as a component of the annual budget process. She stated that the reserve policy maintain minimum assessment reserves at six (6) months or 50 percent of current year budgeted expenses with a goal of achieving assessment reserves of nine (9) months or 75 percent of current year budgeted expenses. She indicated that the projected assessment reserve for fiscal year 2024/2025 was \$3,973,338. She discussed the Prop 68 funds of \$52.7M that has been allocated. She noted that the Department of Financial Assistance is still reviewing the grant request that was submitted on May 15, 2022. She indicated that a second request will be submitted after the review of comments from the first request. She lastly reported that the draft budget would go to the Administrative/Finance Committee on May 14th for review and go to the full Board for a public hearing and adoption on May 22nd. She noted that assessment hearing would be scheduled for the August 21st Board meeting. She also noted that the collection dates for the assessment would be September 19, 2024, and November 14, 2024.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Ms. Moreno reported that there was a printing error on the list of demands and that an amended list has been provided. She noted that it only affected the check numbers and did not change any of the amounts listed.

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

Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand No. E92211.
Mr. DiPrimio abstained from Project Demand No. E92212.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative/Public Information Committee Report

Mr. Colby reported that the minutes for the committee meeting were enclosed for review. He indicated that staff has sent out the link to the new Earth Day publication.

Discussion/Action Regarding New WQA Logo

Ms. Moreno reported that the Legislative/Public Information reviewed three different options for a new logo. She indicated that that committee reviewed and suggested that options #2 and #3 go to the full Board for discussion.

After detailed discussion, the Board chose option #3 as the new WQA logo.

Administrative/Finance Committee Report

Mr. Colby reported that the minutes for the committee meeting were enclosed for review. He reported that the committee recommended that staff consult with legal counsel regarding potential amendments to Procedure No. 23 to eliminate the accumulation of past adjustments and set a cap on future increases and bring this item back to the committee in May for further review.

**OTHER
ACTION/INFORMATION
ITEMS**

*Report on Cash and Investments –
1st Quarter 2024*

Ms. Saenz reported that WQA holds its investment funds at the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF). The average monthly effective yield for the Pooled Money Investment Account (PMIA)/LAIF for January, February and March is 4.012%, 4.122%, and 4.232% respectively. She indicated that the LAIF quarterly rate for January through March has not yet been issued. She reported that WQA holds its cash funds at BMO Bank. She indicated that funds held at BMO exceed the FDIC insured limit of \$250,000. 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 also noted that interest earned for the 3 months of January 2024, February 2024, and March 2024 totals \$103,264.

Ms. Noriega leaves the meeting.

PROJECT REPORTS

None.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Monares reported that there has been some movement in Sacramento to include a water bond on the November ballot.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Mr. Colby reported on April 10, 2024, EPA announced the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR)

for six PFAS. Subsequently, on April 16, 2024, staff monitored a webinar hosted by EPA which provided a general overview of the final PFAS NPDWR. He noted that EPA will be hosting another webinar on the final PFAS NPDWR specifically geared to drinking water utilities and professionals on April 23, 2024. He reported that Mr. Schoellerman and Board Member Gonzales provided a briefing to the City of Alhambra on WQA activities. He noted that staff and Board Member Gonzales have provided updates to all cities which Board Member Gonzales represents in the Basin. He reported that the WQA has secured \$5.5M from the Restoration Fund for fiscal year 2024 and is waiting to hear from the Bureau of Reclamation on when it will be received by the WQA. He noted that the ACWA Spring Conference will be held in Sacramento May 7th – 9th. He also noted that Upper District's Water Fest will be on May 11, 2024, and that WQA will have a booth at the event.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next Legislative/Public Information Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

The next Administrative/Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 10 a.m.

The next WQA Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was not held.


BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS/ REPORTS

Mr. Chavez reported that on April 22nd in honor of Earth Day passengers can ride the Metro for free.


Ms. Munoz thanked Ms. Saenz for all her work on the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Mark Paulson
Chairman



Valerie Munoz
Secretary