

**SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 AT 10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER	Ms. Noriega called the Administrative/Finance committee 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	Lynda Noriega, Mark Paulson
WATERMASTER LIASON	Dave Michalko
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT	Robert DiPrimio
OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	None
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Randy Schoellerman, Executive Director; Dan Colby, Assistant Executive Director/Senior Project Manager; Stephanie Moreno, Director of Communications; Mary Saenz, Director of Finance; Jackie Montgomery, Accounting Specialist; Michelle Sanchez, Senior Administrative Assistant/Office Coordinator
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT	None.
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ONLINE	None.
REMOTE PARTICIPATION DECLARATION – AB 2449 [Government Code 54953(f)] <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Notification of Just Causeb. Emergency Circumstances Requests	None.
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
<i>Discusson Regarding Weaver Consulting Group Assignment, Assumption, and Consent Agreement</i>	Mr. Colby reported that effective June 1, 2024, Weaver Consulting Group (Weaver) acquired Avocet Environmental, Inc. (Avocet). He noted that Avocet has been WQA’s long time Consultant for various engineering and investigative projects within the South El Monte Operable Unit. He indicated that at the time of Weaver’s acquirement, WQA had three active Task Orders with Avocet. He reported that WQA

staff has met with Weaver and Avocet representatives and has been assured that there will be no change in personnel while fulfilling the obligations of current task orders. WQA's attorney has reviewed the Assignment, Assumption and Consent Agreement to ensure all of WQA rights and interests have been incorporated.

Ms. Noriega asked if there would be a change in the cost.

Mr. Colby commented that there would be no changes in cost or personnel.

After some discussion the committee recommended that the Weaver Consulting Group Assignment, Assumption, and Consent agreement go to the full Board for approval.

Discussion Regarding Accounting Services for Proposition 68 Grant – Task Order Modification 2

Ms. Saenz reported that the WQA has two State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) Proposition 68 grants to fund Treatment & Remediation costs for 24 water treatment facilities for a period of 4 to 5 years. She noted that on April 21, 2021, the Board approved a Task Order with CA Consulting Services, LLC (CAC) to perform accounting services to process the reimbursements and submittals to DFA. She indicated that the original Task Order had a completion date of April 30, 2023, and a not-to-exceed amount of \$250,000. Subsequently, the Prop 68 grant was extended to February 28, 2026. She noted that at the June 21, 2023, Board meeting, the Board approved extending the Task Order to June 30, 2026, to match the grant extension. She indicated that the Task Order included staffing by the Principal Consultant and a Sr. Associate, and the consulting work was being performed 100% by the Principal. She reported that as of August 2024, the availability of the Principal was significantly reduced, and that position is now being supplemented by a Manager level accountant. In addition, effective August 1, 2024, CAC has increased its hourly billing rates as shown below.

- Principal Consultant - \$175 (increase from \$135)
- Manager - \$150 (new position for agreement)
- Sr. Associate - \$120 (increase from \$90)

She noted that the agreement still includes a not-to-exceed amount of \$250,000. Also, these costs are being reimbursed by the Prop 68 grant.

After brief discussion, the committee recommended that Task Order 1 Mod 2, which increases billing rates and adds the position of Manager with no increase to the not-to-exceed amount of \$250,000, go to the full Board for approval.

***Update of WQA's Federal
Funding Program Administration
(FFPA)***

Mr. Colby reported that on September 26, 2022, WQA Staff initiated Round X of WQA's Federal Funding Program (FFPA) Administration process making the most recent \$10M of federal funding received available for distribution to projects. During the application period, staff determined that an additional \$545K could be made available for distribution. The total amount available for distribution is \$10.275M after the Bureau of Reclamation deducted their administrative costs. 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. He indicated that staff revisited the Round X applications received in November 2022 and made additional award recommendations in February 2023, totaling \$9.7M. The combined awards totaled \$19.975M. He reported that as of September 10, 2024, WQA has fully reimbursed four of the sixteen projects in the amount of \$6.400M, partially reimbursed four projects in the amount \$3.267M with \$5.682M remaining and eight projects that have not started in the amount of \$4.625M. He reviewed a list of all the projects and their current status.

Mr. Schoellerman noted that there are some projects that have yet to confirm a schedule for implementation and that WQA may consider reallocating the funding for those projects during the upcoming round of funding. However, the goal is to have each project moving forward.

Mr. Schoellerman explained that staff is planning for the next round of funding in coming months that would include the \$5.5M recent received from the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund for FY24. However, he noted that since additional funding may be approved by Congress shortly, staff is considering that it would be more efficient to wait and open a round of funding that combines any additional funds with the \$5.5M.

Ms. Noriega asked if this information could be provided to the full Board at the Board Meeting.

Mr. Schoellerman responded that staff will present the information to the full Board at September's meeting.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Mr. Schoellerman reported the invoices for the first assessment billing went out last week. He also reported that staff submitted the PFAS claim against 3M and Dupont de Nemours on behalf of the WQA. He reported that the new online Board expense forms are going well. He lastly noted that staff was drafting a resolution for the retirements of Congresswoman Napolitano and Tony Zampiello and would have them ready for adoption at the Board meeting on September 18, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Noriega asked if there were any other items of business to come before the committee. There being none, the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Paulson', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Paulson
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valerie Munoz', written over a horizontal line.

Valerie Munoz
Secretary