

**A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
AUGUST 21, 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, Robert Gonzales, Bob Kuhn, Ed Chavez, and Robert DiPrimio
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	None.
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Randy, Schoellerman, Executive Director; Stephanie Moreno, Director of Communications; Dan Colby, Assistant Executive Director/Senior Project Manager; Mary Saenz, Director of Finance; Jackie Montgomery, Accounting Specialist; Michelle Sanchez, Senior Administrative Assistant
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT	Chris Lancaster-Civic Publications, Tara Robinsen, Valley County Water District; Mike Phillips, California American Water
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT PARTICIPATED VIA ONLINE/TELECONFERENCE	Bruce Knoles, San Gabriel Vallely Municipal Water District; James Cortes, Steve Kiggins, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED	None.
CONSENT CALENDAR	Mr. Gonzales moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion, and it was approved with the following abstentions: Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand No. E92302 and E92331. Mr. DiPrimio abstained from Project Demand No. E92272, E92273, E92303 and E92332.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative/Public Information Committee Report

Review of Civic Leadership Advertorial

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

Mr. Lancaster reported that the Civic Leadership publication included all new live videos and links throughout the ad. He noted that this ad was distributed to over 50,000 people in the San Gabriel Valley and about 320,000 e-subscribers of the Los Angeles Times. He also noted that the e-edition had more than 140,000 page views from the subscribers of the L.A. Times and that was a significantly large amount.

Discussion/Action Regarding Resolution No. 24-006, A Resolution in Support of Proposition 4 – the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024

Mr. Schoellerman reported that a support resolution for Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 is being presented to the Board for review and approval. He reported that the bond would be on the November ballot which includes \$610M for water quality and cleanup. He stated if the bond is passed in November, that the WQA and other purveyors in the valley would be able to apply for these funds after the guidelines are made available.

Mr. Kuhn asked what the guidelines would be for the funding that would be available from the Bond.

Mr. Schoellerman commented that the guidelines are not drafted until after the Bond passes.

Mr. Kuhn asked if the WQA would be in competition with others in the Basin for the same funds.

Mr. Schoellerman commented that once the guidelines come out, they will be evaluated to determine the best way to proceed to get the funding for the projects in the Basin.

Ms. Noriega commented that she felt it would be beneficial for some producers to apply for the funds through the WQA because their collective need would be greater than if submitted individually.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Munoz moved to approve Resolution No. 24-006. Ms. Noriega seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Administrative/Finance Committee Report

Adopt Resolution No. 24-005, A Resolution for LAIF

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

Ms. Saenz reported that Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) Resolution 93-006 established the initial WQA authorizations to deposit or withdraw funds in LAIF. The authorized officers and their successors are the Treasurer, Executive Director and the Assistant to the Executive Director. She indicated that LAIF has recommended that WQA revise and expand the authorizations to include the four board officers - Chairman, Vice-Chairwoman, Secretary and Treasurer – and the Executive Director and the Director of Finance. This resolution would supersede the original resolution 93-006. She presented draft Resolution No. 24-005 that has been approved by LAIF.

Ms. Munoz moved to approve Resolution No. 24-005. Mr. Gonzales seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Discussion/Action Regarding Site Access Agreement with M.O.D. Holdings

Mr. Colby reported that The M.O.D. Holding, LLC property (formerly known as the Bozung property) is located at 9401 Whitmore Street, El Monte. He indicated that the WQA had two previous 5-year access agreements with this property owner at an average cost of \$4,000 per year. He noted that this third proposed license agreement allows WQA to construct additional groundwater extraction and monitoring wells at the site along with all associated raw water pipelines conveying water to the existing Whitmore Street Groundwater Remediation Facility (WSGRF) located at the site in accordance with the Proposition 1 WSGRF Expansion Implementation Grant. He indicated that the term of this agreement is 10 years for a one-time fee of \$50,000.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Munoz moved to approve the Site Access Agreement with M.O.D. Holdings pending attorney review. Mr. DiPrimio seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

To Receive Comments on the Proposed 2024/2025 Fiscal Year \$12.00/Acre-Foot assessment on Those Holding Prescriptive Water Pumping Rights in the San Gabriel Basin

The Chairman opened the public hearing to receive comments. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

OTHER ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Adopt Resolution No. 24-007, a Resolution of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Imposing an Annual Prescriptive Right Assessment to Pay for The Authority Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025

Ms. Munoz moved to approve Resolution No. 24-007 Imposing an Annual Prescription Pumping Assessment. Ms. Noriega seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Discussion and Potential Action to Approve First Amendment to Amended and Restated Executive Director Employment Agreement. Prior to Board action on this item, a presentation of the salient terms of the agreement shall be stated on the record.

Mr. Padilla reported that the proposed action is to approve the First Amendment to Amended and Restated Executive Director Employment Agreement for Mr. Schoellerman's employment contract with the Authority. He noted that the sole salient term is the increase of Mr. Schoellerman's annual base salary to \$288,557 per year, per the recommendation of the ad hoc performance evaluation committee. No other changes to the Executive Director's contract are contemplated. He indicated that:

1. This is an Amended and Restated contract.
2. The base salary is increased to \$288,557 per year. This increase is equal to the 3.9% COLA approved by the Board in June.

Approve the enclosed First Amendment to Amended and Restated Executive Director employment agreement; and Authorize the Board Chairman to execute the First Amendment on behalf of the Authority.

Ms. Noriega reported that the ad hoc Committee met and reviewed Mr. Schoellerman's accomplishments and his goals for the future. She indicated that the committee felt that Mr. Schoellerman's performance was more than satisfactory. She noted that they discussed the increase that was requested, and she noted that it reflected the 3.9% COLA.

Ms. Munoz moved to approve the First Amended and Restated Executive Director employment agreement and to authorize the Board Chairman to execute the agreement on behalf of The Authority. Mr. Gonzales seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PROJECT REPORTS

Mr. Colby reported that on July 25th, the City of Monterey Park held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new Centralized Groundwater Treatment System. The new treatment facility utilizes ultra-violet advanced oxidation technology along with a liquid phase granular activated carbon polish. He stated that on August 9th the final site work for WQA's South El Monte Site Investigation Proposition 1 Grant was conducted. He concluded that next month staff will be providing an update on WQA's Round X Federal Funding Program Administration awards.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Padilla presented the AB1234 Expense Reimbursement requirements. After his review, Ms. Moreno gave a brief tutorial on the new expense sheet submission on the new WQA website.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Schoellerman reported that Congress was not in session. He noted that Congress has till the end of September to finish the Federal budget or to pass a continuing resolution.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Schoellerman provided an update on the South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU) transfer agreement from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). He indicated that the settlement funds from the EPA's cooperative agreement have run out. He reported that DTSC has indicated that they would like to enter into a similar agreement with WQA. He noted that they will continue with the current State Superfund agreement between EPA and DTSC and that DTSC will take over the operation of the SEMOU remedy projects. He indicated that DTSC has put out a letter stating that they will start paying for the SEMOU remedy projects as of September 1, 2024. He reported that the first payment of \$5.2M has been approved by the state for Prop 68 and that WQA should be receiving the reimbursement soon. He indicated that the deadline to submit a PFAS claim was August 26, 2024, and staff was working on getting that claim in before the deadline. He reported that he attended the California Groundwater Coalition earlier this month where they met with the Department of Water Resources. He reported that staff has installed a new phone system in the office. He lastly reported on some upcoming events and asked if anyone was interested in attending to contact Ms. Moreno. He also noted that he will be on vacation starting tomorrow.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

**FUTURE BOARD AND
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The next Legislative/Public Information Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

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

The next WQA Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was not held.

**BOARD MEMBERS'
COMMENTS/
REPORTS**

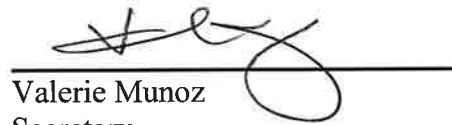
None

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 September 18, 2024.



Mark Paulson
Chairman



Valerie Munoz
Secretary