

**A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
SEPTEMBER 18, 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**

Mr. DiPrimio reported that he provided notice of his need to attend this board meeting remotely for just cause. He indicated that no one else was in the room with him during the meeting.

**ROLL CALL OF BOARD
MEMBERS**

Mark Paulson, Lynda Noriega, Valerie Munoz, Robert Gonzales and Bob Kuhn.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Ed Chavez

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**

Tony Zampielo, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster; Arrica Jimenez, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster; David Muse, Valley County Water District; Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster; Russ Bryden, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster; Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group

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

Bruce Knoles, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; Steve Kiggins, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; Jody Roberto, Three Valleys Municipal Water District; Lenet Pacheco, Valley County 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 unanimously with the following abstentions:

Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand No. E92357.
Mr. DiPrimio abstained from Project Demand No. E92358.

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 Regarding Weaver Consulting Group Assignment, Assumption, And Consent Agreement

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.

Mr. Kuhn moved to approve the Weaver Consulting Group Assignment, Assumption, and Consent agreement. Ms. Noriega seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

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 Proposition 68 grant.

Mr. Gonzales moved to approve CA Consulting Services, LLC Task Order 1 Modification 2. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Update of WQA's Federal Funding Program Administration

Mr. Colby reported that on September 26, 2022, WQA Staff initiated Round X of WQA's Federal Funding Program Administration (FFPA) 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 was \$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 \$6.4M, 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 reported that staff is planning for the next solicitation round of funding in coming months which will include the \$5.5M recent received from the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund for FY24. However, he noted that FY25 appropriation in the amount of \$7M may become available in the near term, and staff is considering if it would be more efficient to wait and open the next solicitation of funding for \$12.5M

This was presented to the full Board as information only.

**OTHER
ACTION/INFORMATION
ITEMS**

Adopt Resolution No. 24-004, A Resolution of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Expressing Appreciation and Commemorating The Outstanding Services Rendered By Anthony C. Zampiello Upon the Occasion of His Retirement

Ms. Noriega moved to approve Resolution No. 24-004, Expressing Appreciation and Commemorating The Outstanding Services Rendered By Anthony C. Zampiello Upon the Occasion of His Retirement. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: CHAVEZ

Adopt Resolution No. 24-008, A Resolution of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Expressing Appreciation, Commemorating and Inviting Public Attention to the Outstanding Services of Grace F. Napolitano Upon the Occasion of Her Retirement from the United States Congress

Mr. Gonzales moved to approve Resolution No. 24-008, Expressing Appreciation, Commemorating and Inviting Public Attention to the Outstanding Services of Grace F. Napolitano Upon the Occasion of Her Retirement from the United States Congress. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: CHAVEZ

PROJECT REPORTS

Mr. Colby reported that on September 17th, Staff held a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting for the Whitmore Street Groundwater Remediation Expansion Implementation Proposition 1 round 3 Grant. He noted that the TAC will meet again in October to discuss progress of required deliverables, including a detailed project schedule and a Monitoring and Reporting plan. He also mentioned that the staff is working on the only remaining access agreement for the Logos property.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Padilla reported that there will be a closed session.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Monares updated the board on the water bond on the November ballot and the potential for a special session regarding the high cost of fuel in the State.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Schoellerman discussed the ongoing negotiations with the Department of Toxics regarding the South El Monte Operable Unit. He reported that he gave a recent presentation to the Whittier area Y.M.C.A. Service Club. Lastly, he congratulated Tony Zampello on his retirement.

Ms. Moreno reported on the upcoming events including the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership awards gala and the La Puente Valley County Water district's 100th anniversary event.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next Legislative/Public Information Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

The next Administrative/Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 10 a.m.

The next WQA Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session Pursuant to 54956.9(d)(4) – Conference with Legal Counsel re: Initiation of Litigation (Settlement Opportunities with potential defendants) – Two (2) Matters

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION


Mr. Padilla reported that the Board met in closed session. He reported that direction was given by the Board but there was no reportable action taken.

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 in memory of Jim Clark, Margaret Clark, WQA Alternate Board members husband, until the next meeting on October 16, 2024.



Mark Paulson
Chairman



Valerie Munoz
Secretary