

**SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
LEGISLATIVE/PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 14, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kuhn called the committee meeting to order and reviewed the actions anticipated on the agenda for the meeting.

**REMOTE PARTICIPATION
DECLARATION – AB 2449
[Government Code Section 54953(f)]**

None.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Robert Gonzales, Bob Kuhn and Valerie Munoz.

WATERMASTER LIASON

None.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ABSENT**

None.

**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**

Bruce Knowles, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
PARTICIPATING ONLINE**

Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group

Public Comment

None.

***Discussion Regarding Next
Advertorial***

Ms. Moreno reported that the next WQA advertorial will be in the Sustainable California publication. She stated that she and Chris Lancaster from Civic Publications have been discussing the focus for the advertorial. She stated the advertorial could be used to inform the public regarding water quality facts in the San Gabriel Basin to ensure the public that their water is safe. She noted that the story can emphasize the important role that the WQA has played in the basin. She reported that the theme of the publication is pivoting toward information regarding the current wildfires

happening in California while being sensitive to those who are affected by them. There was discussion considering tying in local reliability and resources with water issues due to the wildfires. Further discussion was had regarding the impact of wildfires, importance of clear communication and addressing the misconceptions about water resources. Emphasis was made for the need to coordinate messaging among all the agencies. After further discussion, the committee decided that WQA staff continue with its focus for this advertorial.

Legislative Activities/Reports

State

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the state is now focusing their attention on the wildfires. Additionally, he indicated that the Governor's draft is out for review.

Federal

Mr. Monares reported that U.S. Senators Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla have been appointed to the Environment and Public Works Committee, which can be beneficial to the WQA. He stated that there are a lot of new members in the senate, assembly and Congress. He reported that Congresswoman Laura Friedman has expressed interest in working with our agency and helping out with the water issues in Southern California. He reported that he has been in contact with State Senator Sasha Rene Perez's Chief of Staff to schedule a briefing and project tour.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Schoellerman gave an update on the Federal Funding Program Administration application process which ends on January 30th. He reminded the committee that the application process was opened in November and an informational webinar was held in December. He reported that no applications have been received as of yet and that staff has been discussing extending the application period in light of the recent events effecting Southern California and to allow for more time to see if we can include the \$7M proposed in the FY 25 budget, if approved. The committee expressed their agreement to extend the period due to current events. Mr. Schoellerman reported that in order to extend the time, it would need to go to the full Board for approval

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the 406-Plan will come before the board at January's board meeting to open the public comment period. He stated that it would not be included in the agenda packet but would be sent out the Monday or Tuesday prior to the meeting.

Mr. Kuhn commented that staff should consider including some facts in the upcoming advertorial regarding the fire retardant in use to clear up any misinformation and confusion

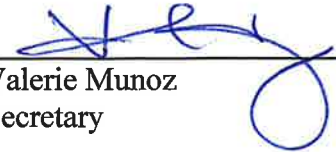
with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Mark Paulson
Chairman



Valerie Munoz
Secretary