

**SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 11, 2025 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, Robert DiPrimio and Mark Paulson
WATERMASTER LIASON	None.
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT	None.
OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	None
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Randy Schoellerman, Executive Director; 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 Knoles, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ONLINE	None.
REMOTE PARTICIPATION DECLARATION – AB 2449 [Government Code 54953(f)] a. Notification of Just Cause b. Emergency Circumstances Requests	None.
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
<i>Discussion Regarding Public Comments on the Draft 2025 §406 Plan</i>	Mr. Schoellerman reported that comment period for the Draft 2025 §406 Plan ends on Tuesday, February 18 th . He stated that no comments were received thus far. He stated that the Draft 2025 §406 Plan will be brought before the board for approval at the February 19 th Board meeting.

***Discussion Regarding
Administrative Procedure No. 42,
Fees for the Pursuit of, and the
Obtaining and Securing of
Funding***

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the WQA's Administrative Procedure No. 42, approved by the Board on April 21, 2021, establishes a service fee to support WQA's efforts in securing various sources of funding, including Prop 68 funds. He explained that the purpose of this policy is to recover costs, promote financial sustainability, and stabilize the assessment. Additionally, the intent is to ensure that the expenses incurred by WQA in obtaining funding are offset by those who directly benefit from the funding. The fee is set at a maximum of 5% of the total funding received by each producer. In accordance with the policy, WQA staff reviews the fee annually based on the prior calendar year's funding and would send out invoices to producers that had received funding in 2024.

After some discussion, the committee requested additional information regarding the process for collecting the fees and impacts to the WQA budget. Mr. Schoellerman indicated that staff would provide that information to the committee at its March meeting.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Mr. Schoellerman updated the committee that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Phase 1 of hazardous waste removal was currently underway in cleaning up the waste from the Eaton Fire. Phase 2 debris removal was set to start today by the Army Corps of Engineers.

He reported on the concerns that were raised on the lack of outreach to the community informing the public that the waste was going to be taken to a staging area at Lario Park in Azusa. It was noted that while the removal was implemented quickly, there was a missed opportunity to engage with local residents and stakeholders before proceeding. Coordination efforts are currently underway with Watermaster to address concerns related to the groundwater recharge areas and ensure that all necessary precautions are being taken moving forward. He noted that WQA Director Gonzales was active in the public discussions addressing basin water quality interests along with his role as the Mayor of Azusa.

Mr. Schoellerman reported on the progress of the tree removal at the Logo's Evangelical property which is located at the Whitmore Street project site. He noted that recent wind events cause the tree to be uprooted and lay against an adjacent building without causing damage. He stated that an arborist was required to survey and report to the City of El Monte before the tree removal could start. He explained that these requirements were due to the height and diameter of the tree and because this tree was tagged and on record at the city. Staff was in the process of securing a contractor to remove the tree.


Mr. Schoellerman reported on the ongoing discussion about the South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU) and the transfer of the projects from the EPA to the Department of Toxic

Substances Control (DTSC). He stated that the efforts are ongoing to establish an acceptable funding agreement with DTSC to cover the costs of operating the remediation systems consistent with the SEMOU Interim Record of Decision. He stated that there are new budget concerns by DTSC because the state is facing budget shortfalls.

ADJOURNMENT

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


Lynda Noriega
Chairwoman


Valerie Munoz
Secretary