

**A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY  
JANUARY 22, 2025, AT 12:00 P.M.**

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<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	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.
<b>REMOTE PARTICIPATION DECLARATION – AB 2449</b>	None
<b>ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS</b>	Mark Paulson, Lynda Noriega, Valerie Munoz, Robert Gozales, Bob Kuhn and Ed Chavez.
<b>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	Robert DiPrimio
<b>STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	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
<b>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT</b>	Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group
<b>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT PARTICIPATED VIA ONLINE/TELECONFERENCE</b>	Bruce Knowles, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; Jody Roberto, Three Valleys Municipal Water District; Lenet Pacheco, Valley County Water District
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	None.
<b>ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED</b>	None.
<b>ELECTION OF OFFICERS</b>	<p>Mr. Kuhn commented that back when the Producer members were first added to the WQA Board, there was an understanding that a Producer member would not be appointed to Chairman due to concerns raised about the optics of a producer receiving funds from the WQA while holding a leadership position on the Board. He also acknowledged the benefits of the WQA to the water districts and cities, including Three Valleys Municipal Water District, and suggested that the WQA Chairperson should be held by one of the five elected representatives from the cities or water districts.</p> <p>Mr. Padilla commented that the water code appendix, which governs the selection of officers, makes no distinction</p>

regarding the stakeholder interest of the selected individual. He emphasized in regards to voting on the WQA Board, that to approved the collection of the assessment, a simple majority is not enough and at least one representative from each major stakeholder group must vote in the affirmative. He clarified that this was not a veto power, but rather a super majority requirement.

Ms. Noriega clarified, regarding her position on the WQA Board, and noted that she represents all of the water producers in the Basin and not just California Domestic Water Company.

Mr. Kuhn expressed his appreciation for the knowledge and expertise of the Board Members and their role in moving the WQA forward.

After discussion, Ms. Munoz moved to appoint Ms. Noriega as Chairwoman. Mr. Paulson seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: PAULSON, NORIEGA, MUNOZ, GONZALES, CHAVEZ

NO: KUHN

ABSENT: DIPRIMIO

Mr. Kuhn moved to appoint Mr. Gonzales as Vice-Chairman. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: DIPRIMIO

Ms. Munoz moved to appoint Mr. Kuhn as Treasurer. Mr. Paulson seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: DIPRIMIO

Mr. Paulson moved to appoint Ms. Munoz as Secretary. Mr. Kuhn seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: DIPRIMIO

**APPOINTMENT OF  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

After brief discussion, Ms. Noriega requested to keep the Committee Members the same as the previous year and appointed the following Committee Members:

Administrative/Finance Committee- Noriega, Paulson,  
DiPrimio

Legislative/Public Information Committee – Munoz, Gonzales,  
Kuhn

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mr. Kuhn moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Mr. Gonzales seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously with the following abstentions:

Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand No. E92494.

**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.

***Adopt Resolution 25-001,  
Authorizing the Extension of the  
Contract with BMO Bank and  
Authorizing Board Officers to  
Contract for Service and Establish  
Accounts with BMO Bank***

Ms. Saenz reported that BMO Bank is now requesting that WQA enter into an agreement for an additional 12 months through December 31, 2025. In return, BMO Bank will retain the existing fee structure and maintain the Earnings Credit Rate (ECR) rate at .60 basis points. She noted that if WQA cannot commit to the twelve-month extension, the ECR rate will be reduced to .40 basis points, and the account transaction fees will most likely be increased. In order to extend the contract term and maintain the ECR rate and fee structure, BMO Bank is requiring a resolution from the WQA.

Mr. Paulson moved to adopt Resolution No. 25-001, Authorizing the Extension of the Contract with BMO Bank and Authorizing Board Officers to Contract for Service and Establish Accounts with BMO Bank. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

NO: None.

ABSENT: DIPRIMIO

***Report on Cash and Investments –  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2024***

Ms. Saenz reported that WQA holds its investment funds at the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF). The LAIF quarterly rate for October to December 2024 is 4.62%, with interest earned totaling \$87,796 for the quarter. She noted that WQA holds its cash funds at BMO Bank. Funds held at BMO exceed the FDIC insured limit of \$250,000. She indicated that all funds in excess of the FDIC limits are collateralized by BMO in accordance with California Government Code Title 5, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 4, Article 2 – Deposit of Funds. She reported that BMO interest on the Money Market (MM) account for October 2024 is 4.0%, a reduction from 4.5% which had previously been negotiated with BMO Bank. The rate was further lowered to 3.812% for November and December, which reduces the interest to a rate lower than LAIF. Per discussions with BMO representatives, the rate cuts are tied to cuts in the Fed rate. Accordingly, WQA transferred \$3M from the MM to LAIF on December 13, 2024. She noted that interest earned for the 3 months of October, November and December totals \$158,752.

**OTHER  
ACTION/INFORMATION  
ITEMS**

***Draft San Gabriel Basin  
Groundwater “406 Plan” for 2025***

Mr. Schoellerman reported that Section 406 of WQA’s enabling act requires the WQA to develop and adopt a basinwide groundwater quality management and remediation plan. The plan includes a characterization of the contamination, a comprehensive cleanup plan, a summary of financing available, a description of public outreach efforts and a discussion about the authorities of other agencies that WQA interacts with to facilitate the basin cleanup effort. He noted that each year staff updates the §406 Plan and releases it for public comment prior to the Board adopting it.

Mr. Colby provided a brief summary of the updates that were made to the 2025 draft plan. He indicated that staff was recommending to open a 27-day public comment period to receive comments on the plan.

***Open of 27-day Public Comment  
Period***

Ms. Munoz moved to open the 27-day public comment period for the draft plan. Mr. Gonzales seconded the motion and it was approved.

***Discussion/Action Regarding  
Federal Funding Program  
Administration (FFPA) Round XI  
Extension***

Mr. Colby reported that On November 20, 2024, the WQA Board approved the revised guidelines and authorized staff to solicit proposals for WQA’s Federal Funding Program Administration (FFPA) Round XI. He noted that the solicitation period for Round XI was approximately two

months starting November 25, 2024, and ending January 30, 2025. He reported that in light the current wildfire events affecting the region, WQA staff is recommending extending the solicitation period and additional 28 days with a revised end date of February 27, 2025. He indicated that the current \$5.5M available is unchanged with the possibility of more depending upon the timing of the conclusion of the current federal appropriations process.

Mr. Paulson moved to approve the extension of FFPA Round XI solicitations to February 27, 2025. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion and it was approved.

## **PROJECT REPORTS**

Mr. Colby reported staff continues to assist with the transfer of the South El Monte Operable Unit operations from EPA to DTSC. He noted that EPA would still responsible for rehabilitating and maintaining the existing monitoring well networks, conducting annual five-year reviews, and developing a final remedial action plan. He also mentioned the ongoing negotiations with Aerojet for the operation of the Whitmore project.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

None.

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

None.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Schoellerman reported that there was an upcoming meeting with Congressman Cisneros to discuss the riverbed issues. He congratulated Ms. Noriega on her appointment to Chairwoman. He last made note of the new look of the Board agenda and thanked staff for the updated look.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

## **FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The next Legislative/Public Information Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

The next Administrative/Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 10 a.m.

The next WQA Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

A closed session was not held.

## **BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS/ REPORTS**

Mr. Kuhn thanked the pervious WQA officers for their work on the WQA Board.

Ms. Munoz thanked Mr. Paulson for his leadership as WQA Chairman.

Mr. Paulson thanked the Board for their support as he served

as the WQA Chairman.

Mr. Gonzales thanked all of the Board Members for their service to the WQA Board. He also reported that he would be attending a meeting with Congressman Cisneros to discuss the issues in the river bed on January 29, 2025 at 10am at Durate City Hall.

Ms. Noriega thanked the Board for their vote of confidence as the 2025 WQA Chairwoman.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chairwoman 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 February 19, 2025.

  
Lynda Noriega  
Chairwoman

  
Valerie Munoz  
Secretary