

**SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY  
LEGISLATIVE/PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 11, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.**

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<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Mr. Kuhn called the committee meeting to order and reviewed the actions anticipated on the agenda for the meeting.
<b>REMOTE PARTICIPATION DECLARATION – AB 2449 [Government Code Section 54953(f)]</b>	None.
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Bob Kuhn, Robert Gonzales and Valerie Munoz.
<b>WATERMASTER LIASON</b>	None.
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	None.
<b>OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	None.
<b>STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	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
<b>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT</b>	Bruce Knoles, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
<b>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATING ONLINE</b>	Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group; Chris Lancaster, Civic Publications; Lenet Pacheco, Valley County Water District; Steve Kiggins, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
<b><i>Public Comment</i></b>	None.
<b><i>Discussion Regarding Next Advertorial</i></b>	Ms. Moreno shared the California Water Special Edition publication digital version with the committee members. In reviewing the digital publication, she reported that WQA is planning to meet with a video team next week to discuss more content for upcoming digital publications. Mr. Lancaster reported that an email blast of the California Water Special Edition will be sent out to 50K people today. He stated that another email blast would be sent out to 320K LA Times subscribers each on Wednesday and Thursday. The digital publication has the potential of 700K views.

Ms. Moreno reported that the next publication will be the Civic Leadership coming out in the first week of March. She stated that the topic for that publication will be highlighting the WQA's relationship with regulatory agencies, specifically with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), focusing on the South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU) Interim Remedy Project. Mr. Schoellerman reported that the purpose of this was to focus on the DTSC's funding responsibilities now that they have taken over the SEMOU oversight from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

### ***Legislative Activities/Reports***

#### **State**

Mr. Monares reported that the deadline for new bills to be submitted to the state is on February 21<sup>st</sup> and that he is waiting for the list to be submitted.

Ms. Moreno reported that Three Valleys Municipal Water District is asking for support on AB259-Open Meetings: local agencies: teleconferences, regarding remote participation to eliminate the sunset date.

#### **Federal**

Mr. Monares reported that the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund is currently being put on hold for review by the current presidential administration.

Mr. Schoellerman noted that the Continuing Resolution (CR) ends on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The proposed budget will need to be passed for the restoration funds to be available or the CR will need to be extended again.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Schoellerman updated the committee that the EPA Phase 1 of hazardous waste removal is currently underway in cleaning up the waste from the Eaton Fire. Phase 2 is 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 these concerns and ensure that all necessary precautions are being taken moving forward.

Mr. Gonzales expressed his disappointment in the lack of communication by the county to the local elected officials regarding the staging location site for the hazardous waste.

He noted that his biggest concern is what happens to the communities after the cleanup is complete and if contaminants are discovered. He stated that the three cities, Azusa, Irwindale and Duarte are seeking a performance bond as a safe guard for that reason.

Mr. Schoellerman reported on the progress of the tree removal at the Logo's Evangelical property located at the Whitmore site project. 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 working to secure a contractor to remove the tree.

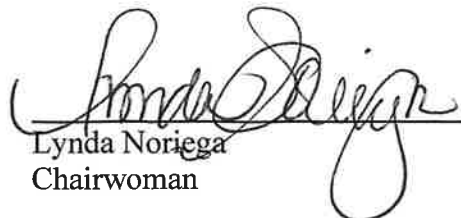
Mr. Schoellerman reported on the ongoing discussion about the SEMOU and the transfer of the projects from the EPA to the DTSC. He stated that the efforts are ongoing to establish an acceptable funding agreement with DTSC to cover the costs of operating the remedy projects consistent with the SEMOU Interim Record of Decision. He stated that there are new budget concerns by DTSC because the state is facing budget shortfalls.

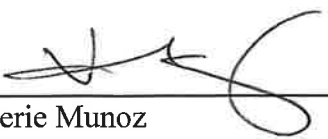
Ms. Moreno informed the committee of two upcoming events. On March 4th, the Golden State Policy Summit in Sacramento hosted by The Gualco Group and on March 20th, the Economic Forecast hosted by the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership.

Mr. Kuhn discussed that the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) was considering to eliminate water agency positions on their board. He stated that Three Valley Municipal Water District was considering an associate level membership and if it would continue to be beneficial to their district. He noted that Upper District was considering the same option. The consensus was that the membership would not be benefit their agencies if they would not have a seat at the table. Mr. Gonzales stated that he did not believe that SGVCOG was going to eliminate those agency positions.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kuhn 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