

**A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
FEBRUARY 19, 2025, AT 12:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER	The Chairwoman 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	None
ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS	Lynda Noriega, Robert Gozales, Valerie Munoz, Bob Kuhn, Mark Paulson, Ed Chavez and Robert DiPrimio.
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	None.
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	Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group; Chris Lancaster, Civic Publications; Jennifer Santana, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT PARTICIPATED VIA ONLINE/TELECONFERENCE	Bruce Knowles, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; Jody Roberto, Three Valleys Municipal Water District
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED	None.
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. E92522 and Mr. DiPrimio abstained from Project Demand No. E92523.
COMMITTEE REPORTS	
<i>Legislative/Public Information Committee Report</i>	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.

Draft San Gabriel Basin Groundwater Quality Management and Remediation Plan “§406 Plan” for 2025

Presentation on Comments Received

Mr. Colby reported that on January 22, 2025, the Board authorized staff to release the Draft §406 Plan for 2025 for a 27-day public comment period ending February 19, 2025. He noted that staff posted notices of the public comment period in La Opinion on January 29, 2025 and the San Gabriel Valley Tribune on January 30, 2025, as well as the WQA’s website. He indicated that no comments have been received at this time. Therefore, staff was recommending adoption of the §406 Plan for 2025.

Adopt Plan for 2025

Ms. Munoz moved to adopt the San Gabriel Basin Groundwater Quality Management and Remediation Plan “§406 Plan” for 2025. Mr. Chavez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

OTHER ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Discussion/Action Regarding the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Annual Membership Renewal

Ms. Moreno reported that the WQA has a Leader Level Membership with San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership and the annual renewal amount of \$20,000 is discounted from the regular price of \$25,000. She indicated that WQA’s membership has been beneficial in putting the WQA’s issues out in front of the community by allowing the WQA to participate in local events with local and state legislators. She noted that it also gives the WQA a seat on the Board of Directors.

Approve Renewal for 2025 Approve Demand No. E92523

Mr. Gonzales moved to approve the annual renewal for 2025 and to approve Demand No. E92523. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

PROJECT REPORTS

Mr. Colby reported that staff opened Round XI of the Federal Funding Program Administration (FFPA) on November 25th. He noted that the application period was originally from November 25, 2024 to January 30 2025 however, the deadline was extended to February 27, 2025. He stated that seven applications have been received so far and that staff would be sending another reminder of the upcoming deadline on Thursday, February 20, 2025. He informed the Board that the applications would be reviewed and award recommendations would be brought to the Administrative Finance Committee in

April.

Mr. Colby reported on the progress of the tree removal at the Logo's Evangelical property which is located at the Whitmore Street Groundwater Remediation Facility project site. He noted that recent wind events cause the tree to be uprooted and lay against an adjacent building. He stated that an arborist was required to survey and amend a report to the City of El Monte before the tree removal could start. He stated that bids were received and the cost would be \$9,500. He reported that the work was scheduled to begin on Saturday, February 22nd and that he would be there to oversee the removal.

Mr. Colby reported on WQA's Prop 1 Round 3 Whitmore Street Groundwater Remediation Facility Expansion Project, and stated that staff will be planning a Technical Advisory Committee meeting in mid-February to discuss and approve an updated project schedule along with the Quality Assurance Protection Plan, Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Schoellerman reported on the ongoing discussion regarding the South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU) and the transfer of the regulatory oversight of the remedy 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 budget concerns by DTSC because the state is facing budget shortfalls. He noted that staff has not received the agreement language since the amount has not been established.

Mr. Schoellerman updated the Board on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Phase 1 of hazardous waste removal from the Eaton Canyon Fire that was currently underway at Lario Park and should be completed within the next 10 days. The Army Corps of Engineers has begun Phase 2 debris removal and the debris will be taken directly to the landfill.

Mr. Schoellerman reported that he attended a meeting for the Coalition for Environmental Protection, Restoration and Development (CEPRD) last week to discuss direct potable water and 97-005. He noted that in attendance was the State Water Quality Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW), Division of Water Quality, , the Sanitation District,

Orange County Water District, and other agencies.

Mr. Schoellerman informed the Board that he would be attending the California Groundwater Coalition (CGC) Lobby Day in Sacramento, March 3-4, 2025. He noted that the Golden State Policy Summit/Welcome Back Reception hosted by the Gualco Group would be held on March 4th in Sacramento as well.

Mr. Schoellerman informed the Board of the upcoming items that staff will be presenting to the committees and Board for review and approval. He noted that the first draft of the Budget for FY 25/26 along with the updated projections will be presented at the March Administrative/Finance Committee. He noted that the Audit for FY 23/24 will be presented to the Board for approval at the March Board meeting. He reported that the review of Policy No. 42 was brought to the Administrative/Finance Committee in February and that questions were raised. He stated that staff is currently working to address those questions and will bring the policy to the committee in March.

Mr. Schoellerman reported that staff is working on scheduling a trip to DC to meet with Legislators the 1st week of April. He stated that currently there are no appropriations updates.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

The next WQA Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 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 and all members were present. He reported that direction was given by the Board and that an addendum was approved to update to the agreement with special counsel from Kennedy & Madonna, LLP to Law Office of Kevin Madonna, PLLC.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS/ REPORTS

Mr. Gonzales thanked Mr. Schoellerman with all his help in the issues with the hazardous waste disposal issues from the recent Eaton fires that is taking place at Lario Park.

Mr. Chavez congratulated Ms. Noriega as Chairwoman of her first meeting at the WQA. He also acknowledged President

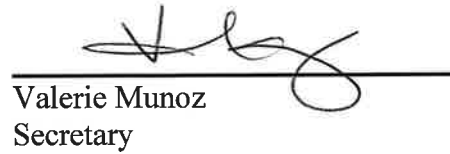
Santana of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District who was in the audience.

Ms. Noriega reiterated Mr. Gonzales's thanks to Mr. Schoellerman for his for his help and stated that the removal of the hazardous waste from the fires is an important issue to keep the water clean.

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 March 19, 2025.


Lynda Noriega
Chairwoman


Valerie Munoz
Secretary