

**A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
NOVEMBER 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, Bob Kuhn, Valerie Munoz, Mark Paulson, Ed Chavez and Robert DiPrimio.
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Robert Gonzales
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Randy Schoellerman, Executive Director; Dan Colby, Assistant Executive Director/Senior Project Manager; Stephanie Moreno, Director of Communications/Board Relations; Mary Saenz, Director of Finance; Pearl Escobar, Project Resource Specialist; Jackie Montgomery, Accounting Specialist; Michelle Sanchez, Senior Administrative Assistant/Office Coordinator
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT	Chris Lancaster, Civic Publications; Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group; Josh Swift, San Gabriel Valley Water Company
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT PARTICIPATED VIA ONLINE/TELECONFERENCE	Bruce Knoles, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; Jennifer Santana, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED	None.
CONSENT CALENDAR	<p>Ms. Moreno reported that there was a correction on the project demands No. E92796. The correct amount is \$59,132.14 which was a difference of \$0.03.</p> <p>Mr. Paulson moved to approve the consent calendar as revised. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously with the following abstentions:</p> <p>Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand No. E92799; and Mr. DiPrimio abstained from Project Demand Nos. E92776, E92793 and E92800.</p>

COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Legislative/Public Information
Committee Report* None.

*Administrative/Finance Committee
Report* None.

**OTHER
ACTION/INFORMATION
ITEMS** None.

PROJECT REPORTS

Mr. Colby reported that on October 29th, the Division of Drinking Water updated their PFAS notification and response levels for four compounds, PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS and PFHxA. He reviewed the updates as follows:

- PFOA
 - Notification Level = 4.0 ppt (previously 5.1 ppt)
 - Response Level = 10 ppt (no change)
- PFOS
 - Notification Level = 4.0 ppt (previously 6.5 ppt)
 - Response Level = 40 ppt (no change)
- PFHxS
 - Notification Level = 3.0 ppt (previously 3ppt, with 1 significant digit)
 - Response Level = 10 ppt (previously 20 ppt)
- PFHxA
 - Notification Level = 1.0 ppb (newly listed)
 - Response Level = 10 ppb (newly listed)

Mr. Paulson asked Mr. Colby to explain the difference between the response level vs. the notification level.

Mr. Colby explained that the purpose of the notification level establishes a precautionary, nonregulatory, health-based advisory level, which typically represents a minimal or "de minimis" health risk and serves as an early warning indicator. He also explained that the purpose of the response level is established in conjunction with notification levels, but at a significantly higher concentration, which indicates a level at which more substantial action is needed to reduce public exposure, such as removing the well from service.

Mr. Kuhn asked about the level of health risks in the drinking water of 1-cup of water versus 70,000 gallons for that water.

Mr. DiPrimio explained that the health risk is at its lowest. He also noted that the science is based on, as an example, if one drinks 7 liters a day every day for 70 years. He noted the risk assessment is a cumbersome calculation but that it's based on

the best science we have.

Mr. Colby reported that the WQA issued a Notice To Proceed to the driller on November 10th for the Whitmore Street Groundwater Remediation Facility Expansion Project. He stated that the preliminary tasks for the installation of the monitoring wells are scheduled to begin before the end of the year. He explained that the well locations will be marked and the geophysical survey completed, ensuring the project is ready to move forward at the start of the new year. He also noted that drilling is scheduled to begin in early January 2026.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Padilla reported the significant changes introduced by SB 827 are the new express requirement that “department heads” and “similar administrative officers” receive AB1234 training as well Board members.

He noted that the legislation doesn't elaborate on the characteristics that make a person a “department head” or “administrative officer”. He stated that this can be a little puzzling for small organizations like the WQA that don't really have departments in the same sense or scale that cities or even school districts do. He noted that the Executive Director and the Assistant Executive Director will need to take the training. He stated that the Director of Communications and Director of Finance would also require the training as administrative officers if not department heads. He reported that his firm does AB1234 training routinely, and would schedule any training should the board wish for him to do so.

He reported that there were other changes introduced by SB 827 including a requirement for fiscal and financial training analogous to ethics training. He stated for local agency officials who are already in the WQA's service as of January 1, 2026, they would have until January 1, 2028 to complete this training. He noted that anyone who comes into the WQA's service after January 1, 2026, however, will need to complete both the Ethics Training and the Fiscal and Financial training within 6 months - which is reduced from the 1 year window under the current laws.

He noted another change under SB 827 was that agencies with websites will need to post instructions and contact information to inform people of how they can obtain records that corroborate that officials are up-to-date with their training, specifically maintain records that indicate the following:

- The dates a local officials satisfied their training requirements; and
- The entity that provided the training.

He informed that these records have to be maintained for a

minimum of 5 years after the date of the training.

Ms. Moreno reported that on December 9th, a training is being hosted by the Fair Political Practice Commission (FPPC) regarding the Conflict of Interest Form 700 and recommended the board attend as the requirement of filing is being moved from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the FPPC.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Monares reported that the legislature is out until January 5, 2026 with the next round of bills expected to be introduced in February.

He noted that the federal government is currently working on appropriation bills.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Schoellerman reported that WQA's latest advertorial featuring the state-of-the-art advanced oxidation treatment technology upgrade to San Gabriel Valley Water Company's Plant B6 was published in the CA Water magazine via the LA Times digital subscription on November 14th. Ms. Moreno shared the digital version of the publication for the Board. Mr. Lancaster added that there were over 100,000 views of the publication.

He reported that WQA received two nominees for the election for the cities with pumping rights and asked Ms. Moreno to give an update.

Ms. Moreno reported that the two nominees are Robert Gonzales from the city of Azusa and Jeffrey Maloney from the city of Alhambra. She stated that resolutions from the City of Alhambra, City of Azusa and City of Glendora were received casting their votes for Mr. Gonzales. She reminded the board that the deadline to receive the votes is on December 16th at noon.

Mr. Schoellerman reported that on November 5th, he attended the City of Monterey Park Council meeting and the Agreement with WQA for the Operation of the South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU) Treatment Facility was approved.

He reported that the Los Angeles County Flood Control District Agreement for Baldwin Park Operable Unit (BPOU) monitoring well MW5-26 has been fully executed. He noted that the 10-year agreement required \$15M for environmental liability coverage which had been reduced from \$100M in the previous agreement.

He pointed out that the payments that were approved and ratified in the demands were issued to the City of Monterey Park, Golden State Water Company, and San Gabriel Valley

Water Company totaling \$604,000. He noted that these payments reimbursed the agencies for the period between the end of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agreement and the start of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) agreement, covering June through August 2024, when there was a gap in funding. He stated that the funds were made available from prior settlement money associated with the SEMOU, which were held in a trust for those parties. He emphasized the significant effort involved in facilitating these payments to ensure the agencies were made whole for the unfunded months between the conclusion of EPA funding and the start of DTSC funding on September 1st.

Mr. Schoellerman provided an update on the negotiations for the BPOU agreement, which expires May 2027. He noted that the water entities, led by Watermaster, have been meeting to discuss the renewal process. He reminded the board that Fred Fudacz was retained as joint legal counsel for Watermaster and WQA. He reported that Watermaster conducted modeling analyses that produced useful insights, which will help in discussions with EPA and the cooperating respondents. He stated that significant staff time is currently being dedicated to this effort as activities in this area are increasing. He noted the next step will be scheduling meetings directly with the cooperating respondents.

He reported that he authorized \$15,000 earlier this month to replace the Exchange Server, which has come to the end of the manufacture's supported life.

Mr. Schoellerman reported on the upcoming holiday schedule, with the office being closed on Thursday, November 27th for Thanksgiving and closed December 22nd through January 1st for the Christmas holiday.

He reported that Ms. Saenz's retirement date has been extended to the end of February. He noted that she will stay through the completion of the audit. He also noted that interviews for the Director of Finance position were scheduled for the following week.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Ms. Moreno reported on the upcoming events as follows:

- November 20th – Southern California Water Utilities Association Luncheon and Doctor of Water
- December 1st thru 4th – ACWA Conference, San Diego
- December 4th – San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Merry Mingle

- December 11th – Southern California Water Utilities Association Christmas Luncheon

FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

The next Administrative/Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 9 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

The next WQA Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS/REPORTS

Ms. Munoz and Mr. Paulson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

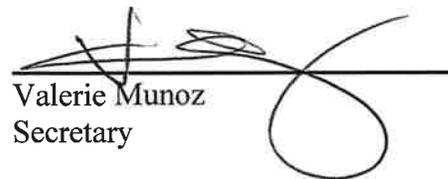
Mr. DiPrimio introduced San Gabriel Valley Water Company's Vice-President of Operations, Josh Swift.

Ms. Noriega wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked staff for their hard work in getting all grants and awards wrapped up and finalized. She also expressed her appreciation to Mary for her dedication and for extending her retirement.

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 December 17, 2025.


Lynda Noriega
Chairwoman


Valerie Munoz
Secretary