

**A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
JANUARY 21, 2026, 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, Valerie Munoz, Bob Kuhn, Mark Paulson, Robert DiPrimio, Ed Chavez and Jeff Maloney (Board Alternate).
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Robert Gonzales
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; Maritza Cardenas, Director of Finance; Jackie Montgomery, Accounting Specialist; Pearl Escobar, Project Resource Specialist; Michelle Sanchez, Senior Administrative Assistant
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT	Chris Lancaster, Civic Publications; Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group; Dana Diaz, Valley County Water District; Josh Swift, San Gabriel Valley Water Company
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT PARTICIPATED VIA ONLINE/TELECONFERENCE	Jody Roberto, Three Valleys Municipal Water District
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED	None.
ELECTION OF OFFICERS	Mr. DiPrimio recommended the slate of officers for this year as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lynda Noriega – Chairwoman• Robert Gonzales – Vice-Chairman• Valerie Munoz – Secretary• Bob Kuhn - Treasurer

Ms. Noriega asked if there were any other nominations, there being none, Mr. DiPrimio moved to approve the slate of

officers. Mr. Kuhn seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Munoz moved to approve the committee members the same as the previous year. Mr. Paulson seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously, with the committee members as follows:

Administrative/Finance Committee- Noriega, Paulson, DiPrimio

Legislative/Public Information Committee – Munoz, Gonzales, Kuhn

The Board confirmed keeping the committee meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month until further notice.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand No. E92861. Mr. DiPrimio abstained from Project Demand No. E92862.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative/Public Information Committee Report

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the minutes for the committee meeting were enclosed for review.

Ms. Moreno reported that the video for the San Gabriel Valley Water Company's (SGVWC's) Plant B6 project with Mr. Schoellerman and David Van from the SGVWC had been completed, and subsequently shared it with the Board.

Mr. Lancaster reported that the video would be imbedded in the California Water publication which will be sent to over 400,000 subscribers.

Administrative/Finance Committee Report

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the minutes for the committee meeting were enclosed for review.

He reported that the Reserve Budget Analysis had been presented to the committee and would be brought before the Board during the annual budget process in March. He noted that the analysis is a valuable tool to use mid-year when reviewing project costs.

Adopt Resolution 26-001, 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, 2026. 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 .45 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. She noted that we have not paid for any service fees since entering into a contract with BMO Bank.

Ms. Munoz moved to adopt Resolution No. 26-001, Authorizing the Extension of the Contract with BMO Bank and Authorizing Board Officers to Contract for Service and Establish Accounts with BMO Bank. Ms. Noriega seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: PAULSON, NORIEGA, MUNOZ,
MALONEY(alternate), KUHN, DIPRIMIO, CHAVEZ

NO: None.

ABSENT: Gonzales

***Report on Cash and Investments –
4th Quarter 2025***

Ms. Saenz reported that WQA holds its investment funds at the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF). The LAIF quarterly rate for October, November and December 2025 is 4.150%, 4.096% and 4.025% respectively, noting the quarterly rate has not yet been issued. She stated that at the end of December the interest rate was 4.2% with interest earned totaling \$109,429 for the quarter and LAIF balance at \$10.3 million.

She reported 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 to November 3 was 3.563%, from November 4 to December 11 was 3.313% and from December 12 to December 31 was 3.063%. She noted the drop in interest correlates to the drops in the Federal Reserve rates over the past 3 months. She stated that interest earned for the 3 months of October, November and December totals \$76,323.

Ms. Saenz reported that the total funds balance in LAIF and cash funds is \$20.3 million.

**OTHER
ACTION/INFORMATION
ITEMS**

***Draft San Gabriel Basin
Groundwater “406 Plan” for 2026***

Mr. Colby reported that Section 406 of WQA’s enabling act requires the WQA to develop and adopt a basin wide 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 roles 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 2026 draft plan. He indicated that staff was recommending to open a 28-day public comment period to receive comments on the plan.

Open of 28-day Public Comment Period

Ms. Munoz moved to open the 28-day public comment period for the draft plan. Mr. DiPrimio seconded the motion and it was approved.

PROJECT REPORTS

Mr. Colby reported staff would be hosting an El Monte Operable Unit (EMOU) Technical meeting on January 28th.

He reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be conducting their 5-year Reviews of the Operable Units. He stated that for Area 1, which includes EMOU, South El Monte Operable Unit and Whittier Narrows Operable Unit, with project tours on January 28th. He reported that the review for Area 4, which includes Puente Valley Operable Unit will be done in February. He stated staff would update the Board members once the 5-year Review reports were received from the EPA.

He gave an update on the construction of the new monitoring wells associated with WQA's Whitmore Street Ground Water Remediation Facility Expansion Grant, showing video and photos of the progress. He indicated that monitoring wells would be installed first, with work wrapping up in late February. Subsequently, extraction well construction is expected to conclude in May.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Monares stated that there were no state activity updates. He further reported that, at the federal level, the \$3.2 million appropriation to the Restoration Fund for FY26 was included in the Energy and Water Appropriations budget bill recently passed and signed into law..

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Schoellerman reported that WQA has scheduled the trip to DC for the first week of February. Traveling to DC will be Mr. Schoellerman, Chair Noriega, Vice-Chair Gonzales, and Mr. Monares with WQA's federal legislative advocate Chris

Kierig meeting the group in DC. He stated that meetings have been scheduled with legislators and committee staff members. He noted that WQA will request the full \$10 million allocation for the next budget cycle and will also seek to amend authorization language to potentially increase the funding authorization for the Restoration Fund going forward.

He reported that there was a need for closed session.

Mr. Schoellerman reminded the Board Members that in November, staff presented an update of SB 827 regarding the new express requirement that “department heads” and “similar administrative officers” receive AB1234 training as well as Board Members. He noted that the training required both the Ethics Training and the Fiscal and Financial training.

Ms. Moreno reminded the Board that their Conflict-of-Interest Form 700 filing agency for the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority had changed from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the FPPC. She noted that Board Members will continue to file with the Board of Supervisors for their respective districts and cities.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Ms. Moreno reported on the upcoming events as follows:

- January 22nd – Southern California Water Utilities Association Meeting
- January 23rd - Southern California Water Coalition Meeting, Santa Anita Race Track
- February 12th – San Gabriel Valley Water Association Breakfast, Pomona Valley Mining Company
- February 18-19th – American Ground Water Association Conference, Ontario, CA
- February 26th – Three Valleys Municipal Water District Breakfast, Kellog West Pomona
- February 28th – San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Lobby Day, Sacramento, CA

FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next Legislative/Public Information Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

The next Administrative/Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 10 a.m.

The next WQA Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 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 six members were present, Ms. Munoz was absent. He stated that there is no final reportable action.

**BOARD MEMBERS'
COMMENTS/
REPORTS**

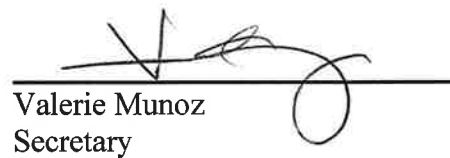
Mr. DiPrimio congratulated the slate of officers for another year serving on the WQA Board.

Ms. Noriega thanked the Board for their vote of confidence as the 2026 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 18, 2026.


Lynda Noriega
Chairwoman


Valerie Munoz
Secretary