

**SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
LEGISLATIVE/PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 11, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kuhn called the committee meeting to order and reviewed the actions anticipated on the agenda.

**REMOTE PARTICIPATION
DECLARATION – AB 2449
[Government Code Section 54953(f)]**

None.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Bob Kuhn, Robert Gonzales and Valerie Munoz.

WATERMASTER LIASON

None.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ABSENT**

None.

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS
PRESENT**

None.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Randy Schoellerman, Executive Director; Dan Colby, Assistant Executive Director; Stephanie Moreno, Director of Communications; Mary Saenz, Director of Finance; Maritza Cardenas, Director of Finance; Jackie Montgomery, Accounting Specialist; Pearl Escobar, Project Resource Specialist; Michelle Sanchez, Senior Administrative Assistant/Office Coordinator

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
PRESENT**

Bruce Knowles, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group; Chris Lancaster, Civic Publications

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
PARTICIPATING ONLINE**

None.

Public Comment

None.

***Discussion Regarding Next
Advertorial***

Ms. Moreno reported that the Annual Report was completed and a copy was provided to each committee member. She also noted that the electronic version was emailed out to everyone and was available on the WQA website.

Mr. Lancaster noted that the digital Annual Report was published in the L.A. Times and received 82,000 page views.

Ms. Moreno reported that the next advertorial publication is Civic Leadership, with a publish date of March. She stated

that discussions are ongoing regarding topics and welcome any ideas or suggestions.

Mr. Lancaster stated that for the advertorial in the Earth Day publication, he will be partnering with National Geographic and photographer Joel Sartore. He noted that the National Geographic represents the gold standard in environmental storytelling. He also reported that the advertorials coming up are Civic Leadership in March, Earth Day in April and Community Profiles to follow.

Legislative Activities/Reports

State

Mr. Monares reported that the state was back in session. He noted that the deadline for bills to be introduced has passed.

Federal

Mr. Monares reported that the recent trip to Washington, D.C. was successful. He noted the meetings were held with local congressional members and several committee representatives. He stated that positive comments were received regarding WQA's Restoration Fund appropriation requests.

Mr. Schoellerman added that despite inclement weather and a partial government shutdown, the Washington, DC trip was positive. He stated that a total of nine meetings were held, including Representatives Cisneros and Chu; staff from Senators Padilla and Schiff; Senate and House Energy and Appropriations Committees; Senate and House Natural Resources Committees; and the Bureau of Reclamation, which administers the Restoration Fund.

He stated that they thanked members for securing \$3.2 million in the FY26 Energy and Water appropriations and initiated discussions regarding the \$10 million FY27 funding request. He noted that feedback was well received and representatives expressed encouraging support.

He reported that discussions also focused on proposed amendments to the Restoration Fund, including removing the current 10-year project funding limitation and increasing the WQA's authorization ceiling from \$125 million to \$250 million. He felt that his message regarding the urgent need to eliminate the 10-year restriction resonated more effectively this year than in past years. He reported that overall, meetings were productive, well-timed early in the FY27 budget cycle, and yielded positive feedback and strengthened federal relationships. He concluded by expressing his appreciation for Chair Noriega and Vice-Chair Gonzales accompanying him and providing key perspectives on the need for continued remediation funding.

Mr. Gonzales thanked Mr. Schoellerman for his work on setting up this trip and thanked Ms. Moreno for her help with the travel arrangements.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Schoellerman provided an update on AB 35, sponsored by Assemblymember Alvarez. He stated that the bill seeks to exempt Proposition 4 water bond funds from the California Administrative Procedures Act which should expedited the release of bond funding. He stated that staff previously signed on to a group support letter for the measure. He noted that AB 35 successfully passed the Assembly by the required deadline and is now advancing to the Senate.

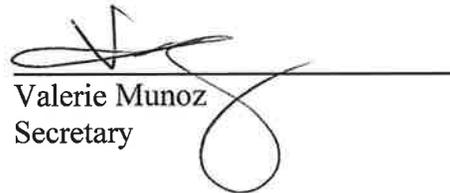
Ms. Moreno reported on upcoming events as follows:

- February 12th – San Gabriel Valley Water Association Breakfast
- May 5-7 – ACWA Spring Conference, Sacramento, CA. Registration is now open.
- March 6th – San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network Luncheon

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