

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Mr. Kuhn provided notice of his need to participate remotely for just cause.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Robert Gonzales, Valerie Munoz and Bob Kuhn (online).

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; Chris Lancaster, Civic Publications; Lenet Pacheco, Valley County Water District

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
PARTICIPATING ONLINE**

Irma Cooper, member of the public.

Public Comment

None.

***Discussion Regarding Next
Advertorial***

Ms. Moreno reported that the Community Profiles publication has been postponed to a later date. She stated, instead, the upcoming advertorial will appear in the Earth Day publication, which will be in partnership with National Geographic and is scheduled for release during the week of April 22, in recognition of Earth Day.

She reported that discussions for a potential topic, is

highlighting the Golden Mussel and the impacts it may have on the groundwater basin. She stated that it could be an opportunity to highlight the importance of protecting and maintaining the basin, as well as the need to clean up local groundwater supply. She indicated that she contacted the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and Three Valleys Municipal Water District to determine whether the other agencies are planning to cover the same topic, in order to avoid duplication.

Mr. Kuhn asked whether the Golden Mussel could be eradicated and stated that he did not believe WQA should bring this issue to the public without a clear understanding of its full impact to avoid causing panic.

Mr. Schoellerman explained that the Golden Mussel is an invasive species present statewide and is unlikely to be fully eradicated. Mr. Schoellerman noted that the Golden Mussel does not affect the water quality within the basin.

Ms. Munoz expressed support for the advertorial addressing the Golden Mussel issue as a way to educate the public.

Mr. Gonzales agreed, noting the importance of proactively informing the public about the issue.

Legislative Activities/Reports

State

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the State budget process is underway following the Governor's January budget proposal, which identified a budget shortfall. He reported that the State is adjusting its budget to address funding gaps created by reductions in federal funding, including the shifting responsibilities that were previously managed at the federal level. He highlighted a recent court decision related to the Clean Water Act and the definition of "waters of the United States." He noted that as a result of this decision, certain regulatory responsibilities that were previously overseen by the federal government may now fall to the State.

He stated that a portion of the Proposition 4 bond funds are being reallocated to help address the State's budget shortfall. He noted that while this was not the original intent of the bond, the Legislature appears willing to consider the proposal as part of ongoing budget negotiations.

He provided an update on AB 35, which WQA has supported. He stated the bill allows for guidance for Proposition 4 funding to be issued without requiring a lengthy process under the State's Administrative Procedure Act, thereby reducing administrative delays.

Mr. Schoellerman also noted that several "spot bills" related to the Golden Mussel issue have been introduced at the State

level. He noted specifically, AB 1772, has been authored by Assemblymember Papan, addresses aspects of the invasive mussel.

He concluded the report on the State and noted staff will continue monitoring state budget developments and relevant legislation.

Federal

Mr. Schoellerman updated the committee on the efforts following the WQA's Washington, D.C. trip in early February. He reported that they have been actively following up with the congressional offices visited during the trip. He stated that staff submitted funding applications requesting \$10 million to the offices of Representative Judy Chu, Representative Gil Cisneros, Senator Alex Padilla, and Senator Adam Schiff. He noted that the application process involved short submission windows, requiring timely coordination to meet the deadlines. He noted that staff secured multiple support letters to accompany the funding requests. He commended Mr. Monares for coordinating and obtaining letters of support from several organizations and elected officials, including the City of Azusa, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, the Council of Governments, the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, Senator Susan Rubio, Assemblymember Mike Fong, and Assemblymember Lisa Calderon.

He stated that work will continue on proposed language to modify the Restoration Fund, and that staff is coordinating with Representative Gil Cisneros' office as the federal appropriations process moves forward.

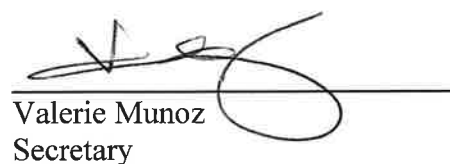
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Schoellerman noted that National Groundwater Awareness Week is being observed from March 8-14 and commended Ms. Moreno for promoting the event through WQA's social media.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gonzales 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