

**SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
LEGISLATIVE/PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE
MAY 13, 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, Valerie Munoz and Robert Gonzales.

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; Martiza 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**

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

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
PARTICIPATING ONLINE**

Mary Saenz, Saenz Consulting

Public Comment

None.

***Discussion Regarding Next
Advertorial***

Ms. Moreno reported that the next full-page advertorial will be on the recent check presentation to WQA with Congressman Cisneros. She stated that the advertorial was scheduled to run in the Los Angeles Times the following day and was in the final stages of review before submission to the newspaper.

Ms. Moreno shared the layout of the advertorial with the Committee and noted that it included QR codes linking to interview videos featuring Congressman Cisneros and Ms.

Noriega. She explained that the advertorial summarizes the purpose of the Congressman's visit, highlights the funding presented to the WQA, and emphasizes the ongoing partnership between the WQA and Congressman Cisneros.

Mr. Kuhn asked if it was allowable to include photographs of Board Directors in WQA's advertorial materials, noting his ongoing concern regarding the use of elected officials' images in promotional publications.

Mr. Schoellerman responded that the Authority's advertorials feature the full Board of Directors collectively and do not single out any individual Board member who may be seeking re-election; therefore, the practice is considered permissible.

Mr. Lancaster further clarified that, because members of the public voluntarily subscribe to receive the advertorials, the materials are considered part of a subscription-based distribution service. He noted that this applies to both digital publications and newspaper distributions.

Ms. Moreno reported that the next publication will be Community Profiles, which will cover the WQA's Annual Report. She noted that this publication will be out in July.

***Discussion Regarding Proposed
Services Provided by Civic
Publications***

Ms. Moreno reported that staff was recommending the committee review and approve proposals for a public outreach program and producing WQA's annual report from Civic Publications.

Mr. Kuhn asked if there was a need to increase the amount for videography, as the WQA's summer school education program consultant has retired, and WQA now would have more opportunities to create additional videos.

Ms. Moreno explained that there is a need to increase the proposal amount in order to expand the WQA's educational content. She noted that the additional funding would support the development of materials that could be used as educational tools and shared through the WQA's website.

Ms. Munoz and Mr. Gonzales both stated their support for an increase to the proposal for additional videography.

The committee further discussed the amount to increase the proposal with Mr. Lancaster, and agreed to an additional \$25,000, which would bring the total outreach proposal amount to \$140,174.

The committee additionally reviewed the proposal for the production of WQA's annual report for \$13,275 and recommended that both proposals go to the full board for approval with the revision as agreed to.

Legislative Activities/Reports

State

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the Governor's May budget revision was expected to be released on Friday and noted that the Legislature was continuing to advance bills through the first house process before shifting its primary focus to the state budget. He noted that the state budget must be approved by the June 15th statutory deadline.

Mr. Schoellerman stated that the Proposition 4 funding process continues to move forward. He reported hearing at the ACWA conference that the California Department of Water Resources is expected to release funding guidelines this fall, with grant application approvals anticipated in late 2027.

Mr. Schoellerman also advised that the Governor's proposed budget includes the use of some Proposition 4 funds to address state budget shortfalls. He noted that the Legislative Analyst's Office continues to project annual state deficits of approximately \$20 billion to \$30 billion over the next three fiscal years, creating ongoing budget uncertainty for the state.

Federal

Mr. Schoellerman provided an update on federal funding efforts related to the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund (Restoration Fund). He reported that Congressman Cisneros and Congresswoman Chu submitted a \$10 million funding request on behalf of the WQA. He stated that the House appropriations bill containing the request was scheduled to be marked up by the Energy and Water Subcommittee on May 15th and would then advance to the full House Appropriations Committee on May 20th. He noted that the WQA expected to learn the status of the \$10 million request in the House by the end of the following week.

Mr. Schoellerman further reported that, on the Senate side, funding requests had also been submitted through Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla for the same \$10 million amount. However, he noted that the Senate had not yet released its funding request lists or scheduled appropriations hearings, and staff was continuing to monitor developments.

The committee discussed federal advocacy efforts and the importance of ensuring that Senators Schiff and Padilla fully

understand and are familiar with the activities of the WQA in the San Gabriel Valley.

Mr. Schoellerman noted that staff and WQA consultants continue to maintain communication with the congressional and Senate staff members regarding WQA's funding needs and ongoing legislative efforts. To that end, he reported that Cisneros' office submitted WQA's Restoration Fund amendment language to the House Legislative Counsel for review.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

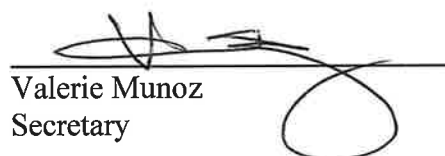
Mr. Schoellerman reported that the WQA participated at Upper Water's Waterfest on May 2nd. He thanked staff for putting together a great presentation of WQA handouts and materials, as well as items for the kids. He commended Ms. Moreno, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Montgomery and Ms. Escobar for a job well done, for the work put in and coming out on a Saturday afternoon.

He reported that WQA will be participating at the Valley County Water District's 100th Anniversary event on Saturday, May 16th.

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