

**A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY  
MAY 20, 2026, AT 12:00 P.M.**

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<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	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.
<b>REMOTE PARTICIPATION DECLARATION – SB 707</b>	None.
<b>ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS</b>	Lynda Noriega, Robert Gonzales, Valerie Munoz, Bob Kuhn, Ed Chavez and Robert DiPrimio.
<b>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	Mark Paulson.
<b>STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Randy, Schoellerman, Executive Director; Stephanie Moreno, Director of Communications; Dan Colby, Assistant Executive Director/Senior Project Manager; Maritza Cardenas, Director of Finance; Jackie Montgomery, Accounting Specialist; Pearl Escobar, Project Resource Specialist; Michelle Sanchez, Senior Administrative Assistant/Office Coordinator
<b>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT</b>	Chris Lancaster, Civic Publications; Lenet Pacheco, Valley County Water District; Josh Swift, San Gabriel Valley Water Company
<b>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT PARTICIPATED VIA ONLINE/TELECONFERENCE</b>	Bruce Knoles, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; Jody Roberto, Three Valleys Municipal Water District; Mary Saenz, Saenz Consulting
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	None.
<b>ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED</b>	None.
<b>PUBLIC HEARING</b>	
<b>Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027</b>	<p>Ms. Noriega opened the public hearing to receive comments on the draft budget for fiscal year 2026/2027.</p> <p>Ms. Cardenas reported that the FY 2026/27 Draft Budget was presented to the Board during two budget workshops held on April 15, 2026, at the Administration/Finance Committee meeting and on April 22, 2026, at the Board meeting. She stated that, following the conclusion of the final workshop, the draft budget remained open for public comment and was scheduled to return to the Board for consideration and</p>

approval at today's Board meeting. She noted that no public comments had been received. Ms. Cardenas explained that the FY 2026/27 Draft Budget was developed in accordance with the Authority's financial policies, strategic priorities, and operational needs. She reported that the proposed budget is balanced and includes conservative assessment revenue estimates and expenditure planning. The budget reflects projected assessment revenues of approximately \$2.3 million and projected expenditures of approximately \$2 million. She further noted that the proposed budget continues the \$12 per acre-foot assessment on prescriptive pumping rights for the eighth consecutive year.

There being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

**(a) Adopt Budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027**

Mr. Kuhn moved to adopt the Budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. Mr. Gonzales seconded the motion and was unanimously approved with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Noriega, Gonzales, Munoz, Kuhn, Chavez, DiPrimio

NOES: None.

ABSTENTION: None.

ABSENT: Paulson

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

Ms. Noriega abstained from Project Demand No. E92999 and Mr. DiPrimio abstained from Project Demand Nos. E92972, and E93000.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***Legislative/Public Information Committee Report***

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

***Discussion/Action Regarding Proposed Services by Civic Publications***

***a. Public Outreach***  
***b. Annual Report***

Ms. Moreno reported that the Civic Publications proposals for the public outreach advertorials and for WQA's annual report were being submitted for Board approval. She noted that at the Legislative/Public Information Committee on May 13th, 2026, the committee discussed increasing the amount for videography by \$25,000, for a revised proposal amount of \$140,174 for public outreach.

She noted that the proposal for the annual report has not increased from the prior year at \$13,275.

After discussion, Mr. Kuhn moved to approve the Civic Publications proposals. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

***Administrative/Finance Committee Report***

Mr. Schoellerman reported that no minutes for the committee meeting were enclosed because meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

**OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

***Discussion/Action Regarding Authorizing Investment of Monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)***

Ms. Cardenas reported that the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF), administered by the California State Treasurer's Office, is used by WQA to manage and invest public funds. She explained that LAIF requires participating agencies to maintain a current list of authorized individuals who may conduct transactions on behalf of the WQA and that staff is recommending updates to WQA's authorization list.

***1. Adopt Resolution No. 26-004, A Resolution of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Authorizing Investment of Monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund***

She stated that the proposed update is necessary to maintain accurate authorization records, safeguard public funds, and ensure compliance with state requirements. She explained that the update would remove a retired WQA representative from access to and authority over LAIF-related matters and add a new WQA representative. She further noted that LAIF requires formal Board authorization and updated documentation to process the requested changes and that staff will coordinate directly with LAIF to complete all required forms and certifications.

Ms. Cardenas reported that Mary Saenz had previously served as one of the WQA's authorized LAIF representatives for purposes including administration, communication, and approvals. She noted that, effective April 30, 2026, Mary Saenz formally retired and is no longer authorized to act on behalf of WQA. She explained that it is necessary to remove her authorization to maintain proper internal controls and compliance with LAIF requirements and to add herself as the new Director of Finance.

***Discussion/Action Regarding Change of Trustee for the Authority's 401(a) Pension Plan within Economic Group Pension Services***

Ms. Cardenas reported that the WQA sponsors a defined contribution Money Purchase Pension Plan under Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a) for its employees. She stated that Economic Group Pension Services serves as the third-party administrator (TPA) for the WQA's 401(a) Plan and that staff is recommending several updates related to trustee authorizations and records maintained by the TPA.

***1. Adopt Resolution No. 26-005, A Resolution of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Authorizing Change of Trustee for the Authority's 401(a) Pension Plan within Economic Group Pension Services***

She explained that the proposed updates are necessary to maintain accurate authorization records and ensure continuity of operations. She stated that the updates would remove the retired trustee's authority to access or act on plan-related matters, add a new trustee as an authorized representative,

revise the existing trustee name from Randall Schoellerman to Randy Schoellerman to be consistent with other similar documents, and ensure the proper handling of plan administration, approvals, and communications. She further noted that the TPA requires formal Board authorization and updated documentation to process the requested changes and that staff will coordinate directly with the TPA to complete all required forms and certifications.

Ms. Cardenas reported that the trustee is responsible for executing plan documents, authorizing transactions, and ensuring compliance with applicable federal and state regulations governing retirement plans. She stated that Mary Saenz previously served as a trustee for the WQA's 401(a) Plan and was an authorized representative with the TPA for purposes including plan administration, communications, and approvals.

She noted that, effective April 30, 2026, Mary Saenz formally retired and is no longer authorized to act on behalf of the Authority. She explained that it is necessary to formally designate a successor trustee to ensure continuity, oversight, and administration of the retirement plan.

***Discussion/Action Regarding  
Change of Trustee for the  
Authority's 401(a) Pension Plan  
within VOYA***

***1. Adopt Resolution No. 26-006, A  
Resolution of the San Gabriel Basin  
Water Quality Authority  
Authorizing Change of Trustee for  
the Authority's 401(a) Pension  
Plan within VOYA***

Ms. Cardenas reported that the WQA sponsors a defined contribution Money Purchase Pension Plan under Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a) for its employees. She stated that Voya serves as the custodian and recordkeeper for the WQA's 401(a) Plan and that staff is recommending updates to the trustee authorization list.

She explained that the proposed updates are necessary to maintain accurate authorization records and ensure continuity of operations. She stated that the updates would remove the retired trustee's authority to access or act on plan-related matters, add a new trustee as an authorized representative, and ensure the proper handling of plan administration, approvals, and communications. She further noted that the custodian/recordkeeper requires formal Board authorization and updated documentation to process the requested changes and that staff will coordinate directly with the custodian/recordkeeper to complete all required forms and certifications.

Ms. Cardenas reported that the trustee is responsible for executing plan documents, authorizing transactions, and ensuring compliance with applicable federal and state regulations governing retirement plans. She stated that Mary Saenz previously served as a trustee for the WQA's 401(a) Plan and was an authorized representative with the custodian/recordkeeper for purposes including plan administration, communications, and approvals.

She noted that, effective April 30, 2026, Mary Saenz formally retired and is no longer authorized to act on behalf of the WQA. She explained that it is necessary to formally designate a successor trustee to ensure continuity, oversight, and administration of the retirement plan.

Mr. Gonzales moved to adopt Resolution Nos. 26-004, 26-005 and 26-006. Ms. Munoz seconded the motion and was unanimously approved with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Noriega, Gonzales, Munoz, Kuhn, Chavez, DiPrimio

NOES: None.

ABSTENTION: None.

ABSENT: PAULSON

***Discussion/Action Regarding  
Contract for Consulting Services  
with Saenz Consulting***

Mr. Schoellerman reported that, to assist with the WQA's transition to a new Director of Finance, staff is recommending approval of a consulting agreement with Saenz Consulting to provide as-needed consulting services to the incoming Director of Finance. He explained that the purpose of the agreement is to facilitate the new Director's acclimation to the position through the sharing of institutional knowledge, insight, and operational guidance.

He stated that the proposed consulting agreement would allow WQA to continue utilizing Mary Saenz's expertise and extensive knowledge of the WQA's financial systems, policies, and ongoing initiatives. He noted that services would be provided on an as-needed basis to support matters affecting WQA, assist with the transfer of institutional knowledge, and support the Director of Finance in carrying out assigned duties and responsibilities.

He explained that the initial term of the agreement is six months, concluding on October 31, 2026. He further stated that the agreement includes an option for the Executive Director to extend the contract on a month-to-month basis for an additional six-month period, if necessary, to maintain continuity and operational stability.

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the total cost for consulting services would not exceed \$30,000 and that the expense was included in the proposed FY 2026/27 budget.

After discussion, Mr. Kuhn moved to approve the Consultant Services Agreement with Saenz Consulting. Mr. DiPrimio seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

***Discussion/Action Regarding***

Ms. Cardenas reported that the WQA currently administers

***Accounting Services with CA Consulting Services, LLC for Proposition 68 Grant Task Order Amendment 3***

two State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) Proposition 68 grants supporting treatment and remediation activities at 24 water treatment facilities over a five-year period. She explained that, on April 21, 2021, the Board approved a Task Order with CA Consulting Services, LLC (CAC) to provide accounting services related to reimbursement processing and grant submittals to DFA. The original Task Order established a completion date of April 30, 2023, with a not-to-exceed amount of \$250,000.

She stated that the Proposition 68 grant term was subsequently extended through February 28, 2026, and at its June 21, 2023 meeting, the Board approved a corresponding extension of the Task Order through June 30, 2026, to align with the revised grant timeline. She further reported that WQA anticipates an additional extension of the Proposition 68 grant deadline by DFA and, accordingly, staff is requesting approval to extend the Task Order with CAC through June 30, 2027.

Ms. Cardenas explained that Task Order Modification No. 3 also includes updates to the liaison designation, staffing, and billing rates effective May 1, 2026. She noted that the agreement would continue to maintain the existing not-to-exceed amount of \$250,000 and that all associated costs are reimbursable through the Proposition 68 grant.

Mr. Schoellerman reported that Ms. Saenz would also be working on Proposition 68 with CAC. Several Board members expressed their concern of there possibly being a conflict with Ms. Saenz working for CAC on the Proposition 68 grant. After further discussion, Mr. Schoellerman requested that the item be tabled until the following month so that staff could review it further.

***Discussion/Action Regarding Assessment for Fiscal Year 2026/2027***

***1. Adopt Resolution No. 26-007, A Resolution Setting the Hearing Date, Time and Location of the Proposed Prescriptive Pumping Right Assessment of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority***

***2. Adopt Resolution No. 26-008, A Resolution of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Setting a Schedule for Collection***

Ms. Moreno reported that Resolution No. 26-007 was to set the hearing date, time and location of the proposed prescriptive pumping right assessment for fiscal year 2026-2027. She also reported that Resolution No. 26-008 was to set the schedule of collection for the fiscal year 2026-2027 assessment.

Ms. Munoz moved to adopt Resolution Nos. 26-007 and 26-008. Mr. Gonzales seconded the motion and was unanimously approved with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Noriega, Gonzales, Munoz, Kuhn, Chavez, DiPrimio

NOES: None.

ABSTENTION: None.

ABSENT: PAULSON

## PROJECT REPORTS

Mr. Colby provided an update regarding extraction well W66 at WQA's Whitmore Project. He reminded the Board that at the previous Board meeting he reported on damage to the well casing during the well completion process, which resulted in a bulge in the casing. He stated that following discussions with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) associated with the Proposition 1 Grant, which includes representatives from the Department of Toxic Substances Control, DFA, , the L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board, WQA, and Weaver Consultants, the TAC recommended abandoning well W66 and drilling a replacement well at a different location. He explained that although repairs may be possible, the condition of the well below the damaged section is unknown and may not meet the grant requirement for a 20-year useful life. He reported that staff will work with legal counsel and review the existing contract with ABC Liovin Drilling to ensure all procedures are properly followed before proceeding with abandonment and replacement of the well.

Mr. Colby reported on a recent El Monte Operable Unit (EMOU) technical meeting attended by approximately 30 stakeholders, the largest such gathering since before the COVID-19 pandemic. He provided an update on the Westside Shallow Zone Remedy for the El Monte Operable Unit and explained that changes in groundwater flow patterns caused several original extraction wells to go dry before becoming non-operational. He stated that to address shifting groundwater conditions, the responsible parties installed seven new extraction wells and completed the associated pipeline connections to the existing centralized treatment facility at the Amatek property. He stated that the expanded system is operational and is expected to maintain containment of contamination regardless of changing groundwater levels.

He also provided an update regarding the former Crown City Plating property in El Monte. He noted that the site, historically identified as a significant contributor to groundwater contamination, had been abandoned for many years before recently being acquired by El Monte SSP Properties for redevelopment. He stated that through a Proposition 1 grant obtained in partnership with the City of El Monte, the property owners have installed 16 investigation and remediation wells at the site. He noted that testing confirmed significant concentrations of TCE and hexavalent chromium in the shallow zone groundwater. He reported that ongoing investigation and future remediation efforts are expected to address the contamination source and assist in reducing long-term remediation needs in the area. He also noted that an abandoned 800-foot extraction well on the property is planned to be properly abandoned as part of the remediation effort once additional monitoring wells are completed.

## ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

None.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Schoellerman reported that the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee reviewed and reduced WQA's current fiscal year (FY) 27 San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund request to \$5 million. He reported that Senator Padilla will be including WQA's \$10 million funding request for FY27 and noted that Senator Schiff has not released his member funding list yet.

He reported that negotiations for the Baldwin Park Operable Unit Project Agreement are progressing well and noted that insurance coverage was secured for a three-year term at a lower rate than anticipated.

He reported that the WQA had a booth at Valley County Water District's (VCWD) 100th Anniversary event and presented the Resolution adopted by WQA's Board to the VCWD Board. He commended Ms. Moreno, Ms. Sanchez, and Ms. Montgomery for a job well done, for the work put in and coming out on a Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Schoellerman reported that he would be speaking at the San Gabriel Valley Water Association Quarterly Breakfast the next day.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Ms. Moreno reported on the upcoming events as follows:

- May 21<sup>st</sup> – San Gabriel Valley Water Association Quarterly Breakfast Meeting
- May 28<sup>th</sup> – Southern California Water Utilities Association San Gabriel Valley Water Supply Tour
- June 12<sup>th</sup> – San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Legislative Networking Reception
- June 25<sup>th</sup> – Three Valleys Municipal Water District Leadership Breakfast

## **FUTURE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The next Legislative/Public Information Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

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

The next WQA Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

The Board decided to cancel all committee and Board meetings for the month of July.

**CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**RECONVENE OPEN SESSION**

None.

**BOARD MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS/  
REPORTS**

Mr. Chavez commended WQA staff on a job well done at Upper Water's Waterfest event held on May 2nd.

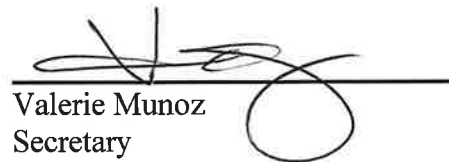
Mr. Gonzales reported that he had attending training for SB1343 and SB1234 and would email his certificates of completion to staff.

**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 June 17, 2026.



Lynda Noriega  
Chairwoman



Valerie Munoz  
Secretary