SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY
LEGISLATIVE/PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 14, 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)]	None.
COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	Valerie Munoz and Robert Gonzales.
WATERMASTER LIASON	None.
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT	Bob Kuhn.
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	Bruce Knowles, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; Lenet Pacheco, Valley County Water District
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATING ONLINE	Chris Lancaster, Civic Publications; Gabriel Monares, The Monares Group
Public Comment	None.
Discussion Regarding Next Advertorial	Ms. Moreno reported that the next advertorial will be in the California Water publication which will be released the second week of November. She proposed the theme "Protecting Our Groundwater, Protecting Our Future." She stated that the article would reinforce WQA's mission and role in the basin, explaining the importance of its work, and highlight how federal funds are used for cleanup costs. Mr. Lancaster supported the proposed theme. He recommended the advertorial show that WQA is a competent

agency, that it is fulfilling its mission with measurable results, it's plans for the future while presenting the WQA as an example of government at its best.

Ms. Munoz commented that, in recent conversations with residents, the high cost of water was a consistent concern. She suggested the messaging should emphasize WQA's role in holding responsible parties accountable for the cleanup, which helps keep costs low for ratepayers.

Mr. Gonzales agreed and suggested that, without naming specific companies, the messaging could note that some responsible parties are businesses located within local communities.

Mr. Schoellerman noted that responsible parties have paid approximately 70 percent of cleanup costs, and that the public may not be aware of those contributions. He added that a portion of the funding secured by the WQA addresses orphan sites, where no responsible party exists which also benefits ratepayers.

Mr. Lancaster also noted that if WQA did not exist, the basin would have to rely on imported water which would be a higher cost for the rate payers.

Ms. Moreno gave an update on the annual report for FY25/26, stating it is in its final stages and should be distributed soon.

Legislative Activities/Reports

State

Nothing to report.

Federal

Mr. Monares provided an update on federal funding efforts related to the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund (Restoration Fund). He reported that Congressman Cisneros and Congresswoman Judy Chu have introduced a bill to federal legislation to increase the Restoration Fund authorization cap from $125 million to $250 million. He also noted that the proposed bill would eliminate the 10-year limitation on O&M altogether.

He noted that congress is currently not in session, so the bill would not be brought before the senate and house until after the mid-term elections, which then would not be voted on until next year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Schoellerman provided an update on the Baldwin Park Operable Unit (BPOU) negotiations. He noted that all parties

have reached an agreement in principle while some of the language is being finalized. He reminded the committee that negotiations began in January 2026 and that this will be the third BPOU Agreement. He stated that the agreement is for 15 years and will be effective May 2027.

Mr. Schoellerman reported that he is participating in a Los Angeles County Water Plan Water Quality Permitting Consortium Workshop about the application of State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) Policy 97-005 to impaired water sources on November 4, 2026. He noted that DDW, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and LA County were expected to attend among others.

He noted that he will be on vacation the next week and will not be at the board meeting.

Ms. Moreno gave an update on upcoming events as follows:

- October 24, 2026 – San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Awards Gala
- October 22, 2026 – Women In Water (co-hosting)
- December 1-3, 2026 – Fall ACWA Conference

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