

**MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY BOARD
(LA GATEWAY AUTHORITY)
AT PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Authority was held on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at Noon at the Clearwater Building at 16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723.

Chair Chris Cash called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. Roll was called through self-introductions and a quorum was declared present. Chair Cash welcomed Ms. Gina Nila from Commerce and Ms. Deborah Chankin expressed support for their continued involvement and membership.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Chris Cash	Paramount
Vice Chair Adriana Figueroa	Norwalk
Secretary Desi Alvarez	Downey
Vince Brar	Cerritos
Jim Glancy	Lakewood
Mark Christoffels	Long Beach
Kevin Wattier	Long Beach Water Department
Bill DeWitt	South Gate
Charlie Honeycutt	Signal Hill
Sherwood Natsuhara (alt for Kevin Wilson)	Vernon

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Art Aguilar	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Al Cablay	Pico Rivera
Don Jensen	Santa Fe Springs
Joseph Serrano	Southeast Water Coalition
David Pelser	Whittier

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Annette Hubbell	Executive Officer
Claire Robinson	Amigos de los Rios
Deborah Chankin	Bellflower
Gina Nila	Commerce
Russ Bryden	County Flood Control / Greater LA IRWM
Shannon DeLong	Downey
Bob Dickie	South Gate
Bill Pagett	Willdan Engineering
Elroy Kiepke	Willdan Engineering

PUBLIC PRESENT:

none

ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

ITEM 4 – ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

There were none.

ITEM 5 – CONSENT CALENDAR

This item was pulled by the Executive Officer.

Executive Officer Hubbell noted that Russ Bryden asked that his affiliation be listed as representing the County Flood Control District and the Greater LA IRWM. Chair Cash also requested that the City of Paramount's representation be corrected; Mr. Len Gorecki was present at the November meeting and Mr. Cash was not. Director Charlie Honeycutt asked whether the City of Pico Rivera had voted no on the award of the Catch Basin Construction Contract to Steve Bubalo Construction and was told that Director Cablay of Pico Rivera had voted yes. [Clarification: Director Cablay voted no on the motion to reject the bid protest from West Coast Storm, but voted yes on the motion to award the Catch Basin Construction Contract to Steve Bubalo Construction.]

Director Mark Christoffels motioned to adopt the minutes, noting the changes discussed, and Director Bill DeWitt seconded. It was unanimously approved to adopt the November 12, 2009 minutes.

ITEM 6 – PRESENTATION BY MANAGING DIRECTOR OF AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS REGARDING RESTORATION OF PORTIONS OF THE RIO HONDO, TRIBUTARY TO THE LOS ANGELES RIVER

Note: this item was re-ordered and was presented after Agenda Items 7 and 9, but is presented here for clarity.

Ms. Hubbell introduced Ms. Claire Robinson, the managing director of Amigos de los Rios, who delivered a presentation regarding the organization's work in the watershed and partnership opportunities.

Amigos de los Rios was building upon the 1930s "Olmstead Vision" which promoted the protection and use of natural river parkways throughout the Los Angeles Basin. Based on this vision, Amigos de los Rios developed the "Green Lasagna" concept that capitalizes on open space opportunities by layering in multiple benefits such as stormwater best management practices, water conservation, native landscaping, and educational opportunities. The organization has also developed the Emerald Necklace Accord, which is a regional plan for parks and open space in the San Gabriel Valley.

Ms. Robinson provided an overview of several pilot projects that capitalized on multiple benefits while providing open space opportunities in the watershed. She noted that the "Three Rivers" project is an expansion of the Emerald Necklace Accord and described a water resources study that quantified the benefits of open space projects in the region.

A twelve-week "Green Collar" sustainable landscaping training program was just provided by Amigos de los Rios as part of an education campaign to promote native landscaping in watershed parks.

Ms. Robinson described several open space / multi use benefit opportunities in the LA Gateway Authority service area, including a currently undeveloped site in Downey adjacent to the Rio Hondo River and an opportunity to divert stormwater for infiltration and conservation at Hollydale Park in South Gate.

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Ms. Robinson concluded by inviting the LA Gateway Authority to join the Emerald Necklace Coalition.

Director Vince Brar asked Ms. Robinson how funding is obtained for Amigos de los Rios' projects. Ms. Robinson replied that the organization has many grant funding sources, including local conservancies, land and water conservation, local county parks grants, and in-kind donations of services, land, and personnel.

Vice Chair Adriana Figueroa asked who is responsible for the maintenance of parks after construction is completed by Amigos de los Rios. Ms. Robinson said that it depends on the project. Often, if the project occurs at an existing city park, that city will assume responsibility. But as projects have become more ambitious and developed new parklands, the organization has been able to leverage funds from sources such as CalFire that supplement maintenance costs and have helped to design new maintenance regimes.

Ms. Robinson added that there is a memorandum of understanding in the works with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks which should provide for care of new parks in the watershed.

Secretary Desi Alvarez stated that this is a good opportunity to participate in development projects, especially as they address Metals TMDLs, such as the Rio Hondo Park and Hollydale Park projects overviewed by Ms. Robinson. He stated that he anticipated all of the TMDLs could actually be addressed by the Rio Hondo Park as it involved diversion of all dry weather flows. It seems that many of the needs of the LA Gateway Authority member agencies could be met by some of the multi-use projects that are the mission of Amigos de los Rios.

Director Brar asked whether the tasks Amigos de los Rios were undertaking weren't actually the purview of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC).

Ms. Robinson replied that Amigos de los Rios receives funding from RMC, but that there are many other funding sources from which Amigos funds its projects.

Secretary Alvarez noted that the difference is that RMC is a state agency with alignment to Amigos de los Rios mission, but Amigos has tremendous flexibility since it is a nonprofit.

Director DeWitt stated that all of the cities in the Gateway region need to do something to show progress with the TMDLs because if a city does not do anything, it causes TMDL compliance problems for all cities in the region.

Director Wattier stated that he appreciates the presentation from Amigos de los Rios because it is an additional opportunity to address issues such as recycled water, native landscaping, and water conservation opportunities.

Secretary Alvarez stated that he would like Gateway to support cooperative efforts with Amigos de los Rios. Discussion ensued as to whether Directors could take action on joining the Emerald Necklace Coalition today. It was explained that a disclaimer on the agenda states "At the discretion of the Board, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated and subject to action by the Board." Secretary Alvarez motioned that the LA Gateway Authority vote to join the Emerald Necklace Coalition. Director Wattier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7 – SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED HOOVER POWER ALLOCATION ACT

Executive Officer Hubbell briefly outlined the history of the Hoover Dam Power Allocation Act, which was last reauthorized in 1984 and is scheduled for reauthorization again in 2017. This act would ensure continued access to Hoover Dam power for agencies in Southern California.

It was motioned by Director Wattier and seconded by Secretary Alvarez to support the Hoover Power Allocation Act.

Director De Witt asked whether anyone had seen what the allocation of power to each agency would be. He noted that the Metropolitan Water District was to forward the breakdown of the power allocation to him in the coming week, which he would then forward to Directors.

Ms. Hubbell noted that in Schedule D in the fact sheets distributed with the agenda packet for this meeting, it was stated that power recipients must contribute 5% of their allocation to entities that are not currently receiving power (for instance, Native American Tribes and reservations).

Noting Signal Hill's abstention, the motion otherwise passed unanimously. Staff was directed to send a letter noting our position to Congresswoman Napolitano.

ITEM 8 – CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE GATEWAY AUTHORITY CATCH BASIN PROJECT CC-004

Note: this item was re-ordered and was presented after Agenda Items 9 and 10, but is presented here for clarity.

Mr. Elroy Kiepke of Willdan Engineering distributed copies of the contractor's proposed construction schedule. He also displayed the sign required by the State Water Resources Control Board. It must be posted in every participating agency's regular posting places and the minimum size requirement is 11" by 17." He noted that this was the negotiated sign requirement, as the state funding contract requires a 4' by 8' sign at every single project site, which is impractical at 3,000 street-side catch basins throughout the lower Los Angeles River watershed.

Ms. Hubbell noted that the state is also requesting that the sign be posted on the website of every participating city and that the signs must be posted in each city for the duration of the project.

Secretary Alvarez noted that the state also would like to hold a press conference at the kick-off of the construction phase of the project.

Ms. Hubbell explained that the state is also planning to feature this project in a promotional video at the beginning of February. Ms. Hubbell requested from Willdan a list of construction materials to be used for the project. Ms. Hubbell also informed Directors that the state will need a spokesperson from the LA Gateway Authority, and that this person should be a Director.

The Board of Directors directed staff to coordinate the press conference and the state's filming of the construction project.

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Ms. Hubbell also informed Directors that the project manager from the state will also need to visit at the beginning of construction, and will probably coordinate the site visit with the press conference and filming in February.

Mr. Kiepke resumed his presentation, noting that the low-bid price allowed the Board to apportion remaining funds to project participants for the installation of Automatic Retractable Screens (ARS). He noted that the Board had prioritized funding to ensure that disadvantaged communities came as close to 100% compliance with the Trash TMDL as possible. Because of the favorable bid price, all project participants will be brought into 100% compliance with the TMDL.

Mr. Kiepke also stated that there is currently a contingency of 3.9% for the project, and that the County is now reviewing the impact of the incorporation of the Trash TMDL into the MS-4 Permits on the construction permits for county catch basins. He suggested that the Board increase the project contingency funds, which would leave \$3.5 million for ARS.

Chair Cash clarified that the items up for discussion and decision by the Board were: 1) the contingency and 2) the ARS fund distribution. The first question before the board is: Should the contingency be increased?

Secretary Alvarez stated that there should not be too many surprises in this project now that it has been bid, and stated that the contingency should be left as is.

Director Mark Christoffels asked what happens if a catch basin is damaged and needs to be repaired prior to the installation of a connector pipe screen (CPS) or ARS. Mr. Kiepke clarified that the grant cannot be used to repair catch basins.

Mr. Sherwood Natsuhara (Vernon's representative for this meeting) stated that he knows there are catch basins in Vernon where CPS cannot be installed, so there should be project savings.

It was decided by consensus that the contingency should be left at \$390,000, noting that the original contingency was \$500,000 and \$110,000 had been spent on a change order for Willdan Engineering.

Secretary Alvarez noted that the low income communities were prioritized for TMDL compliance, but this priority is a moot point because the LA Gateway Authority is going to achieve 100% compliance with the Trash TMDL for the Lower Los Angeles River. It seems logical to now distribute the ARS funding evenly among project participants.

Director Wattier asked whether all cities participating had responded affirmatively to the installation of ARS. Mr. Kiepke replied that it was unknown at this time.

Mr. Kiepke noted that the installation of an additional 3,500 ARS will require 1-2 more weeks of Willdan work.

Director Christoffels noted that there is a financial advantage to installing ARS in city-owned catch basins, because it directly reduces the maintenance costs for cities, while the county is not differentiating between ARS-installed and non-ARS catch basins, so that cities will be charged the same amount by the County either way.

There was discussion regarding a possible new agreement with the County for the maintenance of County catch basins, but no one had seen the new agreement yet.

Mr. Bill Pagett of Willdan Engineering stated that the County had sent a memo regarding the installation of CPS on county catch basins and the associated maintenance costs.

Director Honeycutt clarified that the LA Gateway Authority had received a bid to include the installation of ARS, but that the contractor did not currently know which catch basins should have ARS installed. Mr. Kiepke replied that the contractor based his bid on the installation of ARS on catch basins in high-trash areas such as commercial and industrial corridors and in high-density residential areas.

Mr. Natsuhara suggested that the LA Gateway Authority cooperate with the City of Glendale in its assertion that a law passed circa 1917 actually requires the County to be responsible for maintenance of catch basins.

Staff was directed to clarify the following items prior to the Board's next meeting:

- 1) update on the permits for CPS installation
- 2) will the contractor want additional working days due to the increased number of ARS?

Director Christoffels asked that if the Board agreed on a funding split today, Willdan should return with additional details regarding the installation at the February board meeting.

It was motioned by Secretary Alvarez and seconded by Director Christoffels that the additional funding for ARS installation be split evenly among all participating cities, except in the cities where there are fewer catch basins than available funding. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 9 – FEDERAL WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ACT (WRDA) AND DIRECTION ON FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

Shannon DeLong, City of Downey, explained that the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) provides legislation that enables the Army Corps of Engineers to undertake projects that it is not normally authorized to perform. She noted that the first step is obtaining authorization, and the second step is incorporation of authorized projects into the Corps budget, which is generally done through a federal appropriation request. Ms. DeLong explained that the opportunity to submit projects to congressional representatives for WRDA authorization came about after the November Board meeting, and that requests were due long before this January meeting of the Board. She noted that Directors were contacted individually to obtain letters of support for the project requests. The four projects submitted were reviewed and are detailed in the board letter contained in the agenda packet for this meeting, and are as follows:

- 1) Special Projects – this is a request for two studies, both the Los Cerritos Channel Metals TMDL Monitoring and Implementation plan and the Aerial Deposition Studies for the entire San Gabriel/Los Angeles River Watershed.
- 2) San Gabriel River Water Quality Project – this project would install connector pipe screens and automatic retractable screens in catch basins tributary to the lower reaches of the San Gabriel River in the Gateway region
- 3) Hollydale Park Project – this project would divert dry weather stormwater flows from the large Hollydale drain and would use the water for irrigation and infiltration at South Gate's Hollydale Park. In addition to the opportunity to expand recreational and open space at an adjacent utility easement, the project would help achieve Metals TMDL for the Rio Hondo.

- 4) Rio Hondo Park Project – this project would divert dry weather flows from the Rio Hondo at Telegraph Road into an undeveloped parcel owned by the City of Downey. The water would be used for irrigation of a park to be developed on the property, and any additional water would be infiltrated to enhance groundwater replenishment efforts.

Mr. Natsuhara asked whether the aerial deposition studies would cover the entire watershed, and was told that it would. Mr. Natsuhara emphasized the importance of this project to all cities, and asked that the LA Gateway Authority prioritize this project.

Chair Cash clarified that staff needs policy direction on the selection of projects. Executive Officer Hubbell reviewed the policy direction on legislation as follows: in the event a position statement is required from the Gateway Authority before an item can be discussed by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting, staff will review the item for historical support from member agencies and confer with the Board officers. The item should be of interest to the LA Gateway Authority and not be opposed by or in conflict with the interests of member agencies. Projects must also be regional in nature and must not be opposed by or conflict with the interests of member agencies.

Director Honeycutt suggested that there may be cases where a project is occurring in one city but has benefits that advance regional goals. Director Christoffels expanded on this, stating that is unlikely that a project would physically take place in more than one city, but this did not mean that the project would not have regional benefits. It was asked whether a project should benefit at least two communities, or more.

Chair Cash stated that a project should be of regional benefit and there be a consensus of support by member agencies (there should be no known or presumed opposition to the project).

It was motioned by Mr. Natsuhara and seconded by Vice Chair Figueroa that in the event of a deadline preventing discussion by the Board of Directors, staff is directed to submit projects that are of regional benefit provided that there is no known or presumed opposition by member agencies.

ITEM 10 – UPDATE ON LOS CERRITOS CHANNEL METALS TMDL MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Ms. Hubbell gave a brief overview of the status of the Los Cerritos Channel Metals TMDL monitoring and implementation plan, which would be developed under a memorandum of understanding between the cities and agencies subject to the Metals TMDL. Directors were reminded of their previous vote in April, 2009, to act as the facilitator and fiduciary agent for the MOA. Ms. Hubbell noted that the MOA would require participating agencies to pay 100% of the costs, and the responsibilities of Gateway and the participating agencies would be outlined in the agreement. A technical committee of affected cities is currently negotiating with the Environmental Protection Agency and would make recommendations to the Gateway Authority. The agreement is scheduled to be executed in 1-2 months and invoicing would probably not begin until fiscal year 2011. When ready, the MOA will appear before the Gateway Authority Board of Directors and will include expected costs at that time.

NON-AGENDA ITEM

Chair Cash stated that before Ms. Hubbell delivered her report, he had a non-agenda item to bring forth. He stated that it was important to celebrate and congratulate the outgoing and incoming leadership of the LA

Gateway Authority (as well as major accomplishments such as the RAP approval) and expressed his congratulations and gratitude to inaugural chair Kevin Wattier and to Secretary Alvarez and Shannon DeLong of the City of Downey, lead agency. He expressed his appreciation of Chair Emeritus Wattier's leadership and advocacy in launching the Gateway Authority and presented him with a plaque followed by applause from all in attendance.

Director Wattier thanked the Directors and said that he was honored to have been the first chair of the Gateway Authority. He is proud of the accomplishments of the Board and sees the future of California water policy modeled after Gateway's collaborative efforts. Director Wattier noted that California had spent the first part of the last century importing water, and the next 30 years saving water. He noted that the next wave is collaboration on multi-use projects, which is exactly what the Gateway Authority has been doing. He stated that cities have tremendous power to truly change water policy and implement groundwater and recycled water projects.

Chair Cash invited all in attendance to enjoy ice cream as a celebration and congratulations.

The meeting briefly recessed at 1:00 pm.

The meeting resumed at 1:35 pm without a quorum, noting the absence of Secretary Alvarez, Director Honeycutt, Mr. Natsuhara, and several guests.

ITEM 11 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Hubbell reported briefed the Board on the status of the IRWM process and distributed a map of the 46 IRWM regions contained within 13 funding areas in California. She noted that the LA Gateway Authority is one of four approved regions in the Los Angeles – Ventura Funding Area. The next phase is grant applications. Ms. Hubbell reported that in a Roundtable of Regions conference call and two workshops, DWR outlined the status of the funding process. Guidelines are expected to be released in February and are an Omnibus Package adding IRWM Plan standards and a Proposal Solicitation Package to the guidelines. Not yet determined is whether planning grant guidelines would be released concurrently with the implementation grant guidelines. Ms. Hubbell attended a workshop on current local groundwater assistance grants. Although preference is given to applicants with a groundwater plan already in place, it is a surmountable preference and would not severely handicap the Gateway Authority's competitiveness. The maximum award is \$250,000 and there is no cost share. Ms. Hubbell suggested that the Gateway could submit one project as a JPA, and that member agencies should also explore projects that they might submit on their own (noting that the projects must be different). Ms. Hubbell also distributed a packet of information detailing projects that had received funding in the past.

Director Christoffels asked whether the Gateway Authority could re-use the plan originally developed by the Los Angeles – San Gabriel Region, as long as it was updated. Staff was directed to investigate the cost and practicality of modifying this plan instead of recreating a plan from scratch.

Ms. Hubbell reported that Lester Snow has been promoted from Director of DWR to Secretary of the California Resources Agency and Mark Cowin has replaced Mr. Snow as Director of DWR (he had been deputy director of IRWM).

Ms. Hubbell reported that the California Financing Coordinating Committee (a consortium of government funding agencies) will be holding funding fairs between February and May 2010. She stated that this is primarily for agencies with projects ready-to-proceed, but it would be advantageous for staff to attend. Staff was directed to represent the Gateway Authority at a workshop.

ITEM 12 – DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS / REPORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm to Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 12 Noon in the Clearwater Building at Paramount, CA.