

**MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY BOARD
(L.A. GATEWAY AUTHORITY)
AT PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Authority was held on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at Noon at the Clearwater Building at 16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723.

Vice Chair Adriana Figueroa called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Roll was called through self-introductions and a quorum was declared present.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice Chair Adriana Figueroa	Norwalk
Secretary-Treasurer Desi Alvarez	Downey
Dave Hill (alt for Art Aguilar)	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Vince Brar (<i>arr. 12:12pm</i>)	Cerritos
Gina Nila (alt for Jorge Rifa)	Commerce
Jim Glancy	Lakewood
Len Gorecki	Paramount
Al Cablay	Pico Rivera
Ted Spaseff (alt for Don Jensen)	Santa Fe Springs
Bill DeWitt (<i>left 1:20pm</i>)	South Gate
Barbara Muñoz (alt for Charlie Honeycutt)	Signal Hill
Scott Rigg (alt for Kevin Wilson)	Vernon

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

David Pelser	Whittier
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STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Annette Hubbell	Executive Officer
Deborah Chankin	Bellflower
Abi Aderonmu	Department of Water Resources
Shannon DeLong	Downey
Bill Bennett	GEI/Bookman-Edmonston (via phone)
Russ Bryden	Los Angeles County Flood Control / Greater LA IRWM
Alex Kenefick	Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council
Frank Beach	Santa Fe Springs
Bill Pagett	Willdan Engineering

PUBLIC PRESENT:

none

ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

ITEM 4 – ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Russ Bryden, County Flood Control District, spoke on behalf of the Greater LA IRWM Leadership group, saying that there would be a leadership meeting for the Greater LA IRWM on April 28 at 9:30am at the County Public Works Building. He also stated that the next lower Los Angeles/San Gabriel Rivers subregion meeting would be on April 20 at 1:30pm at Central Basin Municipal Water District.

ITEM 5 – CONSENT CALENDAR

Executive Officer Annette Hubbell noted minor corrections to the minutes in the legislative report section. Director Desi Alvarez motioned, and Director Al Cablay seconded to approve the minutes with the following changes:

Legislative Bill AB 1793 was mislabeled as 1993 and AB 1955 was mislabeled as 1995

Noting the abstention of Director Bill DeWitt, the motion to approve the minutes with the above changes was passed unanimously.

ITEM 6 – PRESENTATION BY THE LOS ANGELES SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Alex Kenefick, Watershed Coordinator, offered a presentation regarding the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council and expressed an interest in collaborating with the Gateway Authority, (similar to past partnerships with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Greater Los Angeles Group). Highlights of their formation, governance, and activities include:

- Founded by Dorothy Green in 1996 to institute an inclusive process for the preservation, restoration and protection of the watershed. Aims to be a policy provider and innovator.
- Tom Erb of the LADWP Is incoming President (June)
- Governmental agencies provided 91% of the Council's funding over the past 4 years
- Recapture of Stormwater Runoff is a current priority:
 - o Approximately 600,000 acre-feet per year of water is lost in stormwater runoff
 - o The LA Basin Water Augmentation Study (begun 10 years ago) is a partnership between the Council, the Bureau of Reclamation, and Los Angeles. Seeking to understand safe groundwater infiltration parameters, it instituted the Elmer Avenue Retrofit Project as a pilot project (ultimately implementing an infiltration project that covers a 40-acre drainage area and can absorb the first 30 minutes of a 2-year storm event).
- Implementation of a Watershed Monitoring Program for the LA County Sanitation Districts under requirements of the SWQCB (monitor for stream health, unique conditions, water quality, sports fishing and recreational swimming).
- Promotion of *Watershed Conservation through Sustainable Landscapes*, an education program for landscapers
- Council is a member of the Lower Los Angeles – San Gabriel Rivers subcommittee and sits on the leadership committee for the Greater Los Angeles group. Signatory to the Greater Los Angeles group's Prop 84 MOU and a member of the Disadvantaged Community outreach subcommittee
- Providing Disadvantaged Community outreach to the entire watershed, which includes Gateway areas.
- Publishes a quarterly magazine, hosts quarterly watershed symposia, provides access to information, publications and studies on the Council's website

The meeting recessed briefly at 12:30 pm and resumed at 12:58pm.

ITEM 6 (cont) – PRESENTATION BY THE LOS ANGELES SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Directors and guests had questions for Mr. Kenefick, as follows:

- Deborah Chankin (Bellflower) asked whether anyone from the Gateway Region is on the Council's board of directors. Mr. Kenefick replied that the only cities currently on the board are the cities of Rosemead and Los Angeles. The Council's board is expected to be expanded with additional members from the commercial and manufacturing industries.
- Director Brar commented on the Council's intent to expand its outreach in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and asked what a partnership with the Gateway Authority would entail. Mr. Kenefick stated that the Greater Los Angeles partnership had provided match funding, ideas and input, and he also expressed the desire for good coordination in the Gateway region.
- Secretary Alvarez remarked that the Gateway region has been pursuing several water quality projects, including one in partnership with Amigos de los Rios, and that these types of collaborations might also be a good opportunity for cooperation with the Council.

ITEM 7 – STATUS REPORT ON GATEWAY AUTHORITY CC-004 - CATCH BASIN PROJECT

Executive Officer Annette Hubbell reported that there was no start date yet for construction. She announced that there had been progress on approvals for the Connector Pipe Screens (CPS) and that the County had agreed in conversations to waive the inspection fees, but that had not been formalized in writing. It was mentioned that the County is a significant beneficiary of the project, with more than 7,000 County catch basins set to be retrofitted and brought into compliance with the Los Angeles River Trash TMDL. It was asked whether costs for maintenance had been announced by the County, and the directors were informed that no costs were available yet.

ITEM 8 – PROPOSAL FROM GEI CONSULTANTS FOR PREPARATION OF AN IRWM PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Bill Bennett of GEI Consultants (formerly Bookman-Edmonston) participated in the conversation via the conference call line. Ms. Hubbell reminded Directors that GEI Consultants had been retained in late 2007 to develop an application for an IRWM planning grant, but those funds had been redirected (board approved) to fund DWR's Region Acceptance Process (RAP).. However, Ms. Hubbell noted that a good portion of the requirements for a planning grant were included in the RAP application, and thus there is less work to be done on a planning grant than would have been required had the RAP application not been prepared.

Ms. Hubbell distributed the proposal from Mr. Bennett and asked the board to grant approval for the scope of work and the estimated costs. Director Jim Glancy motioned, and Director Al Cablay seconded, to approve the contract for professional services with GEI Consultants. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of additional costs that may be incurred when DWR finalizes the IRWM planning grant guidelines. It was unanimously approved to authorize the Executive Officer to enter into a contract with GEI Consultants in the amount of \$22,000, and at her discretion, to increase the contract amount up to an additional \$10,000 should the final guidelines warrant additional work.

ITEM 9 – STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS PACKAGE

Secretary Alvarez reminded Directors that four projects of regional significance had been developed and pursued by the Gateway Authority, as follows:

- 1) Special Studies (including Aerial Deposition in the Watershed and Metals in the Los Cerritos Channel)
- 2) Gateway Cities Stormwater Clean-Up Project (installation of CPS, ARS, and sponge filters in storm drains throughout the lower San Gabriel and Los Angeles River watershed)
- 3) Rio Hondo Water Quality and Parkland Improvements Project
- 4) Hollydale Water Quality and Parkland Improvements Project

The project gaining the most support from federal representatives was the Gateway Cities Stormwater Clean-Up (Item #2). The full project was estimated at more than \$44 million, to be phased in over four years. Directors were cautioned that the full funding of the project is unlikely, but that partial funding would probably be approved sometime in late 2010 or early 2011. Directors were asked for letters of support; a draft letter would be sent for convenience.

ITEM 10 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

a) Legislative Report

Ms. Hubbell reviewed the current legislation placed on a Watch Position at the April meeting:

- AB1594 - prohibits construction of a peripheral canal without express legislative authorization
- AB 1793 - allows artificial turf in common areas
- AB 1774 - allows residential use of recycled water, and appears to move responsibility away from DPH
- AB 1955 - expands the definition of incompatible offices
- AB 2092 - requires the Delta Stewardship Council to develop a long term financing plan to pay for the costs of implementing the Delta Plan
- SB 918 - requires DPH to develop and adopt uniform water recycling criteria for indirect potable water reuse, and investigate the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse)
- SB 991 - authorizes moving \$569 million in disaster preparedness funds to DWR for IRWM water reliability, interregional, Delta flood control and natural community conservation planning projects

Currently only SB 918 is set for hearing (April 19).

b) IRWM Grant Guidelines Comment Letter

Ms. Hubbell informed Directors that she was awaiting a response from DWR with regard to their interpretation of AB 1420 (Water Conservation) requirements and the effect those requirements would have on the eligibility of the Gateway members and the JPA itself. Other aspects of the Gateway Authority’s comment letter on the IRWM guidelines would include requesting a reduction of the required 50% match for planning grants. It is the intent of the Gateway to coordinate comments with the other regions of the Los Angeles Funding Area (Greater LA, Ventura, Upper Santa Clara) The Executive Officer asked for the board’s consensus to allow the Chair to sign the comment letter.

c) Strategic Growth Council Grant

Directors were reminded that this item was previously discussed at the March 11 Board meeting, and directors supported the submittal of applications to the grant program provided that no matching funds

were required. Because of the goals of the funding program, the board set priority for the projects was as follows:

1. Rio Hondo Water Quality and Parkland Improvements Project
2. Hollydale Water Quality and Parkland Improvements Project
3. Special Studies
4. Gateway Cities Stormwater Clean-Up Project

d) Other

Ms. Hubbell announced that Debra Mann, Deputy General Manager for the Metropolitan Water District, will attend the May meeting and make a presentation on MWDs proposed joint replenishment study

ITEM 11 – DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS/REPORTS

Secretary Alvarez stated that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Gateway Authority and those cities impacted by the Los Cerritos Channel Metals TMDL had been under development for several months, and that the participating cities (Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, Long Beach and Signal Hill, as well as the California Department of Transportation and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works) would need to execute the MOA prior to the Gateway’s approval of the MOA at the May 13 board meeting.

Director Glancy requested a report on the pending state legislation that would expand of the definition of recycled water and remove the authority for recycled water use from the Department of Health.

ITEM 12 – ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm to Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 12 Noon in the Clearwater Building at Paramount, CA.

Desi Alvarez, Secretary

Date