

**MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY BOARD  
(L.A. GATEWAY AUTHORITY)  
AT PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA  
THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Authority was held on Thursday, July 15, 2010 at Noon at the Clearwater Building at 16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723.

Chair Christopher Cash called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. Roll was called through self-introductions and a quorum was declared present.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair Christopher Cash	Paramount
Vice Chair Adriana Figueroa	Norwalk
Dave Hill (alt for Art Aguilar)	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Mike O'Grady (alt Vince Brar)	Cerritos
Gina Nila (alt for Jorge Rifa)	Commerce
Shannon DeLong (alt for Desi Alvarez)	Downey
Jim Glancy	Lakewood
Mark Christoffels	Long Beach
Kevin Wattier	Long Beach Water Department
Al Cablay	Pico Rivera
Frank Beach (alt for Don Jensen)	Santa Fe Springs
Bill DeWitt	South Gate
Rick Olson (alt for Charlie Honeycutt)	Signal Hill
Scott Rigg (alt for Kevin Wilson)	Vernon

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Joseph Serrano	Southeast Water Coalition
David Pelser	Whittier

**STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT:**

Annette Hubbell	Executive Officer
Deborah Chankin	Bellflower
Abi Aderonmu	Department of Water Resources
Christina Dixon	Huntington Park
Alex Kenefick	Los Angeles – San Gabriel Watershed Council
Bill Pagett	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**

Director Mark Christoffels motioned to approve the minutes and Director Bill DeWitt seconded. The June 10, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved.

**ITEM 6 – ACCEPTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE CITY OF BELLFLOWER IN THE GATEWAY AUTHORITY**

Chair Christopher Cash noted that the City Council of the City of Bellflower recently approved the Joint Powers Agreement with the Gateway Authority, and noted that the decision to accept the Bellflower as a member required a supermajority vote of Directors. Director David Hill moved to accept the City of Bellflower's membership in the Gateway Authority. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Adriana Figueroa and passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the board, as follows:

Central Basin MWD	Yes
Cerritos	Yes
Commerce	Yes
Downey	Yes
Lakewood	Yes
Long Beach	Yes
Long Beach Water Dept.	Yes
Norwalk	Yes
Paramount	Yes
Pico Rivera	Yes
Santa Fe Springs	Yes
Signal Hill	Yes
South Gate	Yes
Vernon	Yes

**ITEM 7 – DISCUSSION OF GATEWAY AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES**

and

**ITEM 10c DAC OUTREACH REPORT**

Chair Cash opened the discussion regarding membership requirements of the Gateway Joint Powers Authority and announced that item 10c, Disadvantaged Communities Outreach and Advocacy Report, would be heard during the discussion of this item. In her report, Shannon DeLong (Downey) provided an overview of the disadvantaged cities and communities in the Gateway Region, noting that the average household income in the Gateway is \$44,138, or 7% less than the state household median income. Twelve of the twenty-eight cities in the region were classified as entirely disadvantaged as their median incomes are less than 80% of the state's median income. The twelve disadvantaged cities are Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Compton, Cudahy, Hawaiian Gardens, Huntington Park, Long Beach, Lynwood, Maywood, Paramount and South Gate. It was noted that 58% of the population in the Gateway region is disadvantaged.

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The report included discussion of several projects proposed by the Gateway Authority which will directly benefit disadvantaged communities, which were developed in coordination with staff and elected officials from those disadvantaged communities. These projects are:

- 1) the Los Angeles River Catch Basin Project (benefitting over 1 million disadvantaged residents and currently in the implementation phase)
- 2) the San Gabriel River Catch Basin Project (benefitting 14 cities, including nearly 500,000 residents in the disadvantaged communities of Long Beach and Huntington Park)
- 3) the Aerial Deposition and Metals Monitoring Studies (benefitting 12 disadvantaged communities with a population of over 1 million residents)
- 4) the Hollydale Park Project (providing stormwater quality and open space benefits to five disadvantaged communities)
- 5) the Rio Hondo Park Project (providing stormwater quality and open space benefits to multiple disadvantaged communities).

It was noted that staff and elected officials from disadvantaged cities are Directors on the Gateway Authority board, and that disadvantaged cities have always held leadership positions on the Board. In addition to the twelve cities classified as disadvantaged, the other 16 cities in the region also have census tracts that are classified as disadvantaged according to various state and federal criteria. For the planning process, it was clarified that the Gateway Authority would adopt an inclusive process that would solicit input from and listen to the needs of communities to design multiple benefit, regional projects. In addition to normal outreach avenues, Vice Chair Figueroa suggested that cities could provide aggregate data information from their housing, planning, and utility departments to identify those disadvantaged areas/census tracts within their city limits.

Guest Christina Dixon, City of Huntington Park, thanked Directors for their hard work on behalf of non-member Gateway cities, especially disadvantaged communities such as her own.

Discussion followed regarding the potential role for community advocacy groups and non-governmental organizations, noting that they would be integral part of the planning process. Suggestions for meaningful involvement in the planning process included surveys, community meetings, individual outreach, and a committee or advisory group that could make recommendations. Staff was directed to consult with Bookman-Edmonston [contracted to develop a planning grant application] to identify the best practices for outreach, and to report back in August with recommendations.

Directors then discussed the potential membership of additional government agencies, including the remaining Gateway Cities that are not official members of the Joint Powers Authority, and other agencies such as the County Supervisors and the County Sanitation District. Alex Kenefick (Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council) suggested that the Gateway Authority involve large landowners, such as CalTrans and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Director Al Cablay noted that many railroads own land in the Gateway region, and Chair Cash noted that Southern California Edison owned a large portion of the land adjacent to rivers in the Gateway region. Director Bill DeWitt stated that there are unincorporated areas within the Gateway Authority's region, and those areas should also be addressed. Potential roles for government agencies with jurisdictions that extend beyond the Gateway region were discussed, as well as the involvement of non-governmental landholding agencies. Municipal water districts are also eligible members of the Gateway Authority, as are special districts. Staff was directed to send letters of invitation to the remaining Gateway Cities' councils and city managers and to representative County Supervisors.

**ITEM 8 – DISCUSSION OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER METALS TMDL STATUS**

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Director Gina Nila informed directors that her City Manager (Commerce) had asked for this discussion in order to define the role of the Gateway Authority in TMDLs in the future. The Los Angeles River Metals TMDL implementation plan was created through the efforts of 28 cities and CalTrans, and that the plan calls for regional structural BMPs which are very expensive. The initial group was formed strictly to draft the implementation plan, which consisted of several phases, the first of which must begin by 2011 and address 50% of the dry-weather TMDL by 2012. Noting the Gateway's role as fiduciary agent for the creation of a Los Cerritos Channel Metals TMDL implementation plan and the implementation of the catch basin project in the Los Angeles River to meet the Trash TMDL, Directors discussed what role/involvement is appropriate for the Gateway Authority.

After considerable discussion, the consensus was that while the Gateway Authority is not in a position to be the implementing agency (at least at this time), it could serve as an advocate/sponsor for grant funding, provide contracting and fiduciary responsibilities, and would actively search for opportunities to do so.

**ITEM 9 – LOS CERRITOS CHANNEL METALS TMDL MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT UPDATE**

Executive Officer Annette Hubbell referred Directors to the board letter, stating that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is currently awaiting approval by participating entities' City Councils and reporting that the MOA had been approved by the Downey City Council on Tuesday evening. There had been some changes suggested since the agenda packets were printed, and Director Mark Christoffels presented those changes. To address expenditures already made by the cities of Long Beach and Signal Hill, an additional 'whereas' had been added and a footnote had been added in Exhibit A, stating the amount already expended and the credit due to the two cities. Ms. Hubbell stated that there might be a few non-substantive changes to the MOA during the final review by City Attorneys and Managers. Director Cablay motioned to approve the MOA, allowing for non-substantive changes, and Director Scott Rigg seconded the motion. The MOA was unanimously approved.

**ITEM 10a – ARRA-FUNDED CATCH BASIN PROJECT UPDATE**

Bill Pagett of Willdan Engineering presented a status report on the Los Angeles River Catch Basin Project. He announced that construction had begun on July 23 in the City of Long Beach, that as of July 12, 150 catch basins had been retrofitted with connector pipe screens (CPS), and an additional 70 catch basins had been retrofitted with both CPS and automatic retractable screens. Five crews were completing work at the rate of 7 basins per crew per day, and the numbers of crews would be soon be increased to enable the retrofit of 1400 catch basins per month. Permits for Vernon were complete and in process for Montebello. Directors requested email copies of the presentation from Mr. Pagett.

**ITEM 10b – LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Ms. Hubbell asked Mr. Abi Aderonmu of the Department of Water Resources to update the board on the status of the DWR Prop 84 IRWM Planning Guidelines and Project Solicitation. Mr. Aderonmu announced that the guidelines were expected to be released in the first week of August, and that the applications would be due 8 weeks after release (approximately the end of September).

Ms. Hubbell informed Directors that the only developments on the Board-approved watch list were the failure of AB 1955, Public Officers: Incompatible Offices and proposed changes for AB 2554, Los Angeles Flood Control Act.

AB 2554 would amend the Los Angeles Flood Control Act and allow the County to assess a parcel tax for stormwater-related services on parcels in unincorporated areas. Proposed amendments to the bill are

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circulating, which would expand the bills to include all parcels in the County, both in incorporated cities as well as unincorporated County areas. A proposed funding split would direct 10% of the funding to the County Flood Control District, 40% to the cities in proportion to the amount collected from parcels in each city, and 50% to watershed governance boards that would establish an ordinance to allow the implementation of collaborative projects in proportion to the amount of fees collected in each watershed. Of concern is that watershed governance boards had not been defined, leaving that to the state. Director Christoffels noted that the City Managers would be meeting with the County later that same day, to discuss this issue at length. After considerable discussion, it was motioned by Vice Chair Figueroa and seconded by Director Cablay to follow Director Christoffels suggestion to support the City Manager's position and to direct the Executive Officer to take the appropriate action.

**ITEM 10c – DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY REPORT**

Note: this item was reordered and is contained above under Item 7 – Discussion of Gateway Authority membership requirements and alternatives for non-governmental agencies.

**ITEM 11 – DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/REPORTS**

Vice Chair Figueroa asked for assistance from fellow Directors with regard to their cities' ordinances and policies on the use of artificial turf in residential areas.

Chair Cash congratulated and welcomed Deborah Chankin, City of Bellflower, to the Gateway Authority.

**ITEM 12 – ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 pm to Thursday, August 12, 2010 at 12 Noon in the Clearwater Building at Paramount, CA.

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Al Cablay, Acting Secretary

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Date