

**MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY BOARD
(L.A. GATEWAY AUTHORITY)
AT PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Authority was held on Thursday, September 9, 2010 at Noon at the Clearwater Building at 16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723.

Chair Chris Cash called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Roll was called through self-introductions and a quorum was declared present.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Chris Cash	Paramount
Secretary/Treasurer Desi Alvarez	Downey
Kevin Wattier, Chair Emeritus	Long Beach Water Dept.
Bernardo Iniguez (alt for Deborah Chankin)	Bellflower
Dave Hill (alt for Art Aguilar)	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Charlie Emig (alt for Vince Brar)	Cerritos
Gina Nila	Commerce
Jim Glancy	Lakewood
Mark Christoffels	Long Beach
Michelle Tse (alt for Adriana Figueroa)	Norwalk
Al Cablay	Pico Rivera
Don Jensen	Santa Fe Springs
Charlie Honeycutt	Signal Hill
Bill DeWitt	South Gate
Scott Rigg (alt for Kevin Wilson)	Vernon

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joseph Serrano	Southeast Water Coalition
David Pelsner	Whittier

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Annette Hubbell	Executive Officer
Lauma Jurkevics (via phone)	Department of Water Resources
Shannon DeLong	Downey
Melissa Cansdale (via phone)	GEI/Bookman-Edmonston
Jennifer Lau (via phone)	GEI/Bookman-Edmonston
Alex Kenefick	Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council
Shirley Birosik	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Russ Bryden	Los Angeles County Flood Control/GLAC
Rochelle Paras	Los Angeles County Flood Control/GLAC
Bill Pagett	Willdan Engineering

PUBLIC PRESENT:

none

ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None at this time.

ITEM 4 – ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Alex Kenefick of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council (LASGRWC) announced that a Statewide Watershed Coordinator Grant from the Department of Water Conservation would fund a watershed coordinator for up to three years. This person could be a full or part-time staff member and could support the IRWMP process but would focus on the Lower San Gabriel River -- not the Lower Los Angeles River.

LASGRWC was still deciding whether to apply for the grant, and potential projects include:

- Applying for a grant to fund a watershed coordinator for the entire San Gabriel River watershed, which might be one full-time person or two part-time people, one focusing on the upper watershed and the other focusing on the lower watershed.
- A sole Coyote Creek watershed coordinator
- Partnering with the Los Cerritos Channel Wetlands Authority

If successful in a grant competition, the LASGRWC would like to partner with the Gateway Authority and they are currently seeking input/cooperation.

Because the application deadline is prior to the next meeting, Director Wattier suggested that this item be added as an emergency item so the Board could better discuss its options. Director Glancy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Item 4a – Statewide Watershed Coordinator Grant

After discussion of various options related to the Gateway Authority's involvement in the Watershed Conservancy's project, it was motioned by Secretary-Treasurer Desi Alvarez to authorize the Executive Officer to work on developing an application/scope of work, including letter of support and commitment of in-kind match, in cooperation with the LASGRWC. Director Al Cablay seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Russ Bryden of the County Flood Control District announced that the lower San Gabriel/LA River subregion meeting would be held on September 21, and the leadership committee of the Greater Los Angeles IRWM group would be meeting on September 22 to discuss the Proposition 84 planning grant.

ITEM 5 – CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Mark Christoffels motioned to approve the minutes and Director Bill DeWitt seconded. The August 12, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved.

ITEM 6 – PROPOSITION 84 PLANNING GRANT

Executive Officer Annette Hubbell informed Directors that a draft, 80-page document was under revision and that the final application would comply with all of DWR's preferences and the board's previously adopted mission, goals and objectives. She noted that the proposal to develop an Integrated Water Resources Management Plan (IRWMP) for the Gateway Region is for \$1,281,000; fulfilled through a \$900,000 grant request and \$381,000 in non-State matching funds. (The budget to be submitted in the grant application includes a 25% match as required by the project solicitation package – this is a 30% match. There is more than a 25% match available in cash funding from the Gateway Authority's reserves, but the grant budget currently projects a full match using in-kind services and previously-funded consultant work. The grant application would be due September 28, a very quick turnaround. Ms. Hubbell stated that staff is asking for final approval of the proposed budget and approval to continue finalizing the grant application.

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Secretary-Treasurer Alvarez stated his support for asking for a full \$1,000,000 in grant funding because the Gateway Authority has reserves available to provide a match for that level of grant award. Director Christoffels asked if a scope of services already drafted would need significant revision if directors revised the grant budget. Melissa Cansdale and Jennifer Lau of GEI/Bookman Edmonston, participating via conference call, noted that the \$900,000 grant request was a strategic choice on behalf of the Gateway Authority, as there are more than 40 regional water management groups vying for \$20M in funding. Secretary-Treasurer Alvarez motioned to authorize the Executive Officer to apply for up to \$1M in funding and if necessary, to provide the match in cash reserves in addition to in-kind services. The motion was seconded by Director DeWitt. Director Christoffels clarified that in the evaluation criteria, a larger match percentage demonstrated stronger support. Executive Officer Hubbell reiterated that part of the in-kind match is based on the cost of board members' time at board meetings and community meetings. She also requested feedback on agencies' descriptions for the grant application.

The motion to authorize the Executive Officer to analyze whether or not a scope of work could be expanded to allow for the application of a maximum grant and if necessary to provide additional matching requirements in cash reserves was approved unanimously.

ITEM 7 – UPDATED ON ARRA-FUNDED CATCH BASIN PROJECT

Executive Officer Hubbell announced to the Board that Secretary-Treasurer Alvarez and Engineering Consultant Bill Pagett had accompanied Mr. Tony Barboza, reporter for the Los Angeles Times, on a tour of the catch basin construction project on Shoreline Drive in the City of Long Beach. (Mr. Barboza had been invited to attend the Gateway Authority meeting, but was not present.)

Bill Pagett of Willdan Engineering reported that as of Friday, September 3, 2010, there had been 1,566 connector pipe screens (CPS) and 395 automatic retractable screens (ARS) installed in the City of Long Beach. Thus, the work crews were halfway done with the installation of CPS units in Long Beach and $\frac{3}{4}$ done with the ARS units.

Mr. Pagett brought several concerns to the board's attention:

- The shape of some of the catch basins, and the locations of both the access cover and the ladder, were requiring the installation of a triangular-shaped screen in some.
- Some catch basin installations (up to 20% of the catch basins in Long Beach) were deferred or skipped altogether because the basin dimensions do not match the specifications of the permit, and the contractor will need to go back to perform these installations following a resolution of the problem with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

It was noted that these types of problems will probably be encountered in each of the participating cities, though to a lesser degree than the issues found in Long Beach, because Long Beach's infrastructure is among the oldest.

Mr. Pagett reported the status of the County construction permits for the rest of the cities involved in the project: the permit for county basins in Vernon was complete, and the rest should be coming. Vernon will be started in about 1-½ to 2 months. The County has stated that only 2-3 permits will be issued at a time, which is problematic for some cities where only 50 or so catch basins will be retrofitted (so that the construction will be ready to proceed in the next city before the County is willing to issue another permit).

Director Gina Nila asked whether the County maintenance costs had been determined yet. Mr. Pagett replied that the County has performed maintenance on catch basins with CPS and ARS units in the past and has not

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increased cleaning fees. He emphasized that the County is putting more responsibility on the contractor than ever before.

Director Charlie Honeycutt asked if no change orders are necessary yet even though some catch basins needed special-shaped CPS. Mr. Pagett stated that no change order would be necessary in those cases. Mr. Pagett also said that he does not anticipate these types of changes will be necessary in other cities. He reported that there are 11 construction crews working this week and there will be 12 working next week. Assuming good weather, the contractor is still on schedule. Directors and Willdan were reminded that the project must be completed in the summer of 2011.

ITEM 8 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Ms. Hubbell reviewed last month’s action to support Amigos de los Rios on their grant application to the Federal Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The grant requires a 20% match and the Gateway Authority is expected to provide in-kind services as follows:

- Staff time and consultant time already expended in creating the kinds of maps used in the past and the work that will continue for the IRWM planning grant.
- Consultant time expended in identifying the physical location and dimensions of catch basins in the LA River (Willdan time) and to an equal extent the estimate of catch basin locations on the San Gabriel River.
- Individual cities’ staff time in responding to requests for info on population density, housing problems, community parks, flooding and stormwater policies & problems, etc.
- Amigos de los Rios’ staff time in preparation of the plan
- Potential provision of venues for stakeholder meetings to take place as appropriate, and potential provision of venues for a series of community meetings

ITEM 8a – LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Executive Officer Hubbell reviewed the 2010 legislative session just ended. The board placed seven pieces of legislation on Watch and supported two:

Support - Enrolled: SB 346 (copper in brake pads)

AB 2554 (LA County Flood Control District)

Watch – Enrolled: AB 1793 (allowing artificial turf)

SB 918 (establishment of uniform recycling rules allowing treatment of 4M AFY of outfall into the ocean)

SB 991 (appropriates \$30 million from Proposition 1E to DWR for flood protection projects in Delta)

Watch – Dropped in Committee or by Request from Author:

AB 1594 (prohibits construction of a peripheral canal without express legislative authorization)

AB 1774 (Allows residential use of recycled water)

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 that identifies the beneficiaries and allocates costs accordingly)

Regarding AB 2554, Secretary-Treasurer Alvarez noted that the bill had been amended so that it now provided for parcel tax revenue distributed in the following manner:

10% to the County for County administration and stormwater purposes

40% to cities for city stormwater purposes

50% to watershed area groups (WAGs) that would need to be joint powers authorities.

ITEM 8b – LOS CERRITOS CHANNEL METALS TMDL MOA UPDATE

Ms. Hubbell reported that Long Beach and Bellflower will consider the MOA on 9/13. She noted that Downey, Lakewood, Paramount and Signal Hill have adopted the MOA already. Cerritos would schedule the MOA for adoption shortly. Caltrans had not yet adopted, but they represent only about 3% of the watershed. It is anticipated that the first invoices for TMDL work would be sent out in the latter half of September 2010.

ITEM 8c – REPORT ON THE 20X2020 PROCESS

Ms. Hubbell noted that the final guidelines for the 20% reduction in per-capita water use by the year 2020 would include methodologies for all of the required calculations, and are due from the Department of Water Resources on October 1, 2010. She also noted that DWR had initially recommended that agencies be allowed to join only 1 regional alliance, a suggestion supported by Gateway Authority. This had been revised to allow multiple regional alliances provided they were vertically distributed rather than horizontally (e.g.: Agencies A & B may form an alliance as a pair, and then form another, larger alliance that includes Agencies C and D, but if the group wants to join an additional alliance, all four members must join or none can join).

ITEM 9 – DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/REPORTS

ITEM 9a – UPDATED ON MUNICIPAL OUTREACH

Chair Cash noted that Vice-Chair Figueroa was spearheading an effort to increase the Authority's membership and at last month's meeting Directors had volunteered to contact non-JPA member cities regarding the Gateway Authority and the IRWM plan. Ms. Figueroa (absent) had contacted both Lynwood and Bell Gardens, which would be approaching their City Councils soon. Director Jim Glancy stated that Hawaiian Gardens was unsure about whether they would be able to join, and that he was meeting with La Habra Heights later today. Director Cablay stated that he would contact Montebello through their City Attorney and their City Finance Director, but that an interim City Manager for Montebello would not be available until next week. It was noted that Directors would meet with the City of Bell once things calmed down. Secretary-Treasurer Alvarez stated that he had been in discussions with Huntington Park. Chair Cash noted that cities that do not have their own water departments tended to be more hesitant and needed additional explanations as to the benefits of Gateway membership. Director Gina Nila noted that she had not yet contacted the City of Compton but that she would (noting that a City Manager vacancy). Chair Cash asked staff to add Outreach as a standing item on future agendas.

ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 pm to Thursday, October 14, 2010 at 12 Noon in the Clearwater Building at Paramount, CA.

Desi Alvarez, Secretary-Treasurer

Date