

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

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

Chair Chris Cash called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. Roll was called through self-introductions and a quorum was declared present.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair Chris Cash	Paramount
Vice Chair Adriana Figueroa	Norwalk
Secretary/Treasurer Desi Alvarez	Downey
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
Eric Leung (alt for Kevin Wattier)	Long Beach Water Dept.
Al Cablay	Pico Rivera
Don Jensen	Santa Fe Springs
Charlie Honeycutt	Signal Hill
Bill DeWitt	South Gate
David Pelser	Whittier
Scott Rigg (alt for Kevin Wilson)	Vernon

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Joseph Serrano	Southeast Water Coalition
----------------	---------------------------

**STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT:**

Annette Hubbell	Executive Officer
Lauma Jurkevics (via phone)	Department of Water Resources
John Oropeza	Bell Gardens
Shannon DeLong	Downey
Sharon Gates	Long Beach
Daniel Ojeda	Lynwood
Rochelle Paras	Los Angeles County Flood Control/GLAC
Bill Pagett	Willdan Engineering

**PUBLIC PRESENT:**

none

**ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Chair Chris Cash announced that it had just come to his attention that the State Water Resources Control Board was soliciting comments prior to its scoping meeting for development of a statewide trash policy. Comments for the scoping meeting would be due prior to the Board's next meeting. It was motioned by Director Jim Glancy and seconded by Director Bill DeWitt to add the item to the agenda as 8b under Executive Officer's report. There being no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM 4 – ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

There were none.

**ITEM 5 – CONSENT CALENDAR**

Secretary-Treasurer Desi Alvarez motioned to approve the minutes and Director Al Cablay seconded. The September 9, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved.

**ITEM 6 – MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

**6a. Acceptance of the Joint Powers Agreement – City of Bell Gardens**

Chair Chris Cash welcomed Mr. John Oropeza of Bell Gardens and announced that the Bell Gardens City Council had recently approved the Joint Powers Agreement for the Gateway Authority. Director DeWitt motioned to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Bell Gardens. Vice Chair Adriana Figueroa seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a super-majority according to the roll call vote as follows:

Bellflower	Yes
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
Southeast Water Coalition	Absent
Whittier	Yes
Vernon	Yes

**6b. Acceptance of the Joint Powers Agreement – City of Lynwood**

Chair Chris Cash welcomed Mr. Daniel Ojeda of Lynwood and announced that the Lynwood City Council had recently approved the Joint Powers Agreement for the Gateway Authority. Director DeWitt motioned to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lynwood. Director Deborah Chankin seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a super-majority according to the roll call vote as follows:

Bellflower	Yes
------------	-----

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
Southeast Water Coalition	Absent
Whittier	Yes
Vernon	Yes

## **ITEM 7 – GRANT UPDATES**

### **7a. ARRA-Funded Catch Basin Project Update (LA River Trash TMDL) – Discussion & Consideration of County Hydraulic Assessments of Certain Catch Basins**

Executive Officer Hubbell referred Directors to the board letter in their agenda packets and briefly delivered a status update as follows:

- June 2010: Board approves additional expenditures and authorizes the Executive Officer to approve change orders up to 5% of the total project cost
- The project contingency now stands at \$324,272
- Willdan is working with the County of Los Angeles with regard to hydraulic assessments of catch basins; the Board's intention is to ensure that the 16 project cities are 100% compliant with the Los Angeles River Trash TMDL but some county-owned catch basins are assessed at less than a four-year storm capacity, and therefore the distribution of Automatic Retractable Screens (ARS) must be adjusted to avoid installing ARS on county-owned catch basins with ratings of less than a four-year storm. Bill Pagett, Willdan Engineering, clarified that the County is allowing connector pipe screens (CPS) to be installed on these catch basins, but that the final number has yet to be determined. The County supplied Willdan with an initial list of 1,500 catch basins that may fall under this determination. Willdan is working on determining where the specific drains are located, as the County-supplied list is according to serial numbers not locations.

Ms. Hubbell stated that this item was brought to the Board's attention so that Directors might decide whether to allow the contractor to move on to additional project cities and install ARS in catch basins owned by those cities (even though the contractor would need to re-deploy to those cities at a later date to address the county-owned catch basins).

Secretary-Treasurer Alvarez suggested that Willdan seek the permission of each city to allow the contractor to install ARS in city-owned catch basins.

Mr. Pagett noted that in high-trash areas, the County does not want CPS installed in catch basins rated at less than a four-year storm. However, the County's definition of a high-trash area is a vastly higher trash-generating area than the areas in most of the 16 project cities. Furthermore, most cities sweep streets more often than the County, generally on a weekly or semi-weekly basis, further reducing the trash issue.

Gateway IRWM Authority Board Meeting  
Minutes October 14, 2010

Director Mark Christoffels informed the Board that the City of Long Beach had recently prevailed in proving that ARS units are not the cause of flooding, even in catch basin drains with low hydraulic ratings. He indicated that he would forward to Directors and to Willdan the study and demonstration illustrating the findings.

Mr. Pagett also informed Directors that there were some catch basins in Long Beach that were too shallow for the installation of a CPS. Willdan and the contractor are working with the County to at least install ARS units in these locations.

It was motioned by Secretary-Treasurer Alvarez and seconded by Director Cablay to approve changes to ARS and CPS units as necessary to achieve 100% compliance with the Trash TMDL and to allow the contractor to mobilize in additional cities whether or not the County catch basins could be modified at the same time. The motion passed unanimously.

It was asked whether the \$324,000 contingency was sufficient, given these additional changes and delays caused by the County hydraulic assessments and other reviews. Mr. Pagett replied that ARS units would be reduced as necessary to keep the project well within the \$10,000,000 grant budget.

**7b. Watershed Coordinator Grant Application (LASGRWC)**

Ms. Hubbell referred Directors to the copy of the Watershed Coordinator Grant letter of support in their agenda packets. At the September meeting, the Board directed the Executive Officer to work with the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council (Watershed Council) to develop a letter of support for their application for a San Gabriel River Watershed Coordinator position. She asked the Board to affirm the letter, which states the Watershed Coordinator's goals and identifies matching, in-kind services such as meeting space and the sharing of engineering information with the Watershed Council. It was motioned by Director Cablay and seconded by Vice Chair Figueroa to approve the letter and its contents. The motion passed unanimously.

**7c. Proposition 84 IRWM Planning Grant**

Ms. Hubbell displayed a copy of the Planning Grant submitted by the Gateway Authority in September. Lauma Jurkevics of the Department of Water Resources said there would be a workshop in late November to discuss the initial funding recommendations for planning grants.

Ms. Hubbell informed the Board that there had been \$27 million in requests but only \$20 million is available in this first round of funding. In the Los Angeles Funding Region, the applicants, total project costs, and funding requests are as follows:

<u>Regional Water Mgt Group</u>	<u>Plan Costs</u>	<u>Funding Request</u>
Gateway Authority ( <i>new plan</i> )	\$1.35 M	\$950
GLAC ( <i>plan update</i> )	\$1.352 M	\$1 M
Ventura ( <i>plan update</i> )	\$355 M	\$266 M
Upper Santa Clara ( <i>plan update</i> )	\$702 M	\$486 M

**ITEM 8 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**Item 8a. Los Cerritos Channel Metals TMDL MOA Update**

Ms. Hubbell reported that Long Beach and Cerritos had both approved the MOA and signed agreements would be sent soon. Following receipt of agreements and invoices for already-expended funds from Signal Hill and Long Beach, invoices would be sent to MOA signatories (probably in November). It was confirmed that there would be one invoice for this fiscal year.

**Item 8b. SWRCB Trash Scoping Policy – Added by emergency action**

Ms. Hubbell distributed copies of a summary of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)'s Trash Scoping Policy scoping meeting. She noted that this was a very preliminary step and was not intended to fulfill the Board's obligations under CEQA. The scoping would include policy, objective, and implementation components, and alternatives range from no action to zero tolerance for trash.

Chair Cash explained that this item may be of concern to the Gateway Authority Board of Directors because of the \$10 million catch basin project currently under construction to satisfy the Los Angeles River Trash TMDL. It was noted that the project addresses trash greater than or equal to 5mm in size, but that one option on the trash policy statement was a zero tolerance option that could render this catch basin project partially ineffective.

Secretary-Treasurer Alvarez noted that the Trash Scoping Policy is a general policy guideline that would direct each regional board to identify trash-impaired waterways and state the implementation recommendations for those waterways. The Trash Scoping Policy could not directly impact the Los Angeles River Trash TMDL (the Los Angeles Regional Board would have to modify the TMDL through a complete review and amendment of the Basin Plan). He also noted that there was an advantage to a statewide trash control policy, as it could lead to statewide addressing of the problem as occurred with the recently approved brake pad regulations that address the Copper TMDL.

Chair Cash asked whether the Board wished to act, comment, "watch" or refrain from acting on the proposed Trash Scoping Policy. Director Jim Glancy asked whether the justification for a zero-tolerance trash policy is that plastic pellets can be less than 5mm (down to 1mm in size). Director David Pelser asked whether a Trash Scoping Policy could affect the grant, and Ms. Hubbell stated that she would confirm with the State project manager.

Director Alvarez motioned that the Gateway Authority watch the proceedings and make comments if necessary after the scoping meeting. The motioned died for lack of a second.

Director Chankin suggested that perhaps comment should be made relative to an evaluation of costs, or potential costs, associated with the various alternatives. Director Alvarez said cost considerations were part of Porter Cologne requirements. Director Christoffels said that the purpose of the requested comments are to receive input on the scoping elements, and the Gateway Authority should consider providing input relative to evaluating existing trash reduction programs. He then motioned that the Gateway Authority ask the State Water Board to include a full evaluation of existing trash reduction programs as one of the issues relevant to stakeholders during the environmental review process. Director Cablay seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

As a corollary, and for the Board's information only, Ms. Hubbell distributed the two-page Progress Report from the State Water Board, noting that the Los Angeles Region had the most activity and the most enforcement activity, by more than double compared with the rest of the regions.

**ITEM 9 – DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/REPORTS**

**ITEM 9a – UPDATED ON MUNICIPAL OUTREACH**

Chair Cash again welcomed Mr. Ojeda and Mr. Oropeza to the Gateway Authority Board and reminded Directors that the outreach to other Gateway Cities continues. Directors reported on their outreach activities, as follows:

Gateway IRWM Authority Board Meeting  
Minutes October 14, 2010

City	Status
Artesia	---
Bell	Director DeWitt stated that Bell was focused on other priorities at this time
Compton	Director Nila stated that Compton had received the packet, but the City was undergoing a leadership transition and would revisit
Cudahy	---
Hawaiian Gardens	Director Glancy stated that he had visited with Hawaiian Gardens' City Manager and answered their questions, and the city was considering
Huntington Park	Secretary-Treasurer Alvarez stated that the City was considering
La Habra Heights	Director Glancy met with the City Manager, who suggested a partnership between the La Habra Heights Water District
La Habra Heights Water District	Director Glancy noted that the La Habra Heights Water District will attend the November meeting
La Mirada	Vice Chair Figueroa stated that La Mirada is interested
Maywood	---
Montebello	Director Cablay noted that he'd personally spoken with City representatives, but that Montebello was focused on a leadership transition and would revisit

**Other** - Director DeWitt informed the Board that he had been meeting with representatives from the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) with regard to the de-watering issue on the I-105 freeway. The board was reminded that when the I-105 freeway was constructed, it was built below-grade in an area with a high water table, and CalTrans pumps out approximately 2,000 acre-feet per year of water, minimally treats it, and sends it down the Los Angeles River to the ocean. However, CalTrans does not have water rights in this aquifer and a significant amount of water is being wasted. Since CalTrans may be unfamiliar with water quality requirements and probably does not want to be in the water supply business, Director DeWitt suggested that at some point in time the Gateway Authority might want to consider taking a leadership role in the productive re-use of this water.

**ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT**

After discussion, it was decided to re-schedule the next meeting of the Gateway Authority due to the Veteran's Day holiday on the regular meeting date. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm to **Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 12 Noon** in the Clearwater Building at Paramount, CA.

---

Desi Alvarez, Secretary-Treasurer

---

Date