

**MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY BOARD
(L.A. GATEWAY AUTHORITY)
AT PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2011**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Authority was held on Thursday, February 10, 2011, 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
John Oropeza	Bell Gardens
Bernardo Iniguez (proxy for Deborah Chankin)	Bellflower
Dave Hill (alt for Art Aguilar)	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Mike O'Grady (alt. for Vince Brar)	Cerritos
Gina Nila	Commerce
Jim Glancy	Lakewood
Mark Christoffels	Long Beach
Eric Leung (alt for Kevin Wattier)	Long Beach Water Department
G. Daniel Ojeda	Lynwood
Sarah Ho (proxy for Chris Cash)	Paramount
Al Cablay	Pico Rivera
Frank Beach (alt for Don Jensen)	Santa Fe Springs
Charlie Honeycutt	Signal Hill
Mohammad Mostahkami (alt for 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
Shannon DeLong	Downey
Abi Aderonmu	California Department of Water Resources
Lauma Jurkevics	California Department of Water Resources
Alex Kenefick	Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council
Russ Bryden	Los Angeles County Flood Control/GLAC
Phil Doudar	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works/GLAC
Shirley Birozik (via phone)	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Bill Pagett	Willdan Engineering
Bill Bennett	GEI/Bookman Edmonston

PUBLIC PRESENT:

none

ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

ITEM 4 – ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Russ Bryden, Los Angeles County Flood Control/GLAC, announced that the next GLAC meeting for the Lower LA/SGR sub-region would be on February 15 and the next GLAC leadership committee meeting would be on February 23. He explained that GLAC had been recommended for a Prop 84 planning grant and was attempting to plan for cash flow needs by raising \$200,000 from large agencies (County Sanitation District, County Flood Control District and Metropolitan Water District) and was asking for \$50,000 from each of its five subregions.

Alex Kenefick, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Coalition, announced that Amigos de los Rios and Supervisor Molina's office are partnering on a \$300,000 grant for park refurbishment in the Gateway Region, to include low-water irrigation at Hollydale and Circle Parks in South Gate. He also stated that the Watershed Coalition had been awarded one of two grants for which the Gateway Authority had supplied a letter of support. The grant would support a watershed coordinator for the San Gabriel River Watershed. Half of the coordinator's time would be spent in the upper watershed and the other half in the lower (below the Whittier Narrows Dam) portion of the watershed, with the time split evenly between water use efficiency and general planning and project development efforts for the watershed. Finally, he noted that the Watershed Coalition would be holding a Sustainable Landscape seminar in Lynwood and that a Park Planning seminar was proposed for March 2011.

Lauma Jurkevics, Department of Water Resources (DWR), reported that DWR's website was now updated with climate change resources for IRWM groups, including a clearinghouse of climate change documents. The Climate Change Handbook that DWR is producing with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency is expected to be released in June. She provided copies of the September 2010 Drought Report and the Climate Change Achievements Report, and gave the Gateway Authority a copy of DWR's Climate Change DVD, which is also available online.

ITEM 5 – CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Jim Glancy moved to approve the minutes, Director Scott Rigg seconded, and it was so ordered to approve the minutes from January 13, 2011.

ITEM 6 – REPORT FROM AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON STAFFING

Executive Officer Annette Hubbell stated that the Chair had asked her to document her job description to aid in the search for a new Executive Officer, and that she had also provided a description of the tasks performed by the Lead Agency. The subcommittee would meet following this regular board meeting. Four candidates had submitted their resumes thus far, and Directors were encouraged to forward additional names and resumes for candidates.

ITEM 7 – GRANT UPDATES

Item 7a. ARRA-Funded Catch Basin Grant

Ms. Hubbell asked Mr. Bill Pagett (Willdan Engineering) to provide an update. Mr. Pagett reported that work was continuing on the grant project, with 4,766 connector pipe screens and 1,224 automatic retractable screens installed as of Friday, February 4, 2011. He announced that work was complete in Long Beach and

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Vernon, that work in Commerce would be complete the following week, and that the permit from the County for work in Downey was just issued (work slated to begin in March). It is anticipated that the County permits for work in Montebello and South Gate will be filed next week, and in response to a query from Director Cablay, construction in Pico Rivera would be a three-day project, probably in May.

Item 7b. Prop 84 IRWM Planning Grant

Ms. Hubbell asked Mr. Abi Aderonmu of the Department of Water Resources for an update on the process for the final Prop 84 Planning Grant announcements. Mr. Aderonmu reported that the final decision was with the DWR management staff now, and that a few adjustments had been made. It was hoped that the decision would be announced late this week or early next week. It was anticipated that contracts for the grant agreements would be issued approximately six months after the announcement of awards, but that DWR staff would do their utmost to speed up the process.

ITEM 8 – REPORT FROM AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CATCH BASIN PROJECT CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Executive Officer Hubbell distributed copies of a third amendment to the construction management contract, apologizing for the lateness of the material and explaining that it had just come from the attorneys but that the subcommittee had spent significant time to discuss the details of the contract. She directed attention to Section 1 of the contract, which detailed that work would continue through July 30, 2011 or until the completion of 11,036 CPS and 2,932 ARS units (to be adjusted as market forces, acts of God, or requirements of the County interfered). If funds were authorized by the State for expenditure after July 30, 2011, and if there were still catch basins eligible for retrofit, then work would continue on a Time and Material (T&M) basis as directed by the Executive Officer until the general contractor (Bubalo Construction) had expended all of the 280 working days allotted under the general contractor's contract.

It was clarified that the agreement was a lump sum amount. Directors were reminded that Willdan had provided a proposal at the January Board meeting for \$660,000 and the revised proposal is for \$350,000. It was clarified that the subcommittee had met multiple times and was wholly aware of the details of the amendment, and that the contract amendment would require a super-majority vote.

It was moved by Director Cablay and seconded by Director Jim Glancy to approve the contract amendment. It was noted that the State would be asked to extend the time allotted for performance of the grant. It was also asked whether agencies would be receiving a map from Willdan of the retrofitted catch basins, and it was clarified that agencies would not receive a map but rather would receive a list of the catch basins and locations (addresses) that were retrofitted under this grant project. It was also noted that the County had recently proposed a charge of \$22 per catch basin for cleaning, and the Executive Officer was asked to pursue additional clarification from the County on the maintenance issue.

A roll call vote was conducted and the motion passed unanimously, as follows:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Bellflower	Yes
Central Basin MWD	Yes
Cerritos	Yes
Commerce	Yes
Downey	Yes
Lakewood	Yes
Long Beach	Yes

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Long Beach Water Dept.	Yes
Lynwood	Yes
Norwalk	Yes
Paramount	Yes
Pico Rivera	Yes
Santa Fe Springs	Yes
Signal Hill	Yes
South Gate	Yes
Vernon	Yes

ITEM 9 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Item 9a. Report on 20x2020 Regional Target

Ms. Hubbell informed Directors that available water use data gathered from member agencies had been forwarded to the Gateway Authority’s engineering contractor, Bill Bennett of GEI/Bookman Edmonston, and he agreed that there was no uniform methodology among the agencies. GEI/Bookman Edmonston discussed with Central Basin the Board’s desire to form a regional alliance as defined under the 20X2020 process Mr. Bennett’s proposal would entail working with each agency to obtain the necessary data in a consistent format (20 agencies at 2 hours each) and approximately 60 hours to perform data analysis and formulate a regional approach. The proposal was for \$45,200, and staff recommended approval. Mr. Bennett informed the Directors that it was unknown exactly how much time would be required to develop a regional approach, as this had never been done before and the State was still determining its allowable methods, but that one possibility would be to add a chapter to Central Basin and the member agency Urban Water Management Plans.

It was noted that a public hearing on the adoption of Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs) would be required, and that such a public hearing at a Gateway Authority board meeting would satisfy the requirements for the adoption of a regional compliance method. It was asked how the adoption of a regional method would be of assistance to member agencies if each already was required to adopt an UWMP. It was answered that the 20x2020 compliance method must submitted to DWR and can be folded into the UWMP, but it is a separate section and the 2015 and 2020 UWMP will provide data that shows whether an agency has fulfilled its responsibility for meeting the 20x2020 goal.

Further discussion clarified that GEI/Bookman Edmonston would be responsible for gathering and synthesizing the information from all agencies, that Central Basin anticipates adopting the regional 20x2020 compliance method in its wholesaler UWMP (even though it’s not technically required to abide by the 20x2020 mandate) and that agencies can participate in both regional and individual compliance methods (and satisfaction of the mandate in either the individual or regional method means that the agency has fulfilled its 20x2020 obligations). GEI/Bookman-Edmonston would endeavor to provide the regional compliance method well in advance of the 2010 UWMP deadline so that agencies had ample time for the required public hearing. Finally, it was noted that the advantages of developing a regional 20x2020 compliance method included the ease of demonstrating the Gateway Authority’s eligibility for state grants, the preservation of the cohesiveness of the region, and the assistance it would provide for disadvantaged member agencies.

Noting that the \$45,200 proposal would be paid for out of existing funds (no new assessment would be required), Secretary-Treasurer Alvarez motioned and Director Cablay seconded to approve the agreement. Noting no objections, the Vice Chair ordered the approval of the agreement.

Item 9b. Legislative Report

Ms. Hubbell noted the February 18 deadline for the State's current legislative session and that most officials were concerned with bills related to the budget deficit. She reported on two issues of concern that may translate into bills at a later date:

- Last year's AB 1793 was vetoed by the Governor: the allowance of artificial turf regardless of restrictions in homeowner covenants.
- Currently fluoride levels differ between drinking water standards and basin standards for recycled water and wastewater; the level of which is higher in drinking water. To the extent that concentrations of fluoride required to be maintained in drinking water exceed the concentrations allowed in the basin plans, regional boards may require that producers of recycled water and wastewater treatment plants remove the excess fluoride required to be added to drinking water (which would increase the costs of recycling water and treating wastewater) It is anticipated that legislation will be proffered that would require the State Water Resources Control Board to direct the regional boards to conform their basin plan requirements with the state's mandate for fluoridation of drinking water.

Ms. Hubbell also informed Directors that despite the Senate's moratorium on earmarks, Representatives had solicited appropriations requests and last year's federal appropriations requests had been resubmitted (Gateway Cities Stormwater Project, Aerial Deposition & Special Studies, Hollydale Parkland Improvements and Rio Hondo Parkland Improvements)

ITEM 10 – DIRECTORS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Item 10a. Potential Change to Joint Powers Agreement Raising Threshold for Supermajority Vote for Expenditures

Noting the need for a supermajority vote at many of the meetings in the past seven months, Ms. Hubbell stated that the Board Officers had asked for the Board to discuss the potential for either raising the threshold for supermajority vote or for the establishment of an expenditure policy that would address this item. Discussion centered on the necessity to amend the Joint Powers Agreement in either case, and that this amendment would need to be brought back to each agency's governing board (City Council or Board of Directors). No action was directed and members were encouraged to send proxies whenever they were unable to attend the Gateway Authority meetings.

Item 10b. Report on Municipal Outreach Efforts

It was reported that the City of Montebello would budget for the Gateway Authority membership next year, and that they were aware of the hundreds of thousands of dollars in construction costs that they were avoiding due to the ARRA-funded catch basin project.

It was also reported that the City of Maywood was considering membership.

Chair Chris Cash arrived at 1:01pm.

Director Mohammad Mostahkami asked whether action plans would be developed for the Gateway Authority for the TMDLs that were being discussed.

Director Cablay asked about the status of the Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC) and Director Jim Glancy noted that while Ralph Webb was no longer the SEWC administrative representative, Joe Serrano was still the representative to Gateway Authority. SEWC had recently determined that since all of its members were now represented on the Gateway Authority Board, it would withdraw at the next fiscal year.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm to **Thursday March 10, 2011** in the Clearwater Building at Paramount, CA.

Desi Alvarez, Secretary-Treasurer

Date