

**MINUTES OF THE GATEWAY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY BOARD
AT PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority was held on Thursday, May 14, 2015 11:30 a.m. at the Progress Park Plaza, 15500 Downey Avenue, Paramount, CA 90723.

Chair Chris Cash called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. Roll was called by Ms. Penn and a quorum of the Board was declared.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Al Cablay (alternate)	Bell
Chau Vu (alternate)	Bell Gardens
Tammy Hierlihy	Central Basin MWD
Mike O'Grady (alternate)	Cerritos
Gina Nila	Commerce
Aaron Hernandez-Torres	Cudahy
Mohammad Mostahkami	Downey
Michael Ackerman	Huntington Park
Mark Stowell	La Mirada
Lisa Rapp	Lakewood
Anthony Arevelo	Long Beach
Adriana Figueroa	Norwalk
Chris Cash	Paramount
Sarina Morales-Choate (proxy)	Santa Fe Springs
Charlie Honeycutt	Signal Hill
Art Cervantes (alternate)	South Gate
David Pelser	Whittier

STAFF AND GUESTS ON SIGN-IN SHEET:

Grace Kast	Executive Officer
Toni Penn	Administrative/Accounting Assistant
Candice Lee	Legal Counsel
Steve Dorsey	Legal Counsel
Virginia Fowler	LACFCD
Ester Rojas	WRD
Ken Farfsing	Signal Hill
Vince Brar	Cerritos

ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Kast reported that at the time the board agenda was posted, staff had not received the final version of the Agreement between the State of California (Department of Water Resources) and GWMA for Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) 2014 Drought Grant. She stated that she was informed just prior to the board meeting that no further changes were made to the draft Agreement that was included in the agenda packet and DWR had asked that GWMA approve the Agreement as soon as possible.

Director Mostahkami moved to add the approval of the Agreement between the State of California (Department of Water Resources) and GWMA for Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) 2014 Drought Grant as presented as an urgency item on the agenda as Item No. 10d. The motion was seconded by Director Figueroa and was approved by the following voice votes:

AYES: CABLAY, VU, HIERLIHY, O'GRADY, NILA, HERNANDEZ-TORRES, MOSTAHKAMI, ACKERMAN, RAPP, AREVALO, FIGUEROA, CASH, MORALES-CHOATE, HONEYCUTT, CERVANTES, STOWELL

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: PELSAR

ITEM 4 – ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None.

ITEM 5 – CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

No reportable action. Direction was given.

ITEM 6 – CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Nila moved to approve the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Director Cablay and was approved by the following voice votes:

AYES: CABLAY, VU, HIERLIHY, O'GRADY, NILA, HERNANDEZ-TORRES, MOSTAHKAMI, ACKERMAN, RAPP, AREVALO, FIGUEROA, CASH, MORALES-CHOATE, HONEYCUTT, CERVANTES

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: PELSAR, STOWELL

ITEM 7 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING IRWM

Ms. Kast reported that of the 20 projects submitted by GWMA, 7 were chosen to move to the next step where more detailed information would need to be entered into the OPTI database system by May 14, 2015 followed by a five minute presentation at the LSG & LLA Steering Committee meeting on May 19, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at WRD. She stated that two projects from LACFCD were also selected as part of the process. She stated that the step following the LSG & LLA meeting would be to present the projects at the Greater LA IRWM Leadership Committee on May 27, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. In closing, Ms. Kast indicated that only 3 projects from each sub-region would be given the opportunity to present at that meeting.

ITEM 8 – APPROVAL TO SUPPORT SB 208 (LARA) IMPROVING IRWM PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT FOR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. Kast reported that the administration of the IRWM Program had created challenges for implementation of IRWMPs at the regional level that threaten the success of regional programs. She indicated that, while DWR had improved its response time for the administration of the grants over the past year, the timing for payment of invoices remained a barrier for non-profit organizations and disadvantaged community participation in the grant program. She indicated that SB 208 would create an IRWM payment structure that required the DWR to provide 50% advance payment of a project award for an IRWM project that satisfied two criteria:

- The project proponent was a non-profit organization or a disadvantaged community; or the project benefited a disadvantaged community
- The grant award for the project was less than \$1 million.

Ms. Kast recommended that the Board adopt a position of support for SB 208 improving IRWM Program Reimbursement for Disadvantaged Communities and Non-Profit Organizations and submit a letter of support as presented.

Director Mostahkami referred to a section in SB 208 that indicated “The funds shall be spent within six months of the date of receipt, unless the state entity administering the grant waived this requirement.” He indicated that he did not feel six months was adequate time to expend funds and recommended that the letter of support be amended to request that this section be extended to twelve months.

Director Mostahkami moved to adopt the position of support for SB 208 and submit a letter of support as amended. The motion was seconded by Director Nila and was approved by the following voice votes:

AYES: CABLAY, VU, HIERLIHY, O'GRADY, NILA, HERNANDEZ-TORRES, MOSTAHKAMI, ACKERMAN, RAPP, AREVALO, FIGUEROA, CASH, MORALES-CHOATE, HONEYCUTT, CERVANTES, STOWELL

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: PELSAR

ITEM 9 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING PROPOSED JOINT AD HOC COG/GWMA COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Ms. Kast reported in recognition that water issues were becoming increasingly relevant to the work of the Gateway Cities COG, the COG and GWMA staff had met to discuss the formation of an Ad Hoc Coordinating Committee between the two agencies. She stated that this Committee would meet as needed to give direction to the staff of both agencies to ensure effective coordination and engagement on behalf of the Gateway Cities and other agencies and planning processes. Ms. Kast recommended that the Board appoint two GWMA Board Members as its designated representatives to serve with staff on the Joint Ad Hoc COG/GWMA Coordinating Committee.

Director Vu moved to nominate Director Figueroa to this Ad Hoc Committee. The motion was seconded by Director Rapp and approved by the following voice votes:

AYES: CABLAY, VU, HIERLIHY, O'GRADY, NILA, HERNANDEZ-TORRES, MOSTAHKAMI, ACKERMAN, RAPP, AREVALO, FIGUEROA, CASH, MORALES-CHOATE, HONEYCUTT, CERVANTES, STOWELL

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: PELSAR

Director Mostahkami moved to nominate Director Raff to this Ad Hoc Committee. The motion was seconded by Director Figueroa and was approved by the following voice votes:

AYES: CABLAY, VU, HIERLIHY, O'GRADY, NILA, HERNANDEZ-TORRES, MOSTAHKAMI, ACKERMAN, RAPP, AREVALO, FIGUEROA, CASH, MORALES-CHOATE, HONEYCUTT, CERVANTES, STOWELL

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: PELSAR

ITEM 10 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA (DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES) AND GWMA FOR PROPOSITION 84 INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM) 2014 DROUGHT GRANT

Ms. Kast reported that GWMA had been awarded a grant in the amount of \$3,941,966 to assist the cities of Cerritos, Huntington Park and Signal Hill with drought projects. She stated the funding match was estimated to be \$2,847,394 and may include in-kind services that were part of Exhibit A of the Work Plan and performed after January 1, 2010. She indicated that GWMA would be administering the Grant Agreement and the Grant Funds. She stated that, as part of the process, GWMA was requiring the cities of Cerritos, Huntington Park and Signal Hill to execute a Subrecipient Agreement with GWMA, which would require each subrecipient to comply with all the requirements of the Grant Agreement. Ms. Kast also reported that each subrecipient would submit invoices relating to their project to GWMA on a quarterly basis, and then GWMA would process the reimbursement requests with DWR.

Director Mostahkami moved to; 1) approve individual Subrecipient Agreements with the cities of Cerritos, Huntington Park and Signal Hill, 2) Authorized the Executive Officer to sign and execute individual Subrecipient Agreements with the cities of Cerritos, Huntington Park and Signal Hill, 3) Authorized Executive Officer to make non-material changes to the Subrecipient Agreement in consultation with GWMA's Legal Counsel, and 4) Authorized the Executive Officer to sign and execute the Grant Agreement between DWR and GWMA. The motion was seconded by Director Figueroa and was approved by the following voice votes:

AYES: CABLAY, VU, HIERLIHY, O'GRADY, NILA, HERNANDEZ-TORRES, MOSTAHKAMI, ACKERMAN, RAPP, AREVALO, FIGUEROA, CASH, MORALES-CHOATE, HONEYCUTT, CERVANTES, STOWELL

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: PELSER

ITEM 11 – DISCUSSION/ACTION TO APPOINT AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND THE SELECTION OF AN ACCOUNTING TRANSITION FIRM

Ms. Kast reported that GWMA had released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to establish a contract with a qualified individual or firm to provide assistance with accounting transition services. She stated that a total of 5 SOQs have been received. She indicated that the Chair recommended that an Ad Hoc Committee be established to review the SOQs received and recommend the selection of an Accounting Transition Firm from those received.

Director O'Grady moved to appoint the same representatives that currently sit on the Accounting/Personnel Ad Hoc Committee to review and recommend the selection of an accounting transition firm. The motion was seconded by Director Nila and approved by the following voice votes:

AYES: CABLAY, VU, HIERLIHY, O'GRADY, NILA, HERNANDEZ-TORRES, MOSTAHKAMI, ACKERMAN, RAPP, AREVALO, FIGUEROA, CASH, MORALES-CHOATE, HONEYCUTT, CERVANTES, STOWELL

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: PELSNER

ITEM 12 – GATEWAY REGIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANS (WMPS) AND MOU AND/OR AMENDMENTS

Lower Los Angeles River Upper Reach 2 Watershed Group

Director Nila provided an update on the Lower Los Angeles River Upper Reach 2 Watershed Group and reported that the conditional WMP was approved and that the Watershed Group had until June 12, 2015 to address revisions.

Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Group

Ms. Kast reported that over the course of the past two months, GWMA had been facilitating and assisting the LLAR Watershed Group to develop a First Amendment to their existing MOU. She stated that this Amendment would add implementation of the Plans to the scope and purpose of the MOU and to provide a separate cost-share formula for the implementation of the Plans, subject to annual budget approval.

Ms. Kast also reported that in October 2013, GWMA entered into a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with John L. Hunter & Associates as recommended by the LLAR Watershed Group. She stated that this PSA expired on January 31, 2015 and indicated that the Watershed Group had requested that GWMA amend the PSA to extend the term of the Agreement to December 31, 2017 and also add additional duties to the task to be performed under the Scope of Work increasing the PSA amount by \$1,089,549 for a total agreement amount of \$1,746,949.

After general discussions, Director Cablay moved to: 1) Approve the First Amendment to the MOU for the LLAR Watershed Group, 2) Approve the First Amendment to the PSA between GWMA and John L. Hunter & Associates in the amount not to exceed \$1,746,949 for the tasks to be performed under the Scope of Work set forth in Exhibit A to the Agreement for the LLAR Watershed Group, and 3) Authorized Executive Officer to make non-material changes to these First Amendments in consultation with GWMA's Legal Counsel. The motion was seconded by Director Figueroa and was approved by the following voice votes:

AYES: CABLAY, VU, HIERLIHY, O'GRADY, NILA, HERNANDEZ-TORRES, MOSTAHKAMI, ACKERMAN, RAPP, FIGUEROA, CASH, MORALES-CHOATE, HONEYCUTT, CERVANTES, STOWELL

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: PELSNER, AREVELO

Los Cerritos Channel Watershed Group

Director Arevelo provided an update on the Los Cerritos Channel Watershed Group and indicated that the group was currently working on finalizing the First Amendment to the MOU which would be brought before the Board at its meeting in June.

Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Group

Ms. Kast reported that over the course of the past two months, GWMA had also been facilitating and assisting the LSGR Watershed Group to develop a First Amendment to their existing MOU. She stated that this Amendment would add implementation of the Plans to the scope and purpose of the MOU and to provide a separate cost-share formula for the implementation of the Plans, subject to annual budget approval.

Ms. Kast also reported that in October 2013, GWMA entered into a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with John L. Hunter & Associates as recommended by the LSGR Watershed Group. She stated that this PSA expired on January 31, 2015 and indicated that the Watershed Group had requested that GWMA amend the PSA to extend the term of the Agreement to December 31, 2017 and also add additional duties to the task to be performed under the Scope of Work increasing the PSA amount by \$980,324 for a total agreement amount of \$1,665,324.

After general discussions, Director Mostahkami moved to: 1) Approve the First Amendment to the MOU for the LSGR Watershed Group, 2) Approve the First Amendment to the PSA between GWMA and John L. Hunter & Associates in the amount not to exceed \$1,665,324 for the tasks to be performed under the Scope of Work set forth in Exhibit A to the Agreement for the LSGR Watershed Group, and 3) Authorized Executive Officer to make non-material changes to these First Amendments in consultation with GWMA's Legal Counsel. The motion was seconded by Director Nila and was approved by the following voice votes:

AYES: CABLAY, VU, HIERLIHY, O'GRADY, NILA, HERNANDEZ-TORRES, MOSTAHKAMI, ACKERMAN, RAPP, FIGUEROA, CASH, MORALES-CHOATE, HONEYCUTT, CERVANTES, STOWELL

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: PELSNER, AREVELO

ITEM 13 – CITY MANAGERS' STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Ken Farfsing provided an update on contract cities and indicated that the city election has been completed. He also provided an update on SB 485.

ITEM 14 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

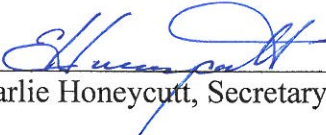
Ms. Kast reported that the City of Avalon was considering becoming a member of the GWMA.

ITEM 15 – DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS/REPORT

Director Mostahkami thanked Mr. Farfsing for his service and stated that he brought great value to GWMA.

Director Hierlihy indicated that she would like to make a presentation at a future meeting of the GWMA on the different programs available from Central Basin MWD.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.



Charlie Honeycutt, Secretary/Treasurer

6-11-15

Date