

**MINUTES OF THE GATEWAY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
BOARD  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority was held on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. via WebEx and Phone Conference.

Chair Lisa Rapp called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Roll was called by Executive Officer Grace Kast and a quorum of the Board was declared.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Okina Dor	Artesia
Jordan Monroe	Avalon
Chau Vu	Bell Gardens
Len Gorecki	Bellflower
Mike O'Grady	Cerritos
Gina Nila	Commerce
Tana McCoy	Compton
Cesar Roldan	Huntington Park
Mark Stowell	La Mirada
Lisa Rapp	Lakewood
Alvin Papa (alternate)	Long Beach
Jillian Croci (alternate)	Long Beach Water
Lorry Hempe (alternate)	Lynwood
Adriana Figueroa	Paramount
Kenner Guerrero (alternate)	Pico Rivera
Dylan Porter (alternate)	Port of Long Beach
Jesse Sira (alternate)	Santa Fe Springs
Gladis Deras (alternate)	South Gate
Jazmine Hook (alternate)	Vernon
Vicki Smith	Whittier

**STAFF AND GUESTS ON SIGN-IN SHEET:**

Grace Kast	Executive Officer
Traci Gleason	Program Administrative Manager
Nicholas Ghirelli	Legal Counsel
Whitford Marin (alternate)	City of Huntington Park
John Hunter	John L. Hunter & Associates
John Bednarski	Metropolitan Water District
Soni Rupam	Metropolitan Water District
Luis Cetina	Metropolitan Water District
Fred Gonzalez	County of Los Angeles
Nina Turner	(not available)

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**ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

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

None.

**ITEM 5 - CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director McCoy motioned to approve the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Director Figueroa and was approved by the following voice vote:

**AYES: Dor, Monroe, Vu, Gorecki, O’Grady, Nila, McCoy, Marin, Stowell, Rapp, Croci, Hemepe, Figueroa, Guerrero, Sira, Smith.**

**NOES: None.**

**ABSTAIN: Papa, Porter. (Minutes only.)**

**ITEM 6 - PRESENTATION – REGIONAL RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM**

Director Deras and Director Hooks entered at 12:12 p.m.

Mr. John Bednarski, Chief Engineer for Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), provided a presentation regarding their Regional Recycled Water Program. MWD efforts are focused on a partnership with LA County Sanitation District to develop a regional program to achieve (1) provide a reliable source of replenishment water for groundwater basins, (2) provide water to industries and (3) connect to MWD’s water treatment plants. The program is estimated to produce up to 150 million gallons per day (or 168,000 acre-feet per year). The benefits of the program are: in-basin generation of water on an ongoing basis; produces a drought proof source of water; replenishes groundwater basins; helps generate jobs and stimulate the economy; and helps reduce water discharged to the ocean. A conceptual report for the program was prepared in 2018. The total capital cost is estimated to be \$3.4 billion. The environmental planning process for this program is anticipated to be a 2-year effort, beginning in 2021. Design and construction would start after the environmental approval process, extending from 2023 to 2031. Start up and operation of the facility is targeted for 2031.

Director Roldan entered at 12:30 p.m.

**ITEM 7 – PRESENTATION – UPDATE ON 2020 REGIONAL MS4 PERMIT**

Mr. John Hunter of John L. Hunter and Associates, with Mr. Nicholas Ghirelli of Richards Watson Gershon, provided a presentation regarding the tentative MS4 Permit that will soon be released. The new MS4 Permit will become effective near July 1, 2021. The following are example changes from the 2012 MS4 Permit:

- Annual Fiscal Reports – Every year, how much money the permittees spent on NPDES in the previous years is required to be documented in the annual reports. For the 2012 MS4 Permit, 2 fields, 14 subprograms and 28 data points were gathered and reported. The



following are proposed for the 2021 MS4 Permit: 9 primary fields, 21 subprograms, and 189 data points to be gathered.

- Toxicity Testing - The 2012 MS4 Permit had required identifying the most sensitive species once. Toxicity testing must be conducted on a regular basis. For the 2021 MS4 Permit, during the first year of the permit term, the watershed management groups are required to conduct sensitivity screening to determine the most sensitive test species.
- Business inspections will need to be conducted once every two years, as opposed to twice during the 5+ year term.
- Employee training will need to be increased to annually for all programs, including industrial inspection program training.

Mr. Hunter shared the Regional Board's estimated costs per Permittee for implementing TMDLs through the Regional MS4 Permit.

The State Water Board has issued a tentative order. The intent is to order the Regional Board to insert stringent requirements into the MS4 Permit. The final order is expected in January 2021. Potential Impacts are: (1) Watershed modeling must be done for many more pollutants, not just the limiting pollutant; (2) More specificity is needed as to where and when regional projects will be constructed; (3) Permittees must go back and re-demonstrate watersheds have achieved any past interim milestones; (4) lack of funding is not an excuse for not achieving compliance. If any of the conditions are not met, watersheds may lose their deemed compliance.

**ITEM 8 – CONSIDERATION OF GWMA TO SERVE AS LEAD AGENCY FOR TWO  
(2) SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM PROJECTS**

GWMA was requested to be identified on the Measure W funding application as the Lead Agency for two (2) scientific studies. Study No.1 will assess and organize proposed projects within the Gateway Region while Study No. 2 will evaluate the SCW Program guidelines and rubrics for WASCs throughout Los Angeles County that wish to participate. It was noted that the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) was also requested to serve as Lead Agency for the latter study. Therefore, GWMA has been asked to serve as a co-Lead Agency with the SGVCOG for Study No. 2. This would offer Lead Agency options for individual WASCs who wish to participate. In the event SGVCOG chooses to not participate as a co-Lead Agency, GWMA would then serve as the sole Lead Agency for Study No. 2.

Costs would not be incurred by GWMA until awarded. If funding is awarded through Measure W, GWMA staff and legal time will be needed to review and develop the funding agreement(s) between GWMA and LACFCD for the GWMA Board to consider. Once the legal agreements are executed, GWMA's costs will be covered by Measure W funds.

Director Nila motioned to approve GWMA's role as Lead Agency for Gateway WMP/SIP Integration Study Phase I and as co-Lead Agency with the SGVCOG, or as sole Lead Agency, for the NGO/Agency Collaborative Effort and authorize GWMA's name to be added to the Measure W funding application for the proposed study. If funding is awarded, GWMA's official role as the study's Lead Agency is contingent upon Board Approval of an Agreement between LACFCD and GWMA that sets forth each agency's role and funding obligations. The motion was seconded by Director Papa and approved by the following voice vote:

**AYES:** Dor, Monroe, Vu, Gorecki, O’Grady, Nila, McCoy, Roldan, Stowell, Rapp, Papa, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Porter, Guerrero, Sira, Deras, Hooks, Smith.

**NOES:** None.

**ABSTAIN:** None.

**ITEM 9 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING LETTER AGREEMENTS BETWEEN GWMA AND LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT FOR THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDINGS FOR THE LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER WATERSHED GROUP, LOWER SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED GROUP, AND LOS CERRITOS CHANNEL WATERSHED GROUP**

At the July 2020 Board Meeting, the GWMA Board approved Amendment No. 2 for the Lower Cerritos Channel (LCC), Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR), and Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) Watershed Groups Memorandum of Understandings (MOU), which extended the term of each MOU to September 30, 2025 or expiration of the forthcoming MS4 Permit, whichever occurs first.

Since the approval of Amendment No. 2, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) has requested a change to the MOU Amendment No. 2 in order to address an LACFCD policy that precludes LACFCD from expending funds on regional BMP projects unless the participating parties and GWMA enter into a separate project-specific agreement. Each MOU already contains language that effectively requires LACFCD to consent to participating in a specific BMP project, but LACFCD has requested a specific commitment from GWMA that GWMA would not expend its funds on regional BMP projects without its prior consent.

Letter agreements between GWMA and LACFCD were prepared for each of the three watershed groups. Costs to develop the letter agreements would be paid via watershed group administrative funds.

Director Deras motioned to approve the three letter agreements for the LCC, LLAR, and LSGR watershed groups MOU Amendment No. 2, and to authorize the Chair to sign the three letter agreements. The motion was seconded by Director Nila and approved by the following voice vote:

**AYES:** Dor, Monroe, Vu, Gorecki, O’Grady, Nila, McCoy, Roldan, Stowell, Papa, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Porter, Guerrero, Sira, Deras, Smith.

**NOES:** None.

**ABSTAIN:** None.

**ITEM 10 - SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM ORAL REPORTS**

Director Porter reported the next Lower Los Angeles River WASC will be scheduled for either late October/early November. At the meeting, discussion items will include lessons learned from the first round, upcoming schedule, vote on new chair and vice chair, and discuss the watershed priorities in the group.



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**ITEM 11 – GATEWAY REGIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUPS ORAL REPORT**

Lower Los Angeles River Upper Reach 2 (LARUR2) Watershed Group

Director Nila reported that there was a site visit for the John Anson Ford Park Project that is still in progress. The group is waiting for the SIPs to be approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) Watershed Group

Director Deras reported the next LLAR meeting will be held on October 26, 2020.

Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) Watershed Group

Director O’Grady reported the LSGR meeting met on September 17, 2020. Focus has been on the annual report and two applications for regional funding that will be submitted on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Los Cerritos Channel (LCC) Watershed Group

None.

**ITEM 12 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S ORAL REPORT**

Executive Officer Kast reported GWMA released the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for On-Call Consultants. Statement of Qualifications (SOQs) are due at the end of the month. Volunteers were requested to sit on an ad-hoc committee to review the SOQs that are received. Director Vu, Director Papa, and Director Monroe stated they would volunteer to be on the ad-hoc committee. Evaluation period which is anticipated to be November/December 2020.

**ITEM 13 – DIRECTORS’ ORAL COMMENTS/REPORTS**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

The next regular Board Meeting of the Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority will be on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. The meeting will be held via video conference to meet social distancing recommendations or will be held in person at its regular location at Progress Park in Paramount, depending on recommendations from local and State officials. The physical location or video conference information will be posted with each Board Agenda which can be found at [www.gatewaywater.org](http://www.gatewaywater.org) 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

  
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Lisa Rapp, Chair

  
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Date