

**MINUTES OF THE GATEWAY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
BOARD  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority was held on Thursday, March 11, 2021 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
Veronica Sanchez (alternate)	Bell Gardens
Alex Rojas	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Mike O'Grady	Cerritos
Cesar Roldan	Huntington Park
Mark Stowell	La Mirada
Lisa Rapp	Lakewood
Melissa You	Long Beach
Jillian Croci	Long Beach Water
Lorry Hempe (alternate)	Lynwood
Adriana Figueroa	Paramount
Kenner Guerrero (alternate)	Pico Rivera
Dylan Porter (alternate)	Port of Long Beach
Sarina Morales-Choate (alternate)	Santa Fe Springs
Kelli Tunnicliff	Signal Hill
Gladis Deras (alternate)	South Gate
Jazmine Hooks (alternate)	Vernon
Esther Rojas (alternate)	Water Replenishment District
Vicki Smith	Whittier

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

Grace Kast	Executive Officer
Traci Gleason	Program Administrative Manager
Nicholas Ghirelli	Legal Counsel
Kekoa Anderson	Funding/Grants Program
Jeremy Melendez (alternate)	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Whitford Marin (alternate)	City of Huntington Park
Don Nguyen (alternate)	City of Santa Fe Springs
Jesse Sira (alternate)	City of Santa Fe Springs
Martha Camacho Rodriguez	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Letecia Vasquez-Wilson	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Nina Turner	Port of Long Beach

STAFF AND GUESTS ON SIGN-IN SHEET (continued):

Alec German	Fedak & Brown
Gerald Green	CWE
Scott Struck	Geosyntec

**ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

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

None.

**ITEM 5 - CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

**AYES: Melendez, O’Grady, Roldan, Rapp, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Guerrero, Morales-Choate, Tunncliff, Hooks, E. Rojas, Smith.**

**NOES: None.**

**ABSTAIN: Dor, Sanchez, Stowell, Porter, Deras. (Minutes only).**

**ITEM 6 – GWMA AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020**

Alec German, from Fedak & Brown, LLP, presented the 2019-2020 GWMA Audit results to the Board. Mr. German noted that in their opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Authority, as of June 30, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. They did not identify material weakness within GWMA’s internal control structure. Mr. German reviewed the financial highlights.

Director Dor motioned to receive and file the annual audited financial statement for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The motion was seconded by Director Deras, and the motion was approved by the following voice vote:

**AYES: Dor, Sanchez, Melendez, O’Grady, Roldan, Stowell, Rapp, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Morales-Choate, Tunncliff, Deras, Hooks, E. Rojas, Smith.**

**NOES: None.**

**ABSTAIN: None.**

**ITEM 7 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING MOU WITH THE CITY OF COMPTON FOR COST SHARING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF MONITORING EQUIPMENT AND MONITORING PURSUANT TO THE HARBOR TOXIC POLLUTANTS TMDL**

Director Rojas entered at 12:25 p.m.

GWMA entered into agreements with Harbor Toxic upstream participants in May of 2018 for cost sharing for the installation of the monitoring stations and the costs of monitoring conducted at the monitoring stations. The City of Compton requested to become a Harbor Toxic Upstream participant for the remainder of the existing term (through June 30, 2023). Approval and authorization for the agreement was requested because the financial obligations for the City of Compton are a little different. Compton would also be invoiced for administrative fees to cover direct administrative costs. Since the City is a member of GWMA, they will not be invoiced for indirect administrative costs.

Director Figueroa motioned to approve the agreement with the City of Compton for Cost Sharing for the Installation of Monitoring Equipment and Monitoring Pursuant to the Harbor Toxic Pollutants TMDL, as presented, and authorize the Chair to execute the Agreement with the City of Compton. The motion was seconded by Director O’Grady and approved by the following voice vote:

- AYES:** Dor, Sanchez, A. Rojas, O’Grady, Roldan, Stowell, Rapp, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Morales-Choate, Tunncliff, Deras, Hooks, E. Rojas, Smith.
- NOES:** None.
- ABSTAIN:** None.

**ITEM 8 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING CITY OF AVALON’S FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP DUES AND REQUEST TO WITHDRAW MEMBERSHIP FROM GATEWAY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

The City of Avalon joined GWMA as a member in 2015 and has actively participated as a voting member since joining. With the city’s reduction in tax revenues due to lack of tourism, their solvency at risk, recent staff resignations/reductions and other unprecedented changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Avalon requested a reduction in their Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 GWMA Membership Dues. Their plan is to withdraw its membership from GWMA in March 2021 via Resolution of its Governing Board with the intent of re-joining sometime in the future.

Director O’Grady motioned to accept the City of Avalon’s request to reduce its FY 2020-2021 membership dues assessment by one-half (\$7,500) and to accept its withdrawal (via Resolution) as a member in good-standing. The motion was seconded by Director Tunncliff and approved by the following voice vote:

- AYES:** Dor, Sanchez, A. Rojas, O’Grady, Roldan, Stowell, Rapp, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Morales-Choate, Tunncliff, Deras, Hooks, E. Rojas, Smith.



**NOES: None.**

**ABSTAIN: None.**

**ITEM 9 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD FOR THE JOHN ANSON FORD PARK INFILTRATION CISTER: PHASE I PROJECT**

GWMA applied for a Proposition 1 grant in 2016 on behalf of the Los Angeles River Upper Reach 2 (LAR UR2) Watershed Group, for the first phase of the John Anson Ford Park Infiltration Cistem Project. GWMA was awarded \$9,904,842 by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). In January 2018, the Board authorized the Chair to execute the agreement with the SWRCB. Per the agreement, the work completion date is March 31, 2021. However, a schedule amendment request was submitted to the State to accommodate construction delays due to weather and also to accommodate Phase II of construction that will be funded by Measure W.

Director Figueroa motioned to approve the First Amendment to the Grant Agreement with the California State Water Resources Control Board for the John Anson Ford Park Infiltration Cistem: Phase I Project, and authorize the Chair to execute the Agreement Amendment. The motion was seconded by Director Deras, and approved by the following voice votes:

**AYES: Dor, Sanchez, A. Rojas, O’Grady, Roldan, Stowell, Rapp, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Morales-Choate, Tunncliff, Deras, Hooks, E. Rojas, Smith.**

**NOES: None.**

**ABSTAIN: None.**

**ITEM 10 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING GWMA’S UPDATED ON-CALL CONSULTING SERVICES LIST**

At the previous GWMA Board Meeting, the Board approved a revised On-Call Consulting List based on the results of a Request For Qualifications process that began on September 30, 2020. This was due to the expiration of Professional Service Agreement (PSA)s for most of the consultants (5-year terms). However, two consultants with non-expired PSAs on the GWMA On-Call Consulting Services List were requested to resubmit a proposal due to team member changes or because staff felt updated qualifications were needed. Geosyntec Consultants had resubmitted a Statement of Qualifications but their current agreement does not expire until November 2022. Geosyntec Consultants has since requested that the existing PSA and all of its terms (which expires on November 9, 2022) be kept valid in lieu of entering into a new 5-year PSA ending in 2026.

Director Hempe motioned to approve the updated on-call consulting services list as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Roldan, and approved by the following voice votes:

**AYES: Dor, Sanchez, A. Rojas, O’Grady, Roldan, Stowell, Rapp, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Morales-Choate, Tunncliff, Deras, Hooks, E. Rojas, Smith.**

**NOES: None.**

**ABSTAIN: None.**

**ITEM 11 – LEGISLATIVE ORAL REPORTS**

GWMA’s Legal Counsel, Nicholas Ghirelli of Richards Watson Gershon (RWG) provided an update regarding AB377 (Rivas) which was sponsored by Coastkeeper. The bill, if passed, would take away a lot of the discretion that the Regional Board currently has to modify implementation schedules for TMDLs and craft permits with alternative compliance approaches that involve implementing structural BMPs over a period of time as a means of achieving compliance with TMDLs. The bill seems to be targeted at the Los Angeles (LA) MS4 Permit and seeks to prohibit the Regional Board from issuing NPDES and waste discharge permit requirements that causes or contributes to exceedance of water quality standards by prohibiting any type of alternative compliance determination. A very recent amendment was submitted which would expressly authorize WMPs, EWMPs and BMPs based compliance options to achieve water quality standards. However, the bill does not explain WMP or EWMP. It is assumed that they are the types of programs that are currently in the LA Permit. It also just describes them as a planning tool for achieving compliance and not as a means to achieving compliance. The bill still prohibits compliance schedules and permits or basin planning for existing water quality standards for TMDLs, but would allow for compliance schedules as part of enforcement orders such as TSOs, which is also problematic when LA Regional Board is doing critical work extending compliance schedules for TMDLs. The bill will still prohibit anti-backsliding in the permit but would incorporate some narrow exceptions recognized under federal law. That is important for municipal stormwater because there is a case involving the LA Permit that said anti-backsliding does not apply in municipal stormwater permits, meaning that the regional board has flexibility to potentially issue a permit that does not require as strict compliance with the previously issue permit.

Legal Counsel Ghirelli reported that the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) has been taking the outreach lead organization to oppose the bill. A hearing date was scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Therefore, agencies planning to submit an opposition letter should file the letter before April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Director Figueroa motioned to oppose the AB377 legislation and to authorize the GWMA Chair to submit comment letters, as necessary throughout the legislative process. The motion was seconded by Director Deras, and approved by the following voice votes:

**AYES: Dor, Sanchez, A. Rojas, O’Grady, Roldan, Stowell, Rapp, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Morales-Choate, Tunnickliff, Deras, Hooks, E. Rojas, Smith.**

**NOES: None.**

**ABSTAIN: None.**

Executive Officer Kast provided information regarding AB1195 that would create the Southern Los Angeles County Regional Water Agency as a regional water agency serving the drinking water



needs of the cities, unincorporated areas, and residents in the communities overlying the Central Basin and West Coast Basin aquifers in southern Los Angeles County. Director A. Rojas noted that Central Basin Municipal Water District is concerned how broad the bill is written. It doesn't discuss criteria for designating or identifying small water systems that would be identified for consolidations. Director A. Rojas noted that CBMWD will be taking this issue to their board and to make the request to see more specific language regarding consolidation of small water systems, and how to adequately involve is the community in those decisions.

**ITEM 12 – SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM ORAL REPORT**

Director Rapp is the chair for LSGR WASC. She reported that the WASC met on March 9th. At the March meeting, the LSGR WASC had completed the project presentations for Infrastructure Projects and Scientific Studies. At the next meeting, which is to occur the second week of April, the WASC will begin to formulate the SIP. The County staff said they would like to get the SIPs from all the WASCs completed by the end of May. Director Rapp also reminded the attendees that April 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to provide the expenditure plan for Year 2, and that July 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to apply for Year 3. Director Tunnickliff noted that the City of Signal Hill is taking the plan to their council for approval to share the list of projects with the public so that it is an opportunity for the community engagement.

Director Figueroa noted for LLAR WASC that similar to the LSGR WASC, presentations will be provided during the March and April meetings. The SIP will likely be prepared in May.

**ITEM 13 - GATEWAY REGIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUPS ORAL REPORT**

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

None.

Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) Watershed Group

None.

Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) Watershed Group

Director O'Grady reported the watershed group is continuing to identify projects interested as a group in securing services for feasibility studies so that they can prepare projects to submit for regional funding under Measure W. Two projects were identified at the last meeting that they are accepting proposals for.

Los Cerritos Channel (LCC) Watershed Group

None.

**ITEM 14 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S ORAL REPORT**

Executive Officer Grace Kast reminded Board Members that they are required to submit annual Form 700s. The deadline to file is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

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**ITEM 15 – DIRECTORS’ ORAL COMMENTS/REPORTS**

None.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

The next regular Board Meeting of the Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority will be on Thursday, April 8, 2021 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

5.13.2021  
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Date

