

**MINUTES OF THE GATEWAY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
BOARD
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING
THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority was held on Thursday, March 13, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. via WebEx and Phone Conference.

Vice Chair Adriana Figueroa called the meeting to order at 12:04 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
Len Gorecki	Bellflower
Jeremy Melendez (alternate)	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Gina Nila	Commerce
Tana McCoy	Compton
Aaron Hernandez-Torres	Cudahy
Whitford Marin (alternate)	Huntington Park
Mark Stowell	La Mirada
Melissa You	Long Beach
Jillian Croci	Long Beach Water
Lorry Hempe (alternate)	Lynwood
Adriana Figueroa	Paramount
Dylan Porter (alternate)	Port of Long Beach
Jesse Sira (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
Don Nguyen (alternate)	City of Santa Fe Springs
Sarina Morales-Choate	City of Santa Fe Springs
Martha Camacho Rodriguez	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Leticia Vasquez-Wilson	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Nina Turner	Port of Long Beach
Nate Schreiner	Tetra Tech
Tom West	Harris & Associates
Eileen Garcia	Tree People

ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

ITEM 4 - ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None.

ITEM 5 - CONSENT CALENDAR

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

AYES: Dor, Sanchez, Melendez, Marin, Stowell, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Porter, Sira, Tunicliff, Deras, E. Rojas, Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Gorecki, Nila, McCoy (Minutes only).

ITEM 6 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING AUDIT ENGAGEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Executive Officer Grace Kast reported that Fedak & Brown has conducted audits for GWMA for the past four years. Their audit is performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Fedak & Brown submitted a proposal to GWMA to perform the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 audit.

Director Tunicliff motioned to authorize Fedak & Brown LLP to conduct GWMA's FY 2020-2021 audit in the amount not to exceed \$8,280. The motion was seconded by Director McCoy, and the motion was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Dor, Sanchez, Gorecki, Melendez, Nila, McCoy, Marin, Stowell, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Porter, Sira, Tunicliff, Deras, E. Rojas, Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 7 - WORKSHOP – FY 2021-2022 GWMA ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Director Hooks entered at 12:13 p.m.

Director Hernandez-Torres entered at 12:14 p.m.

Executive Officer Grace Kast provided the Board with a detailed review of the proposed operating budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, reviewing the following items: the basis of the budget, the anticipated revenue, operating expenses (including general expenses vs watershed expenses), special project expenses, net income after operating expenses, net income after including special project, and the estimated fund balance at the end of Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

The GWMA administrative budget for FY 2021-2022 will be brought to the June board meeting for approval. A super majority will be needed for the approval of the budget.

ITEM 8 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING DIRECT AND INDIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE FEES FOR FY 2021-2022

In May of 2018, the GWMA Board adopted an Administrative Fee Policy to ensure that the GWMA’s Administrative Fees are established at a rate that recovers its expenses. The administrative fee rates (direct and indirect) are approved by the Board of Directors annually. GWMA members are not assessed for Indirect Costs, as GWMA members are required to pay annual membership dues and thus are contributing to general costs in support of GWMA.

Staff recommended maintaining the same direct and indirect administrative fees as the current fiscal year: 3% to members for cost share allocation for watershed, grant programs and other activities; 5% to non-members for cost share allocation for watershed, grant programs and other activities. Additionally, staff recommended maintaining the same percentage of 3.76% for indirect costs to non-members.

Director Tunnickliff motioned to approve the following recommendations:

- a. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 GWMA Member Direct Cost Administrative Fees at a rate of 3% of the Member’s cost share allocation for the particular watershed, grant, program or other activities.
- b. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 GWMA Non-Member Direct Cost Administrative Fees at a rate of 5% of the Non-Member’s cost share allocation for the particular watershed, grant, program or other activities.
- c. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 GWMA Non-Member Indirect Cost Administrative Fees at a rate of 3.76% of the Non-member’s cost share allocation for the particular watershed, grant, program or other activities.

The motion was seconded by Director Melendez, and the items were approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Dor, Sanchez, Gorecki, Melendez, Nila, McCoy, Hernandez-Torres, Marin, Stowell, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Porter, Sira, Tunnickliff, Deras, Hooks, E. Rojas, Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 9 – GWMA GRANT FUNDING STRATEGIES

GWMA’s Funding/Grants Program Staff Kekoa Anderson discussion focused on the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Grants Program. Draft guidelines for 2022 Grant Program were released on May 4 2021. Comments are being accepted through June 4, 2021. Ideal projects would be multi-beneficial projects that improve water quality, improving water management, and leverage funds from other programs WaterSMART 2022 program include updates to the eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria for Drought Resiliency Projects, Water and Energy Efficiency

Grants, and Environmental Water Resources Projects. New funding opportunity will focus on projects that have environmental benefits, developed as part of a collaborative process, and may be eligible for up to 75% federal funding.

Previously, GWMA did an Advanced Water Meter Replacement (AMR) project with grant funding from the Bureau of Reclamation. Members interested in participating in another AMR project for the 2022 WaterSMART Grant Program include Central Basin, Lynwood, Paramount, Signal Hill.

Grace Kast requested for members to provide suggestions ,whether verbal or via email, on project concepts that GWMA can pursue on behalf of one or more GWMA members a regional type of grant. Director Nila suggested Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) treatment project, or drought tolerant planting projects. GWMA staff will prepare and distribute to members a survey to better understand the interest level of types of projects for what type of grant programs to pursue.

Director Figueroa suggested that Grace Kast and Kekoa Anderson draft a comment letter and have it reviewed by GWMA's executive committee prior to submitting the letter.

ITEM 10 – LEGISLATIVE ORAL REPORTS

Executive Officer Grace Kast reported that AB377 bill passed committee and is going to the Appropriations Committee. There is no date set for the next hearing. There will be opportunities to submit opposition letters throughout the process.

ITEM 11 – SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM ORAL REPORT

Director Nila reported the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR)Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) is meeting May 25th in order to prepare the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP). The SIP is to be completed by the end of May and submitted to the County Board of Supervisors in June for approval of funding. If approved, funding is expected to be released in August.

Director You reported the Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) WASC voted on May 11th on the SIP. Two non-implementation projects were approved: one is a Technical Resource Program and one is a scientific study, which was the Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis.

ITEM 12 - GATEWAY REGIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUPS ORAL REPORT

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

Director Nila reported that Phase 1 of the John Anson Ford Park Cistern Project is wrapping up. The details to begin Phase 2, which is funded through Safe Clean Water Program, is being worked out. It is anticipated for Phase 2 to be completed by Spring of next year.

LLAR Watershed Group

None.

LSGR Watershed Group

None.

Los Cerritos Channel (LCC) Watershed Group

None.

ITEM 14 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S ORAL REPORT

None.

ITEM 15 – DIRECTORS’ ORAL COMMENTS/REPORTS

None.

ITEM 15 - CLOSED SESSION – PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957, TITLE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER; AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT /EMPLOYMENT: GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957, TITLE: EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Board of Directors determined a closed session was not necessary.

ITEM 16- DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH KOA CONSULTING FOR GWMA PROGRAM MANAGEMENT, GRANT ADMINISTRATION, AND DAC COMMITTEE SERVICES

Vice Chair Figueroa reported that the GWMA Board of Directors approved a professional services agreement with Koa Consulting for program management, grant administration, and disadvantaged communities (DAC) services (the “Agreement”) on March 14, 2019. The Agreement’s term began on March 1, 2019 and expired on June 30, 2020. Pursuant to Section 2 of the Agreement, GWMA may, at its option, extend the Agreement’s term for up to three additional terms of one year each upon providing written notice to Koa Consulting 30 days prior to the Agreement’s scheduled expiration. On May 14, 2020, the GWMA Board approved the first one-year extension of the Agreement, with an expiration date of June 30, 2021. This would be the second one-year extension.

She concluded her report by stating that Koa Consulting had expressed its willingness to continue providing the Agreement’s scope of services under the same terms, including the financial terms, for an additional year.

Director Dor motioned to approve the following recommendations:

- a. Approve a one-year extension of the Professional Services Agreement attached as Attachment A with Koa Consulting, with a new expiration date of June 30, 2022; and
- b. Direct the Chair to provide written notification to Koa Consulting of the Board’s approval of the one-year contract extension.

The motion was seconded by Director R. Rojas, and the items were approved by the following voice vote:

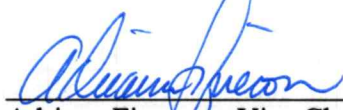
AYES: Dor, Sanchez, Gorecki, Melendez, Nila, McCoy, Hernandez-Torres, Marin, Stowell, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Porter, Sira, Deras, Hooks, E. Rojas, Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

The next regular Board Meeting of the Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority will be on Thursday, June 10, 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 72 hours in advance of the meeting.



Adriana Figueroa, Vice Chair

6.10.2021

Date