

**MINUTES OF THE GATEWAY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
BOARD
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING
THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority was held on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. via WebEx and Phone Conference.

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:

Grissel Chavez	Bell Gardens
Len Gorecki	Bellflower
Jeremy Melendez (alternate)	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Mike O'Grady	Cerritos
Gina Nila	Commerce
Michelle Chambers (alternate)	Compton
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
Sarina Morales-Choate (alternate)	Santa Fe Springs
Kelli Tunnicliff	Signal Hill
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
Jesse Sira	City of Santa Fe Springs
Suely Saro	RMC
Nina Turner	POLB
Tom West	Harris & Assoc.
Brad Wardynski	Craftwater

ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

ITEM 4 - ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None.

ITEM 5 - CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Stowell requested for a correction to the agencies listed in the board members present list.

Director Stowell motioned to approve the consent calendar with that correction. The motion was seconded by Director Gorecki and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Chavez, Gorecki, Melendez, O’Grady, Chambers, Marin, Stowell, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Morales-Choate, E. Rojas, Smith

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Nila, Porter (Minutes only).

ITEM 6 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING 2015 PROPOSITION 84 GRANT PROJECT 1 – ADVANCED WATER METER REPLACEMENT (ENCLOSURE)

Director Tunnickliff entered at 12:14 p.m.

The Advanced Water Meter Replacement Project is one of four GWMA projects awarded funding under the 2015 Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Program. The project encompasses the service areas of 11 participating GWMA entities including the cities of Bellflower, Cerritos, Commerce, Downey, Lakewood, Norwalk, South Gate, and Whittier, as well as the Pico Rivera Water Authority, Long Beach Water Department (LBWD) and the Pico Water District. The City of Cerritos had recently notified GWMA that they wish to withdraw from the project because the City prefers to convert all of their meters in lieu of a fraction of the meters in the system, but the City doesn’t have sufficient funds to convert all of the meters at this time. Executive Officer Kast reported that after staff conducted a thorough review of all the project participants in regard to their local match amount, their share of the grant amount, and number of meters required to be replaced, LBWD had a significantly higher local match percentage compared to the other participants. It was also noted that LBWD had previously submitted detailed documentation for many more installed meters than were required per the agreement. With LBWD assuming Cerritos’ requirement for meter replacement, LBWD’s grant amount and local match requirement would increase, but their local match percentage would be lowered to bringing it closer to the average local match percentage of other participants. GWMA staff has confirmed with the County of Los Angeles, who also confirmed with Department of Water Resources, that this change would be acceptable. To legally make the change, GWMA would need to amend its subrecipient agreement with LBWD. Additionally, a mutual termination agreement with Cerritos is also needed, confirming that the City of Cerritos is not entitled to any reimbursement of previously paid administrative fees.

Direct Nila motioned to approve the second amendment to the subrecipient with LBWD, and the mutual termination of subrecipient agreement with the City of Cerritos for the 2015 Proposition 84 Grant Program, and authorize the Chair to sign and execute the second amendment to the subrecipient agreement with LBWD and the mutual termination of subrecipient agreement with the City of Cerritos. The motion was seconded by Director O’Grady and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: **Chavez, Gorecki, Melendez, O’Grady, Nila, Chambers, Marin, Stowell, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Porter, Morales-Choate, Tunnicliff, E. Rojas, Smith**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ITEM 7 – GWMA TO SERVE AS LEAD AGENCY FOR PHASE 2 OF THE GATEWAY AREA PATHFINDING ANALYSIS

Executive Officer Kast noted that last year staff brought before the board Phase 1 of Gateway Area Pathfinding (GAP) Analysis, at the request of three of GWMA’s watershed groups [Los Cerritos Channel (LCC), Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) and Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR)]. The objective of the analysis was to identify where gaps are in relation to some of the stormwater projects being planned and built within the landscape of the LLAR and the LSGR Watershed Areas and to facilitate a more organized project approach by determining the best project-by-project pathway (and timeline) to achieve compliance. When the request was presented to the GWMA Board, it was noted that Phase 2 of the GAP Analysis would likely be requested for consideration in the subsequent year. The GWMA Board approved GWMA’s role as Lead Agency for the study and authorized GWMA’s name to be added to the Measure W funding application. The Phase 1 project was submitted and approved by the LLAR Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) and the LSGR WASC for Measure W Scientific Studies FY 2021-2022 funding. The Board of Supervisors is expected to approve it in September 2021.

GWMA has been requested by the same three watershed groups to be the Lead Agency for Phase 2 of the GAP Analysis. Phase 2 of the study will scale the approach region-wide over a longer-term horizon of approximately 10-50 years, in collaboration with the Watershed Coordinators and Gateway watershed groups. The grant funding request for the study is \$460k, in which \$230k will be requested independently from each of the two WASCs (LLAR and LSGR). It was noted that the study can continue to advance in each watershed area regardless if it is funded in the other watershed area.

Director Nila motioned to approve GWMA’s role as Lead Agency for Phase 2 of the Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis and authorize GWMA’s name to be added to the Measure W funding application for the proposed study. If awarded, GWMA’s official role as the study’s Lead Agency is contingent upon Board approval of an Agreement between Los Angeles County Flood Control District and GWMA that sets forth each agency’s role and funding obligations. The motion was seconded by Director Chambers and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Chavez, Gorecki, Melendez, O’Grady, Nila, Chambers, Marin, Stowell, You, Croci, Hempe, Figueroa, Porter, Morales-Choate, Tunnicliff, E. Rojas, Smith

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 8 – SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM ORAL REPORT

Director Nila reported for the LLAR WASC that the Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) was presented to the Regional Oversight Committee in June, and it was approved. The County Board of Supervisors approval is pending. It is anticipated for it to be on the schedule for September.

Director You reported that the LSGR WASC had re-voted on the SIP for Round 2 at the last meeting on June 8th. The SIP was then presented to the Regional Oversight Committee and approved. Like the SIP for the LLAR watershed area, approval from the County Board of Supervisors is pending. Director You also reported that the watershed coordinator had discussed the draft Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP), and the final SOEP will be presented at the next meeting.

ITEM 9 - GATEWAY REGIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUPS ORAL REPORT

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

Director Nila reported that the updated watershed management program was submitted to the Water Board last week. The John Anson Ford Park Infiltration Cistern Project had a construction progress meeting. The progress of the project is going well as expected. It is anticipated for construction to be completed by Spring/early Summer 2022. The watershed group is awaiting for the SIP to be approved so that the project can get the funding for Phase 2.

LLAR Watershed Group

None.

LSGR Watershed Group

Director O’ Grady reported that the group submitted the updated watershed management program and adaptive management report. The group is preparing to provide oral comments on the proposed MS4 permit.

LCC Watershed Group

Director O’ Grady reported that similar to the LSGR Watershed, the group submitted the updated watershed management program and adaptive management report. The group is preparing to provide oral comments on the proposed MS4 permit.

ITEM 11 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S ORAL REPORT

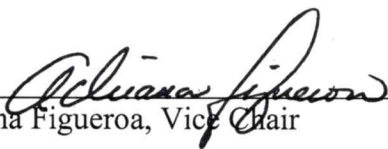
None.

ITEM 12 – DIRECTORS’ ORAL COMMENTS/REPORTS

None.

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

The next regular Board Meeting of the Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority will be on Thursday, August 12, 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

9-9-2021

Date