

**MINUTES OF THE GATEWAY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
BOARD
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority was held on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. via WebEx and Phone Conference.

Chair Lisa Rapp called the meeting to order at 1:05 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
Bernardo Iniguez (alternate)	Bellflower
Alex Rojas	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Mike O'Grady	Cerritos
Gina Nila	Commerce
Whitford Marin (alternate)	Huntington Park
Mark Stowell	La Mirada
Lisa Rapp	Lakewood
Melissa You	Long Beach
Jillian Croci	Long Beach Water
Adriana Figueroa	Paramount
Kenner Guerrero (alternate)	Pico Rivera
Dylan Porter (alternate)	Port of Long Beach
Sarina Morales-Choate (alternate)	Santa Fe Springs
Hannah Shin-Heydorn (alternate)	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
Jeremy Melendez	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Cesar Roldan	City of Huntington Park
Jesus Silva	Ortega Strategies Group
Tom Worley	CWSA
Chad Helmle	Craftwater Engineering
Tom West	Harris & Associates
Yoshi Andersen	Geosyntec Consultants

ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

ITEM 4 - ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None.

ITEM 5 - CONSENT CALENDAR

Director A. Rojas motioned to approve the consent calendar.

The motion was seconded by Director Shin-Heydorn and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Dor, A. Rojas, O’Grady, Nila, Marin, Stowell, Rapp, You, Croci, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Morales-Choate, Shin-Heydorn, E. Rojas, Smith

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Sanchez, Iniguez (Minutes only).

ITEM 6 - PRESENTATION – INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS ALLIANCE (CWSA) AND PFAS ACTION BY JESUS SILVA

Jesus Silva and Tim Worley provided a presentation about CWSA. CWSA formed with the intent to help mutual water companies. California Association of Mutual Water Companies (CalMutuals) created in 2013 and formed to give voice to smallest systems and those in disadvantaged communities. Larger special districts recognized the value of CalMutuals model being larger systems helping the smaller systems. Thus, CWSA was formed in 2018 with the main goal to explore strategies for organizing the leaders for all water systems that provide water to small and disadvantaged communities in California. CWSA Regional Empowerment Initiative is an undertaking to unite and empower smaller water systems leaders to speak for themselves and communities they serve. Currently CWSA is advocating for equitable programs that do not discriminate against smaller, underserved communities, for revenue sources that do not depend on regressive taxation, and for state grants and technical assistance that can be used before enforcing new regulations. CWSA has helped defeat tax on tap water by proposing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund as an alternate solution. CWSA is the lead sponsor for AB 588 to require the state to allow a compliance period of up to 5 years when adopting a new drinking water maximum contaminant levels. CWSA has been coordinating with CBMWD in setting up meetings with key members of Congress to explain concerns including keeping benefit-cost analysis in setting drinking water regulations, and exempt water agencies from liability under CERCLA or RCRA.

ITEM 7 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ON-CALL CONSULTANTS FOR 2021 GWMA REGIONAL GRANT/PROJECT

On September 15, 2021, staff sent a Request for Proposals to the approved On-Call Consultants for Grant Writing with the exception of Koa Consulting to avoid a potential conflict of interest. The deadline for submission of proposals was October 8, 2021. Consultants were not required to

submit proposals for all four categories of regional projects. The Request for Proposal for each category assumed up to 10 participants in each regional project and was requested on a time and material basis with a not-to-exceed amount. GWMA received proposals from the following consultants: Geosyntec (for PFOS/PFOA, Recycled Water, Storm Water Capture, and Wells), Harris & Associates (for PFOS/PFOA, Recycled Water, Storm Water Capture, and Wells), John L. Hunter & Associates (for Storm Water Capture), CWE (for Recycled Water and Storm Water Capture), and Craftwater Engineering (for Storm Water Capture). Per Board policy, the Executive Officer in consultation with staff members, reviewed and evaluated each proposal carefully to determine best fit per category based on a clear understanding of the work being requested, knowledge, experience and a clear description of how to best approach the work. After staff's initial selection under each category, the Executive Officer successfully negotiated costs. The following consultants under each project category were recommended for approval by the GWMA Board. The amounts shown are not-to-exceed and are based on time and material.

Firm	Regional Project Category	Not-to-Exceed Amount
Geosyntec	Recycled Water	\$25,000
Harris & Associates	PFOS/PFOA	\$24,520
Harris & Associates	New Wells	\$23,720
Craftwater Engineering	Stormwater Capture/Reuse	\$31,545
Total		\$104,885

FY 2021-2022 administrative budget does not include a budget line item for general grant application costs. Funds are available in the reserves.

Director Figueroa motioned to approve the consultants and proposals listed below, and authorize the Executive Officer to issue a Notice to Proceed to each approved consultant using the On-Call Consultant Professional Services Agreements on file.

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Regional Project Category</u>	<u>Not-To-Exceed Amount</u>
Geosyntec	Recycle Water	\$25,000.00
Harris & Associates	PFOS/PFOA	\$24,520.00
Harris & Associates	New Wells	\$23,720.00
Craftwater Engineering	Stormwater Capture/Reuse	\$31,545.00
Total		\$104,885.00

The motion was seconded by Director A. Rojas and was approved by the following voice vote:

- AYES:** Dor, Sanchez, Iniguez, A. Rojas, O'Grady, Nila, Marin, Stowell, Rapp, You, Croci, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Morales-Choate, Shin-Heydorn, E. Rojas, Smith
- NOES:** None.
- ABSTAIN:** None.

**ITEM 8 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM
TRANSFER AGREEMENTS FOR GATEWAY AREA PATHFINDING
PHASE 1 SCIENTIFIC STUDY FOR LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER AND
LOWER SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED AREA STEERING
COMMITTEES, RESOLUTIONS TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF THE
TRANSFER AGREEMENTS, AND NOTICE TO PROCEED FOR
CRAFTWATER ENGINEERING TO CONDUCT THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY**

In October 2020, the GWMA Board authorized staff to submit a Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Regional Program Scientific Study application to the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) and Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs) for the Gateway Watershed Management Plan (WMP)/Stormwater Investment Plans (SIP) Integration Study [renamed as Gateway Area Pathfinding (GAP) Phase 1 Analysis]. Further, the Board authorized staff to submit the application with GWMA named as the Lead Agency for the proposed study. The scientific study for both WASCs was recommended for inclusion in their respective SIPs, which were ultimately approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on September 15, 2021.

Phase 1 of the study is for a not-to-exceed amount of \$150,000 (\$75,000 for each watershed area) and will initiate the approach in a subset of each Watershed Area. The outcomes of this effort will set the stage for the groups' adaptive management efforts and will help to guide the WMP Groups as they prioritize, analyze, design, and build highly efficient projects throughout the region.

The request for GWMA to serve as the Project Proponent/Developer for the study, to submit the application, and to serve as the contracting agency came from three of the Gateway Region WMP groups. GWMA staff has received a written request from one of the three WMP Groups (LCC WMP Group) for GWMA to retain the services of Craftwater Engineering to conduct this unique study. Staff is awaiting written requests from LLAR and LSGR WMP Groups. According to the request, Craftwater Engineering is "uniquely qualified to conduct this analysis because they have done substantial work in each watershed as a sub-contractor to their respective watershed consultant". Further, the request from the LCC WMP Group states that Craftwater Engineering was "involved with the design of a proposed future project to analyze how to use a series of flow and water quality sensors to help optimize the operation of their water capture projects". This same type of work has been done for the LLAR and LSGR WMP Groups. Craftwater Engineering has conducted the vast majority of Feasibility Studies for the LLAR and LSGR WASC projects giving them in-depth knowledge of the projects in those watershed areas.

To comply with policies and legal requirements, staff reviewed its On-Call Consulting Policy and also requested review and guidance from Legal Counsel.

GWMA must enter into a Transfer Agreement with the County for each WASC and also adopt a Resolution to approve and authorize execution of the of the agreements. Additionally, staff is requesting approval to issue a Notice to Proceed to Craftwater Engineering to conduct the work, utilizing their On-Call Professional Services Agreement, for an amount not-to-exceed \$150,000 (\$75,000 for each WASC). As part of the process, the County has required the entity who will be doing the work to be listed.

Director Figueroa motioned to: (a) Adopt Resolution No. 21-1, approving the SCWP Transfer Agreement for the LLAR GAP Phase 1 Analysis, authorizing the Chair to execute the agreement, and authorizing the Executive Officer to take all necessary actions to implement the agreement; (b) Adopt Resolution No. 21-2, approving the SCWP Transfer Agreement for the LSGR GAP Phase 1 Analysis, authorizing the Chair to execute the agreement, and authorizing the Executive Officer to take all necessary actions to implement the agreement; and (c) Authorize the Executive Officer to issue a Notice to Proceed to Craftwater Engineering to conduct the Scope of Work as presented for both Transfer Agreements, using the On-Call Consultant Professional Services Agreement on file, contingent upon receipt of written requests and justification from all three Gateway Region WMP Groups (LLAR, LSGR and LCC) for their recommended selection. Once received, the Notice-To-Proceed issued to Craftwater Engineering would require an acceptance in writing to all terms and conditions specific to the Transfer Agreement requirements.

The motion was seconded by Director E. Rojas and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Dor, Sanchez, Iniguez, A. Rojas, O’Grady, Nila, Marin, Stowell, Rapp, You, Croci, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Morales-Choate, Shin-Heydorn, E. Rojas, Smith

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 9 – SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM ORAL REPORT

Director Nila reported for the LLAR WASC is awaiting the scoring committee results for the Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) that they submitted.

Director You reported that at the last LSGR WASC Meeting, three infrastructure projects were presented. Three more projects will be presented at the next meeting. The WASC is also awaiting scoring committee recommendation and scores.

ITEM 9 - GATEWAY REGIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUPS ORAL REPORT

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

Director Nila reported the annual report is being completed.

LLAR Watershed Group

None.

LSGR Watershed Group

Director O’ Grady reported that the group will be meeting the week of November 15th.

LCC Watershed Group

Director Iniguez reported that the group met on October 21st and the next meeting is scheduled for November 18th. The group is also working to complete the annual report.

ITEM 11 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S ORAL REPORT

Executive Officer Kast noted the State Board has opened up an opportunity for those water systems that are eligible for grant funding to get reimbursed for the accrued time between March 4, 2020 and June 15, 2021 plus a 3% administration fee. Contact information for outside resource help can be provided for board members who are interested.

A request was made to the Executive Officer for consideration of changing the time of the meeting while the board continues to meet remotely via video conference. Due to other pre-scheduled meetings that occur earlier and later in the day, it was determined to leave the meeting time (12:00 p.m.) as is.

AB 361 requires the board to make a specific finding that there still is a need to meet virtually due to Covid-19. Therefore, a standing item will be added to the agenda.

ITEM 12 – DIRECTORS’ ORAL COMMENTS/REPORTS

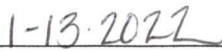
None.

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

The next regular Board Meeting of the Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority will be on Thursday, December 9, 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.



Lisa Ann Rapp, Chair



Date