

**MINUTES OF THE GATEWAY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
BOARD
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority was held on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. via WebEx and Phone Conference.

Chair Adriana Figueroa called the meeting to order at 12:19 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
Madeline Chen (alternate)	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Mike O’Grady	Cerritos
Gina Nila	Commerce
Victor Meza	Compton
Aaron Hernandez-Torres	Cudahy
Dan Mueller (alternate)	Downey
Whitford Marin (alternate)	Huntington Park
Mark Stowell	La Mirada
Kelli Pickler	Lakewood
Colin Averil (alternate)	Long Beach
Adriana Figueroa	Paramount
Dylan Porter (alternate)	Port of Long Beach
Sarina Morales-Choate (alternate)	Santa Fe Springs
Gladis Deras (alternate)	South Gate
Esther Rojas (alternate)	Water Replenishment District
Kyle Cason (alternate)	Whittier

STAFF AND GUESTS ON SIGN-IN SHEET:

Grace Kast	Executive Officer
Traci Gleason	Program Administrative Manager
Kekoa Anderson	Funding/Grants Program
Nicholas Ghirelli	Legal Counsel
Emma Sharif	Compton
Rob Beste	Water Replenishment District
Madeline Anderson	Koa Consulting
Christy Cooper	Harris & Associates
Oliver Galang	Craftwater Engineering
Yoshi Andersen	Geosyntec Consultants
Ted Mueller	CliftonLarsonAllen
Joseph Velasco	Orchard Water District

ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

ITEM 4 - ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None.

ITEM 5 - CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Mueller moved to approve the consent calendar.

The motion was seconded by Director Meza and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Chavez, Chen, O’Grady, Nila, Meza, Hernandez-Torres, Mueller, Marin, Stowell, Pickler, Figueroa, Porter, Morales-Choate, Deras, E. Rojas, Cason.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Averill (Minutes only).

ITEM 6 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CLIFTONLARSONALLEN, LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP (CLA), has been providing on-going accounting support services, on an as-needed basis for GWMA since October 2016. The existing Professional Services Agreement (PSA) expires on December 31, 2022. As a result, on September 2, 2022, staff released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for accounting support services beginning on January 1, 2023. Executive Officer Grace Kast noted the RFP was posted on the home page of GWMA’s website and sent to several accounting firms. Additionally, the RFP was sent to GWMA Board Members and Alternates to share with recommended individuals or companies. After only two proposals were received, they were provided to the Board Executive Committee for evaluation. During the course of the review, it was determined that one proposer had not provided all of the required information for the fee portion of their proposal; and therefore, the omitted information did not allow for an evaluation of cost competitiveness. CLA provided the required information and qualifications. The Board was requested to accept CLA’s proposal and enter into a 2-year agreement with 2 one year extension options effective January 1, 2023.

Director Meza moved to approve the PSA between GWMA and CLA, and authorize the Chair to execute the PSA with CLA. The motion was seconded by Director E. Rojas and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Chavez, Chen, O’Grady, Nila, Meza, Hernandez-Torres, Mueller, Marin, Stowell, Pickler, Averill, Figueroa, Porter, Morales-Choate, Deras, E. Rojas, Cason.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 7 – GWMA REGIONAL PFAS GROUNDWATER TREATMENT PROJECT APPLICATION

Christy Cooper of Harris & Associates reported that under the California Budget Act of 2021 and Budget Act of 2022, California’s State Water Resources Control Board has issued an Emerging Contaminants (EC) Supplemental Intended Use Plan (SIUP) to apply for and administer this Federal funding to, among other goals, reduce human exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) through drinking water. SIUP applications for EC (including PFAS) funding are being accepted on a continuous basis. The application process begins with a General Application and related attachments. Submission of the SIUP application allows the State to initiate review and discussion of the projects. The State may also provide recommendations for project structuring before including it in the SIUP, which gives priority to the project for funding. This submission would not be the final grant application.

Based on discussions with the State Water Board’s Division of Finance, GWMA may package multiple member-city projects together and apply for this funding. However, the packaged projects must be similar in nature; that is, similar size, project type, and at the same project stage. Eligible project types include construction of a new treatment facility or upgrade to an existing treatment facility that addresses ECs. Systems serving >25,000 people are eligible for 50% grant funding or principal forgiveness of up to \$5,000,000 per system.

Harris & Associates has been conducting research and coordinating with interested GWMA member agencies. As a result, two member projects were recommended to be combined as one GWMA Regional PFAS Groundwater Treatment Project because they are each developing similarly scoped projects to treat groundwater for PFAS and are both expected to be construction ready in early 2024.

With the approval from the Board, GWMA staff would submit a general information package to the State Water Board for inclusion of the Regional PFAS Groundwater Treatment Project in the SIUP. The submission of the general information package is a State recommended step in the full application process. Furthermore, once the project is included in the SIUP, GWMA is to submit a further application for specific grant funding or principal forgiveness.

The Board was requested to adopt a resolution to approve submission of the general information package.

Director Nila motioned to adopt Resolution 22-03 to Approve the Filing of a Financial Assistance General Information Package to the California State Water Board for the GWMA Regional PFAS Groundwater Treatment Project. The motion was seconded by Director Chen and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: **Chavez, Chen, O’Grady, Nila, Meza, Hernandez-Torres, Mueller, Marin, Stowell, Pickler, Averill, Figueroa, Porter, Morales-Choate, Deras, E. Rojas, Cason.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ITEM 8 – GWMA REGIONAL NEW WELLS PROJECT APPLICATION

Harris & Associates was selected by the Board late last year to develop a regional new wells project and to prepare one grant application. Based on several solicitations of interest among GWMA members, Harris & Associates received information from eight member cities on their potential projects. This was followed by further research, discussions and refinement with those members. As a result, Harris & Associates began working with member cities to submit a package under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for a potential loan with principal forgiveness. However, a new and unexpected opportunity (California Department of Water Resources (DWR) 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program (UCDRG)) was recently announced. The UCDRG guidelines specifically outline that eligible project types are for planning, design, engineering, acquisition of real property interests, construction, and related activities undertaken to implement a variety of drought resilience projects. The minimum award amount is \$3M per applicant. Bundling of projects is allowed. Based on this new opportunity, the Board was requested to consider applying for this new grant opportunity in lieu of the DWSRF grant package.

Based on this new opportunity, Harris & Associates began re-contacting member cities to determine their interest and their project alignment with UCDRG. Cities of Compton, Downey, Huntington Park, Paramount, and Santa Fe Springs have confirmed interest.

To complete this new grant application, Harris & Associates proposes to change course by amending their contract to add an additional service and combining their remaining budget with an additional budget request of \$11,600 to include this scope. Under the existing contract, additional services may be added to the scope of work if authorized by the Board and the fee for the services is mutually agreed upon by the consultant and GWMA.

Director Meza motioned to authorize the Executive Officer to issue a Notice to Proceed to Harris & Associates amending the fee for the coordination of a regional project and preparation of a grant funding application for new wells from \$23,720 to \$35,320, using the On-Call Consultant Professional Services Agreement on file; and adopt Resolution 22-04 to authorize the submission of a grant application, and acceptance of funding from the 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program for the GWMA Regional Well Resilience Project. The motion was seconded by Director Deras and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: **Chavez, Chen, O’Grady, Nila, Meza, Hernandez-Torres, Mueller, Marin, Stowell, Pickler, Averill, Figueroa, Porter, Morales-Choate, Deras, E. Rojas, Cason.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ITEM 9– SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM – ORAL REPORT

Director O’Grady reported the LSGR WASC Steering Committee met earlier in the week. A status update presentation of the Gateway Area Pathfinding Phase 1 Study was provided. Presentations of the two Round 4 applicants for scientific studies funding were provided.

Director Nila reported Round 4 infrastructure project applicants and a scientific study applicant provided presentations at the LLAR WASC meeting on November 1, 2022. The next LLAR WASC meeting will be in January.

ITEM 10 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S ORAL REPORT

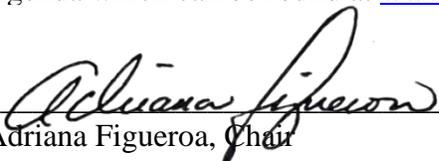
The Executive Officer reported a general survey was sent out to GWMA member agencies soliciting interests in a regional Advanced Meter Replacement grant project. Based on the responses provided, there were many agencies interested. GWMA staff will explore potential grant opportunities.

ITEM 11 – DIRECTORS’ ORAL COMMENTS/REPORTS

Director Hernandez-Torres reported the City of Cudahy has a position open for Associate Engineer.

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

The next regular Board Meeting of the Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority will be on Thursday, December 8, 2022 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, Chair

1/13/2023
Date