

**MINUTES OF THE GATEWAY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
BOARD
THURSDAY, APRIL 13 2023**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority was held on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at Progress Park Plaza, 15500 Downey Avenue, Paramount, CA.

Chair Adriana Figueroa called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Roll was called by Executive Officer Grace Kast and a quorum of the Board was declared.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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|------------------------------|--|
| Veronica Sanchez (alternate) | Bell Gardens |
| Len Gorecki | Bellflower |
| Madeline Chen (alternate) | Central Basin Municipal Water District |
| Gina Nila | Commerce |
| Victor Meza | Compton |
| Aaron Hernandez-Torres | Cudahy |
| Cesar Roldan | Huntington Park |
| Marlin Munoz (alternate) | La Mirada |
| Konya Vivanti (alternate) | Lakewood |
| Melissa You | Long Beach |
| Diana Tang | Long Beach Utilities |
| Julian Lee | Lynwood |
| Jerry Gomez | Maywood |
| Adriana Figueroa | Paramount |
| Kenner Guerrero (alternate) | Pico Rivera |
| Dylan Porter (alternate) | Port of Long Beach |
| Jesse Sira (alternate) | Santa Fe Springs |
| Thomas Bekele | Signal Hill |
| Gladis Deras (alternate) | South Gate |
| Rob Beste | 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 |
| Juan Rodriguez | City of Cudahy |
| Madeline Anderson | Koa Consulting |
| Oliver Galang | Craftwater Engineering |

ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

ITEM 4 - ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None.

ITEM 5 - CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Stowell moved to approve the consent calendar.

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

AYES: Meza, Roldan, Munoz, You, Tang, Lee, Gomez, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Beste, Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Sanchez, Gorecki, Chen, Nila, Vivanti, Sira, Bekele, Deras (minutes only).

ITEM 6 - WORKSHOP – FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 (FY 23-24) ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Executive Officer Grace Kast provided the Board with a detailed review of the proposed administrative operating budget for FY 23-24, 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 projects, and the estimated fund balance at the end of Fiscal Year 23-24.

ITEM 7 – DIRECT AND INDIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE FEES FOR FY 23-24

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 Nila moved to approve the following recommendations:

- a. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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 Deras, and the items were approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Sanchez, Gorecki, Chen, Nila, Meza, Hernandez-Torres, Roldan, Vivanti, Munoz, You, Tang, Lee, Gomez, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Sira, Bekele, Deras, Beste, Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 8— GWMA FY 23-24 OPERATING BUDGET

Executive Officer Grace Kast presented the proposed budget for FY 23-24, which reflects actual costs and projections through the end of this fiscal year. The FY 23-24 Ending Fund Balance is forecasted to be \$732,582. Dues from member agencies are expected to be \$405,000 in FY 23-24 which includes reduced dues from previously eligible GWMA members. Once final eligibility is determined and recommended by staff, the Board will consider action to approve those recommendations at the next scheduled Board Meeting. The administrative budget does not include MOU project costs or grant project costs. However, it does reflect the administrative and legal costs associated with the MOUs and grants.

Director Lee motioned to approve the Annual Membership Dues of \$15,000 (except for Board approved reduced membership dues); and adopt the GWMA FY 2023-2024 Operating Budget contingent upon Board approved reduced membership dues.

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

AYES: Sanchez, Gorecki, Chen, Nila, Meza, Hernandez-Torres, Roldan, Vivanti, Munoz, You, Tang, Lee, Gomez, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Sira, Bekele, Deras, Beste, Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 9— PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CA CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC

Executive Officer Grace Kast stated in late 2022, GWMA staff had requested the Board's authorization to enter into a Professional Services Agreement "PSA" with the firm of Clifton Larson Allen "CLA", who was re-selected to provide accounting support services. Unfortunately, an agreement could not be reached on PSA language. After consultation with the GWMA Chair, a second Request for Proposal "RFP" process was conducted in January-February 2023. Only one proposal was received. CA Consulting Services submitted all required information and was deemed qualified and eligible by staff. Additionally, CA Consulting Services has agreed to the

terms in the PSA. Staff recommended accepting the CA Consulting Services proposal and entering into a 2-year agreement with 2 one-year extension options effective May 1, 2023. The Executive Committee affirmed staff's recommendation to proceed with CA Consulting Services.

Director Nila motioned to approve the Professional Services Agreement between GWMA and CA Consulting Services, LLC; and authorize the Chair to execute the Professional Services Agreement with CA Consulting Services, LLC.

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

AYES: Sanchez, Gorecki, Chen, Nila, Meza, Hernandez-Torres, Roldan, Vivanti, Munoz, You, Tang, Lee, Gomez, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Sira, Bekele, Deras, Beste, Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 10 – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (PSA) BETWEEN GWMA AND JOHN L. HUNTER & ASSOCIATES, INC. (JLHA), FOR THE LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER (LLAR) WATERSHED GROUP AND THE LOWER SAN GABRIEL RIVER (LSGR) WATERSHED GROUP

Executive Officer Grace Kast reported JLHA has provided unique services to the LLAR and LSGR watershed groups since 2013. The firm was first retained by GWMA on behalf of the LLAR and the LSGR Watershed Groups on October 10, 2013 through a standard PSA for Watershed Management. Thereafter, the first amendment to both agreements was approved by the Board on May 14, 2015 to add Watershed Management and CIMP services and fees for LLAR and LSGR Watershed Groups, and to extend the agreement term to December 31, 2017. This was followed by two additional amendments to both agreements. Amendment Number 2 was approved by the Board on January 11, 2018 to add a variety of tasks for both watershed groups under the current agreement, add fees, and to extend the agreement terms to June 30, 2018. A third amendment was approved on May 14, 2018 by the Board to set forth scopes of work under the agreement for work related to the Harbor Toxics TMDL and all other programs, add fees, and to extend the agreement terms to June 30, 2020, with three 1-year extension options.

In 2020, per both watershed groups request, the GWMA Board approved entering into a new PSA with JLHA for LLAR Watershed Management and CIMP Implementation Services and LSGR Watershed Management and CIMP Implementation Services, with the term expiring June 30, 2023.

Both watershed groups have now requested that GWMA enter into agreements with JLHA to continue to provide the requested services. Administrative and legal costs will be reimbursed through direct and indirect administrative fees agreed to in the Memorandum of Understanding Amendments for LLAR and LSGR. The funds for the administrative and legal services will be collected as part of the annual budget for each group.

Director Vivanti motioned to approve entering into the PSA with JLHA for a period of three (3) years from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$2,073,448.00 for LLAR Watershed Management and CIMP Implementation Services, and authorize the Chair to Execute the PSA; and approve entering into the PSA with JLHA for a period of three (3) years from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$2,119,155.00 for LSGR Watershed Management and CIMP Implementation Services, and authorize the Chair to Execute the PSA.

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

AYES: Sanchez, Gorecki, Chen, Nila, Meza, Hernandez-Torres, Roldan, Vivanti, Munoz, You, Tang, Lee, Gomez, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Sira, Bekele, Deras, Beste, Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 11 – GWMA REGIONAL GREEN STREET PROJECT APPLICATION

Executive Officer Grace Kast stated Craftwater, who was competitively selected by the GWMA Board in 2021, was tasked with soliciting interest from member agencies for a regional small-scale stormwater capture program; review and recommend eligible grant programs; and prepare and submit a grant application. Based on member survey results, potential regional stormwater projects included stormwater capture projects, potential LID parking lot improvements, or a potential green street implementation project. In December 2022, Craftwater met with GWMA staff to discuss potentially doing a smaller scale green street demonstration program to implement green street elements (bioswales, tree wells, and permeable pavement) and apply for the Clean California Local Grant Program, Round 2. The initial program budget including design would be \$4.5M. The project concept includes using standard templates for installation in the cities of Bellflower, Long Beach and Vernon.

Director Gorecki motioned to authorize the Executive Officer Grace to sign and submit the Clean California Grant Application for a regional green street demonstration program.

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

AYES: Sanchez, Gorecki, Chen, Nila, Meza, Hernandez-Torres, Roldan, Vivanti, Munoz, You, Tang, Lee, Gomez, Figueroa, Guerrero, Porter, Sira, Bekele, Deras, Beste, Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 12 – SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Director You stated that the Lower San Gabriel River did not meet last month. The expected meeting date is May.

Director Nila gave an update that she developed and recommended the Stormwater Investment Plan “SIP” to the oversight committee and she is waiting to see if they approve the recommendations.

ITEM 13 - EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S ORAL REPORT

Executive Officer Grace Kast solicited input from the Board on whether to continue boxed lunches or to go back to buffet style lunches they had prior to COVID pre-cautions. She suggested that if any Board Member wishes to have a boxed lunch, they could easily accommodate that.

ITEM 14 – DIRECTORS’ ORAL COMMENTS/REPORTS

Director Konya Vivanti mentioned that it is difficult to get a reliable waste manager in some cities and asked cities waste managers to reach out to her. Directors discussed that the Gateway membership is a good way to network for handling trash issues.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

The next regular Board Meeting of the Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority will be on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at the Clearwater Building, 16404 Paramount Boulevard, Paramount, CA.



Adriana Figueroa, Chair

June 8, 2023
Date