

**MINUTES OF THE GATEWAY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
BOARD  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority was held on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at Progress Park Plaza, 15500 Downey Avenue, Paramount, CA.

Vice-Chair Kelli Pickler called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Roll was called by Ms. Traci Gleason and a quorum of the Board was declared.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bernie Iniguez	Bell Gardens
Len Gorecki	Bellflower
Isabelle Guido (alternate)	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Mike O’Grady	Cerritos
Dan Mueller (alternate)	Downey
Cesar Roldan	Huntington Park
Marlin Munoz (alternate)	La Mirada
Kelli Pickler	Lakewood
Melissa You	Long Beach
Diana Tang	Long Beach Utilities
Jerry Gomez	Maywood
Adriana Figueroa	Paramount
Dylan Porter (alternate)	Port of Long Beach
Jesse Sira (alternate)	Santa Fe Springs
Thomas Bekele	Signal Hill
Gladis Deras (alternate)	South Gate
Esther Rojas	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
Madeline Anderson	Koa Consulting

**ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**ITEM 4 - ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

None.

**ITEM 5 - CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Pickler moved to approve the consent calendar.

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

**AYES: Iniguez, Gorecki, Guido, O’Grady, Mueller, Roldan, You, Gomez, Porter, Bekele, Rojas, Smith**

**NOES: None**

**ABSTAIN: Munoz, Pickler, Sira, Deras**

**ITEM 6 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING CATCH BASIN CLEANING PROPOSALS**

Executive Officer Grace Kast led a discussion regarding Request For Proposals for catch basin cleaning services for Gateway Region Cities. She noted that a total of three proposals were received by GWMA staff by the deadline. Proposals were submitted by Nationwide Environmental Services (NES), Ron’s Maintenance (RMI), and United Stormwater (United). The three proposals were deemed responsive to GWMA’s requirements. Staff requested authorization to distribute the entire Request for Proposal package to member cities for their respective selection and contracting, noting that GWMA would not be making recommendations to Gateway Region Cities regarding proposals. No voting action was required, but a consensus was reached directing staff to distribute the package.

**ITEM 7 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRWMP) PROPOSITION 1 ROUND 2 GRANT**

Executive Officer Grace Kast announced that GWMA submitted a regional project for funding which was ultimately selected. The project is the Regional Recycled Water Expansion Project (Project) which includes the cities of Downey and Bell Gardens for a total grant amount of \$3,372,600. Ms. Kast stated that GWMA must enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) to serve as the Local Project Sponsor by which GWMA will receive a total grant of \$3,372,600 on behalf of the two projects.

*Director Diane Tang entered the meeting at 12:14 p.m.*

Director Iniguez moved to approve the following recommendations:

- a. Approve the MOU between LACFCD and GWMA and authorize the Executive Officer to make non-material changes to the MOU in consultation with Legal Counsel, if needed.
- b. Authorize the Chair to sign the MOU between the LACFCD and GWMA.
- c. Approve the Subrecipient Agreements with the City of Downey and the City of Bell Gardens for implementation of the Regional Recycled Water Project, contingent upon non-material changes authorized by the Executive Officer and approved by Legal Counsel.
- d. Authorize the Chair to sign the final Subrecipient Agreements.

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

**AYES:** Iniguez, Gorecki, Guido, O’Grady, Mueller, Roldan, You, Tang, Gomez, Porter, Bekele, Rojas, Smith, Munoz, Pickler, Sira, Deras

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ITEM 8 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING STORMWATER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

A discussion took place amongst members regarding stormwater operation and management services. Concerns were brought up about operations, maintenance, and design challenges. Director Pickler and Director Gorecki discussed Lakewood and Bellflower’s current stormwater capture facilities and the issues that they are experiencing, such as lack of human access points for maintenance, percolation, algae growth, water and air quality issues, and sediment build up. There are concerns over the expenses to maintain and solve issues that continue to arise. A discussion around how to improve design and prevent future issues was requested at the next Board Meeting.

**ITEM 9 – SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM – ORAL REPORT**

Director You who serves on the LLAR WASC as well as the LSGR WASC stated that the LSGR WASC met on August 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss roles and interviewing for open seats. The Chair and Vice-Chair positions will remain the same. The next meeting will be in October. As for the LLAR WASC update, Director You mentioned that she did not attend the last meeting, but the discussion around appointing future Chair and Vice-Chair was tabled until the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ITEM 10 - EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S ORAL REPORT**

Executive Officer Grace Kast mentioned that there is an issue with outstanding accounts receivables by one of the member cities including non-payment of membership dues. Ms. Kast requested assistance by members to help mitigate the outstanding funds.

Ms. Kast also requested volunteers to evaluate/rank/recommend On-Call Consultants for GWMA based on 10 SOQs received. Director Smith, Director Deras, and Director Roldan volunteered.

*Director Adriana Figueroa entered the meeting at 12:44 p.m.*

**ITEM 11 – DIRECTORS’ ORAL COMMENTS/REPORTS**

None.

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

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

  
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Adriana Figueroa, Chair

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Nov 9, 2023  
Date