



*Los Angeles Gateway Region
Integrated Regional Water Management
Joint Powers Authority*

AGENDA

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 12:00 PM**

Progress Park Plaza, 15500 Downey Avenue, Paramount, CA

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Determination of a Quorum**
- 3. Additions to Agenda (Govt. Code Sec. 54954.2(b))**
- 4. Oral Communications to the Board**

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on any item under the jurisdiction of the agency. Depending upon the subject matter, the Board may be unable to respond until the item can be posted on the agenda at a future meeting in accordance with provisions of the Brown Act.
- 5. Consent Calendar: (Acted as one item unless withdrawn by request)**
 - a. Minutes of the Board Meeting of October 10, 2024 (Enclosure).
 - b. Ratify the Warrant Register for November and December 2024 and Approve the Warrant Register for January 2025 (Enclosures).
 - c. Receive and File the Updated Expenditures for Legal Counsel Services (Enclosure).
- 6. Presentation Regarding CII, Rich Watson**
- 7. Presentation “Summary of Proposed Amendments to GWMA’s JPA Agreement” by Candice Lee, Richards Watson & Gershon (Enclosure)**
- 8. Discussion/Action Regarding Safe Clean Water Program Scientific Study Application for Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures (Enclosures)**
- 9. Safe Clean Water Program – Oral Report**
 - a. Lower San Gabriel River “LSGR” WASC Co-Chair – Dan Mueller
 - b. Lower Los Angeles River “LLAR” WASC Chair – Madeline Chen

Adriana Figueroa (Paramount), Board Chair • Kelli Pickler (Lakewood), Vice-Chair • Thomas Bekele (Signal Hill), Secretary/Treasurer
Proudly serving Gateway cities and agencies in Southeastern Los Angeles County

Members: Artesia · Bell · Bell Gardens · Bellflower · Central Basin Municipal Water District · Cerritos · Commerce · Compton · Cudahy · Downey · Hawaiian Gardens · Huntington Park · La Mirada · Lakewood · Long Beach · Long Beach Water Department · Lynwood · Maywood · Montebello · Norwalk · Paramount · Pico Rivera · Port of Long Beach · Santa Fe Springs · Signal Hill · South Gate · Vernon · Water Replenishment District of Southern California · Whittier

With Technical Support From The Sanitation Districts Of Los Angeles County



*Los Angeles Gateway Region
Integrated Regional Water Management
Joint Powers Authority*

Page 2 of 2

10. Executive Officer's Oral Report

- a. RFP Regional Grants - Update
- b. RFP Project Management for Regional Pathogen Reduction Study – Update
- c. Port of Long Beach Membership Withdrawal

11. Directors' Oral Comments/Reports

12. Adjournment to Regular Board Meeting on April 10, 2025 at Progress Park Plaza, 15500 Downey Avenue, Paramount, CA

Adriana Figueroa (Paramount), Board Chair • Kelli Pickler (Lakewood), Vice-Chair • Thomas Bekele (Signal Hill), Secretary/Treasurer
Proudly serving Gateway cities and agencies in Southeastern Los Angeles County

Members: Artesia · Bell · Bell Gardens · Bellflower · Central Basin Municipal Water District · Cerritos · Commerce · Compton · Cudahy · Downey
Hawaiian Gardens · Huntington Park · La Mirada · Lakewood · Long Beach · Long Beach Water Department · Lynwood · Maywood · Montebello · Norwalk · Paramount
Pico Rivera · Port of Long Beach · Santa Fe Springs · Signal Hill · South Gate · Vernon · Water Replenishment District of Southern California · Whittier

With Technical Support From The Sanitation Districts Of Los Angeles County

**MINUTES OF THE GATEWAY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY BOARD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority was held on Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at Progress Park Plaza, 15500 Downey Avenue, Paramount, CA.

Chair Adriana Figueroa called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. Roll was called by Ms. Madeline Anderson and a quorum of the Board was declared.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Veronica Sanchez (alternate)	Bell Gardens
Sarah Ho (alternate)	Bellflower
Dan Mueller (alternate)	Downey
Steve Forster (alternate)	Huntington Park
Mark Rounds (alternate)	La Mirada
Kelli Pickler	Lakewood
Keith Hoey	Long Beach
Pamela Torres (alternate)	Lynwood
Jerry Gomez	Maywood
Jeremy Melendez (alternate)	Montebello
Adriana Figueroa	Paramount
Dylan Porter (alternate)	Port of Long Beach
Sarina Morales Choate (alternate)	Santa Fe Springs
Esther Rojas	Water Replenishment District
Vicki Smith	Whittier

STAFF AND GUESTS ON SIGN-IN SHEET:

Grace Kast	Executive Officer
Traci Gleason	Koa Consulting
Madeline Anderson	Koa Consulting
Nicholas Ghirelli	Legal Counsel
Keith Hala	LA County Public Works
Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District
Alvin Papa	Cerritos
Gerry Lopez	Huntington Park
Yoshi Andersen	Geosyntec Consultants

ITEM 3 - ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

ITEM 4 - ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

None.

ITEM 5 - CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Forster moved to approve the consent calendar.

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

AYES: Mueller, Forster, Rounds, Pickler, Hoey, Torres, Gomez, Melendez, Figueroa, Porter, Morales Choate, Rojas, Smith

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Sanchez, Ho

ITEM 6 - PRESENTATION – LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER PLAN BY KEITH HALA, LA COUNTY

Ms. Kast reminded the Board that during the July Board Meeting, Mr. Matthew Frary from Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) gave a presentation about the Los Angeles (LA) County Water Plan (Plan), which serves the entire region of LA County. During that presentation, he illustrated the gaps in water management and the need for collaboration on key focus areas, including regional water sustainability, water conservation and communication, nature-based solutions, and the reliability of small, at-risk water systems. After Mr. Frary’s presentation in July, Ms. Kast then solicited board members to see if they would like to consider adopting the Plan as a listed partner via Resolution at the next Board Meeting. The Board recommended that a resolution be agendized and requested that the County send a representative to the next Board Meeting in October.

Ms. Kast then welcomed Mr. Keith Hala from LACFCD who provided a detailed, updated presentation of the Plan, emphasizing its role as a tool to unite stakeholders in the water sector and enhance regional water reliability. Mr. Hala indicated that the Plan and his presentation are available online, and a Water Resiliency Summit was held on April 29, 2024, where four task forces were launched, focusing on water use efficiency and communication, regional water reliability, nature-based solutions, and small, at-risk water systems.

He concluded his presentation by stating that adopting the Plan provides significant value, particularly in terms of collaboration and strength in numbers. LA County is the only county in the state with its own water plan, creating opportunities for grants, project funding, and supporting small, at-risk systems. The plan also offers value for groundwater basin protection and climate change collaboration. Those interested can sign up for task forces or working groups through the website, with no financial investment required.

Director Forster moved to approve the following recommendations:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 24-03 – Adopting the Los Angeles County Water Plan.

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

AYES: Sanchez, Ho, Mueller, Forster, Rounds, Pickler, Hoey, Torres, Gomez, Melendez, Figueroa, Porter, Morales Choate, Rojas, Smith

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ITEM 7 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND EVALUATION OF FIVE (5) REGIONAL STORMWATER CAPTURE AND TREATMENT PROJECTS

Ms. Kast reminded the Board that last year, John Hunter had highlighted the need to find qualified teams and consultants to assist with operations and maintenance (O&M) of regional stormwater projects. In response, an ad-hoc committee developed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). This resulted in receiving submissions from four teams, which are included in the agenda packet. Mr. Hunter reviewed the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) of the four teams and provided a report indicating that all four teams were qualified based on the RFQ criteria. Ms. Kast then requested authorization to release the RFQ/SOQ packages with no recommendations since GWMA's role was to solicit SOQs only and that each GWMA member can reach out to the pre-qualified teams for specific proposals and contracts.

Director Smith moved to approve the following recommendations:

- a. Receive and File Statement of Qualifications and direct staff to distribute the complete Request for Qualifications/Statement of Qualifications Package to GWMA members with no recommendations.

The motion was seconded by Director Torres, and the actions were approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Sanchez, Ho, Mueller, Forster, Rounds, Pickler, Hoey, Torres, Gomez, Melendez, Figueroa, Porter, Morales Choate, Rojas, Smith

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ITEM 8 -DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING GWMA WEBSITE MODERNIZATION

Ms. Kast noted that more people will be visiting the website for information and currently, the website could use improvement. She mentioned that staff solicited proposals from recommended firms working with similar-type entities to improve the website. After reviewing the options and summarizing the differences between the firms, the best fit for the JPA's needs was Commune Communications. Staff met with the firm to discuss the project, including the requirement for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, as there is expected to be more measures to ensure websites meet these standards.

Director Rojas moved to approve the following recommendations:

- a. Approve the proposal from Commune Communication.
- b. Authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with Commune Communication for website design, and maintenance.

The motion was seconded by Director Forster, and the actions were approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Sanchez, Ho, Mueller, Forster, Rounds, Pickler, Hoey, Torres, Gomez, Melendez, Figueroa, Porter, Morales Choate, Rojas, Smith

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ITEM 9 - SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM TRANSFER AGREEMENT FOR REGIONAL PATHOGEN REDUCTION STUDY

Ms. Grace Kast reminded the board of the scientific study that has already been approved by all nine Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASC). She reported that staff discussed the logistics with county staff, and they agreed on using one transfer agreement instead of creating nine separate agreements. The Board had previously approved listing GWMA as the agency for the study, and this item was simply about moving forward to the next step. If there are any technical questions, Richard Watson can provide clarification. The first step is to approve the transfer agreement template, allowing flexibility to move forward by filling in the blanks and adjusting for non-material changes, which gives more flexibility regarding the timeline.

The study will require a project manager to oversee all five tasks over the next five years, and the Safe Clean Water Program will cover the costs, meaning there will be no fiscal impact on GWMA. Director Forster inquired about what constitutes substantial changes to the agreement and Ms. Kast noted that it would include changes in amounts, but the language would remain unchanged. He also suggested including the phrase "contingent upon legal counsel approval" to ensure legal review before finalizing.

Director Pickler moved to approve the following recommendations:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 24-04 approving the SCWP Transfer Agreement for the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study, authorizing the Chair to execute the agreement contingent upon non-material changes approved by legal counsel and authorizing the Executive Officer to take all necessary actions to implement the agreement.
- b. Authorize the Executive Officer to request proposals from the On-Call Consultants approved for Project Management to assist staff with project management of Tasks 1 through 4.

The motion was seconded by Director Forster, and the actions were approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Sanchez, Ho, Mueller, Forster, Rounds, Pickler, Hoey, Torres, Gomez, Melendez, Figueroa, Porter, Morales Choate, Rojas, Smith

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ITEM 10 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING GWMA SURVEY RESULTS FOR FY 2024-2025 PROJECT GRANT PRIORITIES

At the last meeting, Ms. Kast presented the results of a survey she had sent to Board Members aimed at identifying project priorities for the organization. She noted that the budget would not be sufficient for all efforts and recommended focusing on the top two priorities: stormwater capture/treatment/reuse and groundwater contamination/treatment, suggesting that these be presented to the board for approval.

The next step would be to solicit proposals from GWMA's pre-qualified On-Call Consultants under the following two categories: 1) Regional Planning Grant and/or Opportunities (including Development of Associated Documents; and 2) Grant Writing and/or Grant Implementation Management. The Scope of Work for the proposals would include soliciting interest from GWMA

Members in participating in a regional program for one or both of the top two project priorities, reviewing and recommending grant program(s) and then developing the application(s). Staff would then present the proposals and recommendations to the Board for approval. Director Figueroa agreed that these two priorities make sense as they are likely to attract the most funding, and Director Forster added that this approach would help the organization stay ahead of potential opportunities.

Director Forster moved to approve the following recommendations:

- a. Direct staff to request proposals from the pre-approved On-Call Consultants for Regional Planning Grant and/or Opportunities and Grant Writing services following the guidance set forth in the On-Call Consultant Policy and the Grant Policy and Procedures.

The motion was seconded by Director Mueller, and the actions were approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Sanchez, Ho, Mueller, Forster, Rounds, Pickler, Hoey, Torres, Gomez, Melendez, Figueroa, Porter, Morales Choate, Rojas, Smith

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ITEM 11 - DISCUSSION REGARDING MONITORING EQUIPMENT FOR LOS CERRITOS CHANNEL WATERSHED GROUP

Ms. Kast noted that it has been a while since the discussion of GWMA owning facilities or monitoring stations was brought to the Board. Chair Figueroa reminded the Board why they initially decided against owning the monitoring stations, citing the potential liability GWMA would have to absorb. The Board had previously opted to use County-owned stations and have consultants handle the monitoring. Though it is unlikely anything has changed, Ms. Kast wanted reaffirm the Board's position given that the Board make-up has changed over the years. Chair Figueroa asked legal counsel for insight, and Nicholas Ghirelli provided additional details outlining the risks: maintenance responsibilities, liability for theft, ensuring equipment accuracy, potential issues with incorrect monitoring data, and the possibility of accidents or damages leading to liability for GWMA. He also noted that GWMA does not carry insurance for such risks.

The consensus was that GWMA should not change the position on owning equipment and stay away from potential risks, costs, and liabilities.

ITEM 12 – SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM – ORAL REPORT

- a. Lower San Gabriel River (LSGR) WASC Chair – Dan Mueller

Director Mueller gave a report on LSGR, noting that the last meeting was light, but the Strategic Plan was discussed. He also noted that there will be a Nov 12th meeting and a second workshop.

- b. Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) WASC Chair – Madeline Chen

Asha Kreiling, Madeline Chen's co-chair for LLAR WASC, gave a report as Director Chen was not present for the meeting. Ms. Kreiling noted that there was an LLAR meeting in August

where there were watershed coordinator updates and a presentation from Ms. Grace Kast. Ms. Kreiling also noted that there will be a scientific study presentation at the next meeting.

ITEM 11 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S ORAL REPORT

Ms. Kast referred to the upcoming virtual workshop on GWMA’s Gateway Area Pathfinding Scientific Study funded by the Safe Clean Water Program and developed by Craftwater Engineering. She asked everyone to please RSVP and join the webinar, noting that the dashboard and customization is what is really what stands out. She mentioned that the presentation is informative and enlightening and members can see where the gaps and opportunities are. Ms. Kast also noted that it is important for the WASCs to join, as there are very helpful tools. The invite is on the website now – individuals can register there.

Ms. Kast also reminded that Board that staff and legal counsel have been working on updating GWMA’s Joint Powers Authority Agreement. Ms. Kast noted that the reason for the update is because much has changed since the original initiation of GWMA. She stated that Staff will be presenting the JPA with suggested revisions to the GWMA Board soon.

ITEM 12 – DIRECTORS’ ORAL COMMENTS/REPORTS

None.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

The next regular Board Meeting of the Directors of the Gateway Water Management Authority will be on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. at the Clearwater Building, 16404 Paramount Boulevard, Paramount, CA.

Adriana Figueroa, Chair

Date



*Los Angeles Gateway Region
Integrated Regional Water Management
Joint Powers Authority*

January 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 5b – Ratify the Warrant Register for November and December 2024 and Approve the Warrant Register for January 2025

SUMMARY

The Warrant Register is a listing of general checks issued since the last warrant register. Warrants will be signed by 2 of the 3 Board Officers and released by Traci Gleason, serving as the Administrative/Accounting Manager of the Gateway Water Management Authority, upon Board Approval.

DISCUSSION

The Warrant Register for expenditures dated November 2024 and December 2024 in the amounts of \$154,317.82 and \$231,173.29. respectively, are submitted for ratification by the Board, and the Warrant Register for expenditures dated January 2025 in the amount of \$61,627.22 is submitted for approval. Invoices and supporting documentation are available for review at the office of the GWMA.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Warrant Registers for November 2024, December 2024 and January 2025 total \$447,118.33. Funds to cover payment are available in the GWMA budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Ratify the Warrant Registers for November and December 2024 and Approve the Warrant Register for January 2025.

Adriana Figueroa (Paramount), Board Chair • Kelli Pickler (Lakewood), Vice-Chair • Thomas Bekele (Signal Hill), Secretary/Treasurer
Proudly serving Gateway cities and agencies in Southeastern Los Angeles County

Members: Artesia · Bell · Bell Gardens · Bellflower · Central Basin Municipal Water District · Cerritos · Commerce · Compton · Cudahy · Downey
Hawaiian Gardens · Huntington Park · La Mirada · Lakewood · Long Beach · Long Beach Water Department · Lynwood · Maywood · Montebello · Norwalk · Paramount
Pico Rivera · Port of Long Beach · Santa Fe Springs · Signal Hill · South Gate · Vernon · Water Replenishment District of Southern California · Whittier

With Technical Support From The Sanitation Districts Of Los Angeles County



WARRANT REGISTER
DISBURSEMENT JOURNAL
November 2024

Invoice Date	Vendor	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
10/18/2024	Anchor QEA	28295	RMC Compliance FY 24/25 (Services through 9/30/2024)	\$ 4,127.00
10/18/2024	Anchor QEA	28302	RMC Compliance FY 23/24 (Services through 9/30/2024)	\$ 14,453.88
11/1/2024	City of Paramount	5267	Office Lease (Nov 2024)	\$ 424.43
10/24/2024	CWE	F24558	LAR UR2 (Sept 2024)	\$ 12,512.96
10/31/2024	Gateway Cities Council of Governments	10-31-24	Office Supplies (Oct 2024)	\$ 100.00
10/23/2024	John L. Hunter & Associates	GWM1LLA12409	LLAR (Sept 2024)	\$ 51,389.41
11/5/2024	Koa Consulting	K114-01-85	Water-Related PM Coordination Activities and Executive Officer Services, DAC Chair and DACIP Co-Chair (Oct 2024)	\$ 40,212.57
10/16/2024	Richard Watson & Associates	24-192-003-010	LCC WMP CIMP (Sept 2024)	\$ 28,375.07
10/18/2024	Richards Watson Gershon	250068	Legal Services - General (service through 9/30/24)	\$ 2,722.50
Total				\$ 154,317.82

Reviewed and Approved by:

Thomas Bekele, Signal Hill



WARRANT REGISTER
DISBURSEMENT JOURNAL
December 2024

Invoice Date	Vendor	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
11/19/2024	Anchor QEA	28941	RMC Compliance FY 24/25 (Services through 10/31/2024)	\$ 14,833.00
11/19/2024	Anchor QEA	28946	RMC Compliance FY 23/24 (Services through 10/31/2024)	\$ 2,839.33
12/1/2024	City of Paramount	5272	Office Lease (Dec 2024)	\$ 424.43
11/14/2024	Craftwater Engineering	21-040-12	LLAR and LSGR GAP Analysis Ph 2 (Oct 2024)	\$ 3,059.00
11/11/2024	Craftwater Engineering	22-046-1	LCC Targeted Human Waste Source Reduction Strategy (Oct 2024)	\$ 10,450.00
11/25/2024	CWE	F24633	LAR UR2 (Oct 2024)	\$ 19,661.70
11/30/2024	Gateway Cities Council of Governments	11-30-24	Office Supplies (Nov 2024)	\$ 119.96
10/11/2024	John L. Hunter & Associates	GWM1GHR12409	HTU (Sept 2024)	\$ 3,120.88
11/14/2024	John L. Hunter & Associates	GWM1GHR12410	HTU (Oct 2024)	\$ 2,960.88
11/14/2024	John L. Hunter & Associates	GWM1LLA12410	LLAR (Oct 2024)	\$ 31,560.03
10/11/2024	John L. Hunter & Associates	GWM1LSG12409	LSGR (Sept 2024)	\$ 38,933.72
11/14/2024	John L. Hunter & Associates	GWM1LSG12410	LSGR (Oct 2024)	\$ 19,803.62
2/27/2024	John L. Hunter & Associates	GWM1OM12401	O&M RFP Prep (Jan 2024)	\$ 4,259.80
11/22/2024	John L. Hunter & Associates	GWM1OM12407	O&M RFP Prep (July 2024)	\$ 4,658.75
12/2/2024	Koa Consulting	K114-01-86	Water-Related PM Coordination Activities and Executive Officer Services, DAC Chair and DACIP Co-Chair (Nov 2024)	\$ 39,788.52
11/20/2024	Richard Watson & Associates	24-192-003-011	LCC WMP CIMP (Oct 2024)	\$ 33,489.67
11/26/2024	Richards Watson Gershon	250568	Legal Services - General (service through 10/31/24)	\$ 1,210.00
Total				\$ 231,173.29

Reviewed and Approved by:

APPROVED
By Thomas Bekele at 12:41 pm, Dec 16, 2024

Thomas Bekele, Signal Hill



WARRANT REGISTER
DISBURSEMENT JOURNAL
January 2025

Invoice Date	Vendor	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
12/19/2024	Anchor QEA	29699	RMC Compliance FY 23/24 (Services through 11/30/2024)	\$ 4,521.80
12/19/2024	Anchor QEA	29700	RMC Compliance FY 24/25 (Services through 11/30/2024)	\$ 2,616.75
12/14/2024	CA Consulting Services	2024-GWMA-12	Accounting Support Services (Through 12/12/2024)	\$ 7,520.00
12/17/2024	Commune Communication Corp	2024195	Web Design and Development	\$ 6,500.00
12/31/2024	Gateway Cities Council of Governments	12-31-2024	Office Supplies (Dec 2024)	\$ 100.00
12/30/2024	Koa Consulting	K114-01-87	Water-Related PM Coordination Activities and Executive Officer Services, DAC Chair and DACIP Co-Chair (Dec 2024)	\$ 39,788.52
12/12/2024	Richards Watson Gershon	250984	Legal Services - General (service through 11/30/24)	\$ 580.15
Total				\$ 61,627.22

Reviewed and Approved by:



Thomas Bekele, Signal Hill



*Los Angeles Gateway Region
Integrated Regional Water Management
Joint Powers Authority*

January 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 5c – Status of Total Legal Expenditures for General Legal Counsel Services for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

SUMMARY

At the Board meeting in April 2024, the Board approved the budget for legal counsel services of \$30,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 to address legal issues. The Board has previously directed staff to provide monthly updates on total expenditures for legal counsel services.

Legal Counsel Services Update:

\$ 30,000.00	FY 2024-2025 Budget amount for Legal Counsel services
<u>\$ 5,670.30</u>	Expenditures for Legal Counsel services through November 30, 2024
\$ 24,329.70	Remaining budget amount available through June 30, 2025

FISCAL IMPACT

The total expenditures for Legal Counsel services for FY 2024-2025 through November 30, 2024 total \$5,670.30. It is projected there are sufficient funds remaining in the GWMA FY 2024-2025 budget to cover payment for legal counsel services through the end of the fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the updated expenditures for Legal Counsel Services.

Adriana Figueroa (Paramount), Board Chair • Kelli Pickler (Lakewood), Vice-Chair • Thomas Bekele (Signal Hill), Secretary/Treasurer
Proudly serving Gateway cities and agencies in Southeastern Los Angeles County

Members: Artesia · Bell · Bell Gardens · Bellflower · Central Basin Municipal Water District · Cerritos · Commerce · Compton · Cudahy · Downey · Hawaiian Gardens · Huntington Park · La Mirada · Lakewood · Long Beach · Long Beach Water Department · Lynwood · Maywood · Montebello · Norwalk · Paramount · Pico Rivera · Port of Long Beach · Santa Fe Springs · Signal Hill · South Gate · Vernon · Water Replenishment District of Southern California · Whittier

With Technical Support From The Sanitation Districts Of Los Angeles County





Summary of Proposed Amendments to GWMA's JPA Agreement

January 9, 2025

Presented by: Candice Lee

Purpose & General Updates

- **Modernize the JPA**
 - Reflect GWMA's current activities and practices
 - Consistent with current law
- **General Updates include:**
 - Consistent references to "GWMA"
 - Revise threshold for establishing a quorum to approve annual budget
 - Increase number of alternative board members and allow for temporary appointments
 - Acknowledge GWMA's role in implementing the Regional MS4 Permit
 - Clarify that GWMA no longer utilizes a lead agency



Governing Board Updates

- To improve attendance, each member can have up to three alternates
- Remove term limits for Governing Board appointees to improve efficiency
- A city or general manager or assistant city or general manager may also appoint a temporary appointee for one meeting per year
- Change super-majority vote requirement to ¾ of present member agencies instead of ¾ of all member agencies to address issues obtaining a super-majority for crucial votes, like annual budget votes



Organization Updates

Updates to reflect GWMA's current practices and legal requirements:

- Require Governing Board to elect a Treasurer and appoint a Secretary or Auditor. The Secretary and Auditor need not be a member of the Board
- Allow the responsibilities of the Treasurer/Auditor to be performed by qualified persons authorized to perform those tasks (e.g., qualified consultants and accountants)
- Clarify that a consultant may be an officer of GWMA, as is long-standing practice for the Executive Officer
- Clarify that a lead agency is no longer necessary. If a lead agency is appointed, only GWMA's financial functions would be performed by such lead agency



Member Eligibility and Withdrawal Updates

New Members:

- JPA execution is a prerequisite but does not have to be immediate

Withdrawal Charges Timeline

- Withdrawing member must pay for approved charges in effect 120 days before withdrawal. This is changed from 30 days in order to provide more notice to withdrawing members of their obligations



Amendment Process Updates

Pending Amendments

- Approval by ¾ of the members' legislative bodies

Future Amendments to JPA Agreement:

- Amendments that change GWMA's powers, duties, indemnification requirements, or financial responsibilities must be approved by a majority of the members' legislative bodies
- All other Amendments only require a super-majority vote of the Governing Board for approval







*Los Angeles Gateway Region
Integrated Regional Water Management
Joint Powers Authority*

January 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 8 – GWMA to Serve as Lead Agency for the Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures Safe, Clean Water Regional Program Scientific Study Application

SUMMARY:

The Safe Clean Water Program (“SCWP”) was soliciting project applications for the FY 2025-2026 funding year) to be paid from its Regional Program funds (50% of SCWP funds). The deadline for applications was July 31, 2024. As part of the Regional Program, 5% is available for Scientific Studies, as set forth in each watershed area’s Stormwater Investment Plan (“SIP”). GWMA was approached by three (3) Gateway Region Watershed Management Program Groups (Los Cerritos Channel, Lower Los Angeles River and Lower San Gabriel River) to consider serving as the Applicant (Lead Agency) for the Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures (“MCM”) Scientific Study.

BACKGROUND:

MCMs serve as the first line of defense against polluted stormwater discharging to waterways. MCMs are integral parts of stormwater management efforts which are orders of magnitude less costly than structural control measures. However, MCMs are not currently given the same attention due to the lack of tools to quantify their benefits. Examples of MCMs are street sweepers, rain barrels, cisterns, etc. This study will support continued and increased investment in MCM programs by developing measurable tools to evaluate their effectiveness towards water quality results that can then be used to claim credits towards milestones and goals.

A similar SCWP Scientific Study was supported in the Upper Los Angeles River, Upper San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo Watershed Areas in FY 2022-2023. The data collected, model methods, enhancement opportunities and technical platform under ongoing development will be utilized to tailor the study specifically for Lower Los Angeles River and Lower San Gabriel River. The modeling methods in particular will be vetted from the ongoing study, which is reflected in a streamlined effort under the proposed study with expectation to utilize similar methods.

The grant funding request for the MCM Scientific Study is \$630,000.00 total.

Adriana Figueroa (Paramount), Board Chair • Kelli Pickler (Lakewood), Vice-Chair • Thomas Bekele (Signal Hill), Secretary/Treasurer
Proudly serving Gateway cities and agencies in Southeastern Los Angeles County

Members: Artesia · Bell · Bell Gardens · Bellflower · Central Basin Municipal Water District · Cerritos · Commerce · Compton · Cudahy · Downey · Hawaiian Gardens · Huntington Park · La Mirada · Lakewood · Long Beach · Long Beach Water Department · Lynwood · Maywood · Montebello · Norwalk · Paramount · Pico Rivera · Port of Long Beach · Santa Fe Springs · Signal Hill · South Gate · Vernon · Water Replenishment District of Southern California · Whittier

With Technical Support From The Sanitation Districts Of Los Angeles County

FISCAL IMPACT:

Currently, nominal staff time is being expended to assist in preparing the information for Board consideration. Costs to prepare the applications, give presentations to Watershed Groups as well as WASCs are being done by other proponents.

If funding is awarded through the SCWP, GWMA staff and legal time will be needed to review and develop the funding agreement between GWMA and Los Angeles County Flood Control District for the GWMA Board to consider at a future Board Meeting. In accordance with GWMA Board Policy, once the legal agreements are executed, GWMA's administrative costs of 5% will be covered by SCWP funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

- a. Approve GWMA's role as Lead Agency for The Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures Safe, Clean Water Regional Program Scientific Study Application and authorize GWMA's name to be added to the funding application for the proposed study. If awarded, GWMA's official role as the study's Lead Agency is contingent upon Board Approval of a Transfer Agreement between Los Angeles County Flood Control District and GWMA that sets forth each agency's role and funding obligation.



SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

SCIENTIFIC STUDY SUMMARY

Regional Program Projects Module

STUDY NAME	Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures
STUDY LEAD(S)	Not Yet Decided
SCW WATERSHED AREA(S)	Lower Los Angeles River, Lower San Gabriel River
TOTAL SCW FUNDING REQUESTED	\$ 630,000.00

Submitted On: Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Created By: Brianna Datti, Lead Engineer of Water Quality Science and Regulations, Craftwater Engineering (Brianna Datti)

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

This section provides general information on the proposed Scientific Study.

1.1 Overview

The following table provides an overview of the study and the Study Lead(s):

Study Name:	Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures
Study Description:	Refine tools to quantify the effectiveness of minimum control measures (MCMs) and optimally align MCM activities with watershed goals.
SCW Watershed Area:	Lower Los Angeles River, Lower San Gabriel River
Latitude to Display On the SCW Portal Map:	33.91
Longitude to Display On the SCW Portal Map:	-118.16
Have There Been Other Similar or Related Studies?	Yes
If There are Similar or Related Studies Please Explain:	A similar Safe, Clean Water Program Scientific Study was supported in the Upper Los Angeles River, Upper San Gabriel River, and Rio Hondo Watershed Areas in FY22/23. The data collected, modeling methods, enhancement opportunities, and technical platform under ongoing development will all be leveraged to integrate specific to the Lower Los Angeles River and Lower San Gabriel River in the study herein. The modeling methods in particular will be vetted from the ongoing study, which is reflected in a streamlined effort under the proposed study with the expectation to utilize similar methods. The types of enhancement opportunities explored is also expected to be shared across the studies.
Call for Projects year:	FY25-26
Total SCW Funding Requested:	\$ 630,000.00
Study Lead(s):	Not Yet Decided
Additional Study Collaborators:	N/A
Additional Study Collaborators:	N/A

2 DETAILS

This section provides an overview of the study details including problem statement and objectives.

2.1 Statement

The following describes the Study problem statement:

The suite of MCMs employed by agencies in the Los Angeles region include broad programs, with daily activities implemented across large areas. Such activities are both proactive and reactive in nature, to address the most critical stormwater pollution issues. MCMs provide pollution prevention, the preferred (and often most cost-effective) method to progress towards water quality and environmental goals. MCMs also provide community-integrated solutions. However, unlike structural projects, the direct water quality benefits of many MCMs have not historically been represented. This makes it challenging for stormwater managers to evaluate and adapt programs in a meaningful way. In addition, many previous Watershed Management Programs assumed a 5 – 10% pollutant reduction from enhanced MCMs, which went beyond the baseline permit-required MCM programs. However, this broad assumption is no longer acceptable because the issued State Board Order on reviewing Watershed Management Programs in the Los Angeles Region (State Board Order WQ 2020-038) prevents the inclusion of the previous pollutant load reduction assumptions for non-modeled controls measures in a Reasonable Assurance Analysis (RAA) without further quantitative justification. The State Board Order also directs the Los Angeles Regional Board to consider procedures for quantitatively demonstrating reasonable assurance of non-modeled controls. The methods to quantify and isolate effectiveness of many MCMs require further development to satisfy the requirements of the State Board if they are to be accounted for in RAAs, which drives management decisions. The gap in the science and methods to clearly quantify performance of MCMs is leading to underemphasis on MCMs in management programs, which are critical strategies that go beyond a Permit check-the-box. To proactively manage and more efficiently meet compliance program goals—and to help preserve Safe, Clean Water (SCW) funding for multi-benefit, nature-based infrastructure—MCMs must be better understood in watershed-wide evaluations.

2.2 Objectives

The following describes the Study objectives:

The study objectives are to:

- (1) Data: Identify critical data (both implementation actions and monitoring data) to support more robust methods for quantifying MCM effectiveness.
- (2) Methods: Refine the suite of methodologies that assess effectiveness of different MCMs, tailored to the available data and MCM activities in the LA region.
- (3) Quantify: Demonstrate effectiveness of MCMs and evaluate within the context of other implementation strategies being pursued, i.e., structural projects, for a watershed scale understanding and integration in implementation pathways to help attain water quality objectives.
- (4) Track: Identify opportunities to streamline current data collection and reporting to gain data insights that track and guide program activities for more meaningful benefits.
- (5) Optimize: Generate recommendations to align and optimize MCM program activities with watershed goals more efficiently and cost-effectively.