

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
602 E. HUNTINGTON DRIVE, SUITE B, MONROVIA, CALIFORNIA 91016
8:00 A.M. – February 23, 2022**

Pursuant to the newly adopted provisions of the Brown Act and consistent with the Board's resolution ratifying the declaration of a state of emergency by the State of California in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Upper District held a regular meeting of the Board of Directors via Zoom teleconference on February 23, 2022 at the hour of 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Chavez, Treviño, Garcia, Santana, and Fellow.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Love, General Manager; Steve O'Neill, District Counsel; Steve Johnson, District Engineer; Evelyn Rodriguez, Director of Finance and Administration; Patricia Cortez, Director of Government and Community Affairs; Venessa Navarrete, Executive Assistant; Ruben Gallegos, Project Assistant; Priscilla Lu, Accounting/Financial Analyst, and Valeria Rodrigue, Administrative Assistant.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lenet Pacheco, Al Contreras, Randy Schoellerman, Kelly Gardner, Marty Zvirbulis, Cris Fealy, Cynthia Sternquist, Jandy Macias, Jorge Marquez, Dan Arrighi, Ben Lewis, Anthony Alberti, Roy Frausto, Stephanie Moreno, Stan Chen, Ernesto, Jenny Savron, Anteneh Tesfaye, Dave Michalko, Jennie, Marty Zvirbulis, Jessica Arm, Janet Clark, and Tara Robinson.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On motion by Director Fellow, seconded by Secretary Garcia, the agenda was unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

FELLOW: AYE
TREVIÑO: AYE
GARCIA: AYE
SANTANA: AYE
CHAVEZ: AYE

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Executive Assistant read into record the public comments submitted by the following persons in advance of the board meeting. Copies of the written comments are also included as Attachment 1 to the minutes.

- Bryan Cook, City Manager of Temple City, requesting to keep the current district boundaries.
- Mary Sneed & Gene Sneed, residents of City of Arcadia, requesting to keep the current district boundaries.
- Jose Tarin & Dawn Tarin, residents of Temple City, requesting to keep the current district boundaries.
- Miguel Morales, requesting modifications to district boundaries.
- Becky A. Shevlin, Council Member for the City of Monrovia, requesting to keep the current district boundaries.
- Cindy Vance, resident of Temple City, requesting to keep the current district boundaries.

Cynthia Sternquist, Mayor Pro Tem for Temple City, expressed her gratitude for the inclusion of the City of South Pasadena's application to Metropolitan Water District's Stormwater Pilot Program in the agenda for board discussion and approval.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Secretary Garcia moved to approve Consent Calendar item (a). Director Fellow seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the following roll call vote:

FELLOW: AYE
TREVIÑO: AYE
GARCIA: AYE
SANTANA: AYE
CHAVEZ: AYE

- (a) Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on February 9, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
 APPLICATION FOR MWD'S
 STORMATER PILOT PROGRAM
 FUNDING**

The General Manager provided a brief background on Metropolitan's Stormwater Pilot Program. He stated that Metropolitan has reviewed the City of South Pasadena's program application and required Upper District Board approval of the application.

Director Fellow moved to approve the City of South Pasadena's application to Metropolitan Water District's Stormwater Pilot Program and authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with MWD and City of South Pasadena for a program funding amount not-to-exceed \$500,000, with a required 1:1 funding match.

Treasurer Treviño seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the following roll call vote:

FELLOW: AYE
TREVIÑO: AYE
GARCIA: AYE
SANTANA: AYE
CHAVEZ: AYE

**WORKSHOP REGARDING UPPER
 DISTRICT'S 2020 CENSUS/
 REDISTRICTING PLAN AND MAP
 REVIEW**

The General Manager discussed the process for Upper District's 2020 Census/redistricting plan and map review. He stated that the purpose of the workshop is to get specific direction from the Board on the preparation of maps for consideration. He added that the District does not need to spend money on demographers to complete the process and has been using Stetson's GIS capabilities. He stated that the additional work to create alternative maps is minimal. He then presented the current district boundaries and demographics.

President Chavez reopened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Darrell Goode from the NAACP and Area Director for Los Angeles County thanked Director Fellow for his support of Chairwoman Gray and her diversity efforts.

Ms. Janet Clark thanked Vice President Santana, Secretary Garcia and Director Fellow for their support of Chairwoman Gray. She also thanked Director Fellow for his support of women and diversity. She then asked the Board for the continued support of Chairwoman Gray's slate.

The Board of Directors continued the discussion with Director Fellow emphasizing that there is no cost to Upper District to prepare the maps other than what is paid to the District Engineer. He requested the directors to provide the District Engineer their input for alternative maps for board consideration at the next board meeting.

Vice President Santana stated that the redistricting plan can have a true benefit to cities and communities by adjusting boundaries to make them clearer. She echoed

Director Fellow's recommendation to prepare maps in one or two weeks for presentation to the Board.

Secretary Garcia stated that she is open to exploring new maps for the sake of educating people and making maps easier to understand.

President Chavez reopened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Al Contreras stated that moving an area in Baldwin Park and Irwindale back to Division 5 will result in better demographic numbers than what is required. He stated not seeing postings of the public hearing for redistricting anywhere. He then requested that the public hearing be posted and allow public participation and access to the boundary maps. Mr. Contreras discussed the sale of Upper District's old building, the costs associated with leasing the current office as well as purchasing and renovating the new office building.

Treasurer Treviño emphasized the importance of hearing from all board members regarding the redistricting plan and being transparent and open to the public.

Director Fellow moved to have the directors provide input to the District Engineer within two weeks and request the District Engineer to prepare maps for board discussion, consideration and subsequent adoption. Vice President Santana seconded the motion.

District Counsel clarified that the current meeting is considered a workshop and that another public hearing will be scheduled where the Board of Directors could act on approving a map.

Treasurer Treviño suggested having the maps available to the public at the District's office for review and comments.

Director Fellow agreed to amend his motion to include Treasurer Treviño's suggestion. The amended motion was unanimously approved by the following roll call vote:

FELLOW:	AYE
TREVIÑO:	AYE
GARCIA:	AYE
SANTANA:	AYE
CHAVEZ:	AYE

President Chavez, District Counsel and Ms. Sternquist discussed allowing the public to submit proposed maps to the District for consideration.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items listed on the agenda for the information of the Board were read and ordered received and filed:

- (a) Press Releases and News Articles

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

District Counsel reported working with staff on matters relating to redistricting, the District's Water Smart Home Program, tenant lease agreement for the new building, and the new building renovation contract.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The District Engineer provided a report on hydrologic conditions, basin deliveries, reservoir storage, canyon releases and rainfall averages. He stated that the Baldwin Park Key Well groundwater elevation was 181.8 feet as of February 22, 2022. He explained the process and benefits of water quality sampling. He then reported that no notices of wells shutdown due to contamination were received during the month of January 2022.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The General Manager reported that staff is working with Metropolitan on having some State Water Project water deliveries no later than September. He then reported on a recent discussion with Metropolitan staff to discuss short-term and long-term actions that can be taken to shore up dependence on SWP supplies. He stated that the fastest solution might be getting a Quagga Mussel Control Plan approved to allow delivery of Colorado River Water into the basin. He added that one long-term solution is to build the Regional Recycled Water Project. He also reported on discussions with Metropolitan staff to change the way cyclic storage in the basin is viewed which would enable expanding the quantity and terms for purchasing storage water. He stated that the construction of the new building will begin on February 28th. Lastly, he reminded the directors to submit alternative maps and comments by March 4th for discussion at the next board meeting.

A General Manager's report was also provided in the Board's agenda packet.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Director Fellow reported on his recent attendance at the Urban Water Institute Conference and the discussion regarding the future of water. He also reported on Metropolitan's budget discussions. He then requested to adjourn the meeting in memory of Phyllis Pace, wife of former Metropolitan Chairman Phillip Pace.

Secretary Garcia thanked the District Engineer for providing a tour of their office.

Treasurer Treviño thanked the Board for supporting the pilot program in the City of South Pasadena. He stated that it is encouraging to know his colleague's thoughts on the redistricting plan. He then offered to provide the directors with background information on some of the issues involving Metropolitan and Chairwoman Gray if needed.

Vice President Santana shared that California became the first state to move into an endemic Covid-19 plan. She stated that monitoring Covid-19 levels in wastewater needs more attention.

President Chavez thanked everyone for attending and providing comments.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

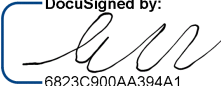
ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

None.


ADJOURNMENT

President Chavez asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting was duly adjourned in memory of Ms. Phyllis Pace to a regular meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on March 9, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. via teleconference or the most rapid means of communication available at the time.

ATTEST

DocuSigned by:

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 PRESIDENT

DocuSigned by:

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 SECRETARY

SEAL

From: [Bryan Cook](#)
To: [Venessa Navarrette](#); [Ruben Gallegos](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Board Meeting - February 23, 2022
Date: Monday, February 21, 2022 12:10:51 PM

Honorable Board Members,

It was anticipated that the Board would be discussing and possibly taking action regarding the redistricting of the District's Board seats at your meeting of February 23rd. To provide clarity to the agencies and constituencies that the Board serves, it would be greatly appreciated if the Board would provide their final decision on this issue very soon.

The City of Temple City would again respectfully reiterate that we have had a long history of being represented by the current district boundaries with both common and diverse communities of interest. Therefore, maintaining the current district boundaries will provide continuity and keep intact long-standing stakeholder relationships and collaborations on issues of City-wide and regional significance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bryan Cook
City Manager
City of Temple City

Venessa Navarrette

From: Mary Sneed <msneedtc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 6:43 PM
To: Venessa Navarrette
Subject: Water Maps

Dear Honorable Directors, My husband and I are long time residents of Arcadia We are writing to you to ask you to keep the current map in place and not redistrict as the current map meets all demographic requirements. To Use tax payers money to fix something that isn't broken is irresponsible and can be better used to support cities with water conservation Thank you, Mary Sneed Gene Sneed

From: [Dawn Tarin](#)
To: [Venessa Navarrette](#)
Subject: Water District Boundaries
Date: Friday, January 28, 2022 2:34:51 PM

Dear Directors Fellow, Chavez, Garcia, Santana and Trevino,

I am writing to you in support of keeping the current water districts boundaries as they currently are. The general manager reported that the population within the district decreased by about 1,000 people, the change between divisions resulted in the average standard deviation decreasing from 2.9% in 2010 to 2.2% in 2020. He explained that this equates to the divisions being more equal in terms of population size at this time. The GM shared that the current regulations require that the standard deviation be less than 10%, which makes the need to redistrict any of the divisions unwarranted.

The General Managers report that the current ethnic diversity of the District, as a whole, as well as each division having a majority-minority population, lends further argument for keeping the districts as is. Furthermore, Legal Counsel reported that the current Upper District boundaries meet both state and federal legislation and are fully defensible.

The City of Temple City just went through the redistricting process with Los Angeles County which caused much confusion and concern with our residents. After numerous and well publicized community meetings both Temple City and Arcadia were kept in the same districts due to residents' input to stay the same!

I would urge the directors to vote to keep the status quo, and agree with vice president Santana that "it would be irresponsible to spend money on something that is unnecessary, and which could cost the District up to \$50,000. That money could be better used to enhance the Districts water education programs. Let's not fix what isn't broken as supported by the data provided to the directors, and public at your last meeting. Thank you for all the work you do for our communities.

Sincerely,

Long Term Temple City Residents

Jose & Dawn Tarin
9189 Jaylee Drive
Temple City, CA

From: [biboo jar](#)
To: [Venessa Navarrette](#)
Subject: Upper Water District Public Comment
Date: Monday, February 21, 2022 3:31:39 PM

Please Read for District discussion on 23rd. Kindly confirm receipt.

- Miguel

Greetings Directors,

I am writing today to please request modifications to district boundaries within the water district. After looking at the map it looks to be uneven with several pockets outside of general communities. If this will not cost a great sum of money it would benefit neighborhoods. It doesn't make sense to have small portions of West Covina, Azusa, or Arcadia etc... in a random district taken away from their general city. The biggest victim is Temple City which is split into two districts. If the district is able, please make it EASIER to understand district lines not harder.

Miguel Morales

January 28, 2022

Dear Directors, Fellow, Chavez, Garcia, Santana and Trevino,

It is my understanding that you are still taking public comment regarding support or objection for pursuing the redistricting of the boundaries of the Upper District. I therefore respectfully submit my support for the keeping of the 5 Districts as is with no redistricting. I provide this support based on my understanding that as of the 2020 Census, there actually was a reduction of deviation between the existing Districts and currently stands at an average 2.2% deviation. In addition, ethnic diversity and majority-minority populations also remain stable. With the number of challenging matters currently facing us, I do not see any benefit in taking precious time and resources to conduct a redistricting process, not to mention the possibility of creating confusion amongst our constituents.

Thank you for your work and service to our communities.

Sincerely,

Becky A. Shevlin

Monrovia City Council Member

Cell (626)253-0072 Email – beckyshevlin@gmail.com

From: Cindy Vance <cindylovesart@yahoo.com>
Date: February 9, 2022 at 6:09:07 PM PST
To: Cynthia Sternquist <csternquist@templecity.us>
Subject: Fwd: Item 7b/ redistricting discussion public comment

Sent from my iPhone
To: Venessa Navarrette

Subject: Item 7b/ redistricting discussion public comment

Dear Honorable Directors,

I write to you to ask that you keep the current map and boundaries intact as they currently are. I believe it would be unconscionable for the District to expend money to tweak or change the current divisions and boundaries.

Helping residents with grants for drought tolerant gardens or more educational programs would be a much better use of taxpayers money. It can cost up to \$50,000 to hire a demographer just to come up with the same results in place now.

Looking at the report from the last meeting it seems that there is no valid reason to change anything. You are already meeting or exceeding the percentages that are required by the state in all districts to include equality among districts.

Please do the right thing and keep things as they are! Please do not disenfranchise Temple City voters.

Sincerely,
Cynrhia Vance
Temple City Resident
6020 Loma Ave.