

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
248 E. FOOTHILL BLVD, ROOM #103, MONROVIA, CALIFORNIA 91016  
4:00 P.M. – March 22, 2023**

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A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the office of the District, 248 E. Foothill Blvd, Rm. 103, City of Monrovia, County of Los Angeles, State of California, within said Water District, on March 22, 2023 at the hour of 4:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Chavez.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Love, General Manager; Steve O'Neill, District Counsel; Jeff Helsley, Consulting Engineer; Evelyn Rodriguez, Executive Manager - Finance and Administration; Patricia Cortez, Executive Manager - Government and Community Affairs; Venessa Navarrette, Executive Assistant; Priscilla Lu, Accounting/Financial Analyst, Jennifer Aguilar, Water Use Efficiency Analyst; and Katherine Vazquez, Government and Community Affairs Assistant.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Lynda Noriega, Che Venegas, Jose Martinez, Dave Michalko and Jenny Savron.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

On motion by Treasurer Garcia, seconded by Vice President Fellow, the agenda was adopted by the following roll call vote:

**FELLOW: AYE**  
**TREVIÑO: AYE**  
**GARCIA: AYE**  
**SANTANA: AYE**  
**CHAVEZ: ABSENT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion by Treasurer Garcia, seconded by Vice President Fellow, the consent calendar was approved by the following roll call vote:

**FELLOW: AYE**  
**TREVIÑO: AYE**  
**GARCIA: AYE**  
**SANTANA: AYE**  
**CHAVEZ: ABSENT**

- (a) Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on March 8, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

**STATE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARIES AND POSITIONS**

Vice President Fellow moved to approve state legislative bill positions AB 297, AB 62, AB 422, SB 23, and SB 414, which are consistent with Upper District's 2023-24 Legislative Policy Principles adopted by the Board in January 2023.

President Santana seconded the motion, which was approved by the following roll call vote:

**FELLOW: AYE**  
**TREVIÑO: AYE**  
**GARCIA: AYE**  
**SANTANA: AYE**  
**CHAVEZ: ABSENT**

Director Chavez arrived.

**WATER SUPPLY UPDATE  
PRESENTATION**

The General Manager introduced Mr. Brad Coffey, Metropolitan Water District Group Manager, Water Resources Management.

Mr. Coffey provided a water supply update discussing, among other things, the State Water Project supplies and allocations, statewide benefits of Sites Reservoir, project objectives of the Delta Conveyance, and the comparison between voluntary agreements and regulatory approach. He thanked Upper District and the General Manager for their cooperation during the severe drought.

Vice President Fellow and Mr. Coffey discussed Governor Newsom's potential for moving the project forward and coming up with the correct language for drought.

Secretary Chavez echoed Vice President Fellow in getting the right message out to the public. He emphasized the need to prepare for future generations.

Vice President Fellow and Mr. Coffey discussed the importance of public messaging.

Jose Martinez from Valley County Water District thanked the Board for inviting Mr. Coffey to present. He and Mr. Coffey discussed how the Metropolitan's infrastructure intensive water systems resulted in substantial fixed costs. They also discussed Metropolitan's disaster contingency plan.

President Santana thanked Mr. Coffey for his presentation.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING KICK-OFF**

The General Manager introduced Mr. Ed Means, President of Means Consulting, LLC.

Mr. Means provided an overview Upper District's strategic planning process. He discussed the unique nature of water utilities, benefits of strategic planning, things to consider and expectation from board members during the process, strategic plan elements, the District's current goals, and the upcoming process.

The General Manager stated that the board strategic plan workshop is scheduled on April 12<sup>th</sup>, with venue still to be finalized. He thanked the Watermaster Board for moving the date of the Basin Water Management Committee meeting.

**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 provided an update on the San Diego County Water Authority vs. Metropolitan case. He stated that the recent court ruling related to the wheeling agreement would put Metropolitan in a much better position in settlement discussions.

Vice President Fellow echoed District Counsel's comments.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The District Engineer provided a report on hydrologic conditions, basin deliveries, reservoir storage and rainfall averages and the recent storms. He stated that the Baldwin Park Key Well groundwater elevation was 194.6 feet as of March 17, 2023. He also reported that no notices of wells shutdown due to contamination were received during the month of February 2023.

Secretary Chavez and the General Manager discussed the historically high groundwater elevation at the key well.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

The General Manager reported on a recent meeting with Metropolitan, Watermaster and Stetson Engineers. He stated that Upper District's recent cyclic delivery order could bring more than 125, 000 AF of imported water to the basin, a new record for imported water deliveries in a single year. He then provided an update on the Quagga Mussel Control Plan and recent discussions with the Fish and Wildlife Service. He also gave an update on the budget and standby charge adoption processes.

Ms. Patty, the Executive Manager for Government and Community Affairs provided an update on the District's open house event to be held on March 28, 2023 and the upcoming annual social media event and workshop classes.

Lastly, the General Manager announced his designation of a new title for Patty Cortez as Assistant General Manager of External Affairs. He stated that this does not change the Upper District's reporting relationships and organizational structure. He added that Evelyn Rodriguez will continue to handle internal affairs as CFO/CAO and Patty will handle external affairs.

President Santana and the General Manager discussed the purpose of completing the Quagga Mussel Control Plan.

Lynda Noriega, chair of the Watermaster Board, thanked the General Manager for his work on the Quagga Mussel Control Plan. She stated this is another strategy for diversifying water supply sources for the basin. She encouraged the General Manager to continue working on bringing in as much cyclic water into the Basin to avoid using the Quagga Mussel Control Plan.

**DIRECTORS COMMENTS**

Treasurer Garcia thanked Mr. Coffey for his presentation. She stated that she is looking forward to the strategic planning session and the annual social media event.

Secretary Chavez shared recently losing his father-in-law.

Vice President Fellow expressed his condolences to Secretary Chavez. He then announced Metropolitan's new position for the Executive and Legislative Representative for Metropolitan Sacramento Office.

President Santana expressed her gratitude for the wet year we are experiencing.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Santana asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting was adjourned in memory of Mr. John Lopez, Secretary Chavez's father-in-law, to a special meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on April 12, 2023, at 1:00 a.m., with venue to still to be determined.

**ATTEST**

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

SEAL