

**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. – May 24, 2023**

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 May 24, 2023 at the hour of 4:00 p.m.

- ROLL CALL**
- DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Fellow, Garcia, Treviño, Santana and Chavez.
- DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Love, General Manager; Martin Koczanowicz, District Counsel; Steve Johnson, Consulting Engineer; Patricia Cortez, Assistant General Manager, External Affairs; Evelyn Rodriguez, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer; Venessa Navarrette, Executive Assistant; Jennifer Aguilar, Water Use Efficiency Analyst; Katherine Vazquez, Government and Community Affairs Assistant; and Ruben Gallegos, Project Assistant.
- OTHERS PRESENT** David Muse, Kelly Gardner, Lenet Pacheco, Jose Martinez, Ralph Galvan, Terri Prado, and Susanna Hernandez.
- ADOPTION OF AGENDA** On motion by Treasurer Garcia, seconded by Vice President Fellow, the agenda was adopted by the following vote:
- AYES:** SANTANA, FELLOW, GARCIA, CHAVEZ AND TREVIÑO
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
- PUBLIC COMMENT** None.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS** Next scheduled committee meeting dates are as follows:
- (a) Government Affairs and Community Outreach – June 5, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
 - (b) Administration and Finance – June 6, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
 - (c) Water Resources and Facility Management – June 7, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
- CONSENT CALENDAR** On motion by Director Treviño, seconded by Treasurer Garcia, the consent calendar was approved by the following vote:
- AYES:** SANTANA, FELLOW, GARCIA, CHAVEZ AND TREVIÑO
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
- (a) Minutes of a special meeting of the Board of Directors held on April 26, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
 - (b) List of Demands.
 - (c) Financial Reports – March 2023
 - (d) Negotiated Tax Exchange Resolution, Annexation of Petition No. 5-323 (Tract 65943) to County Lighting Maintenance District 1687.
 - (e) Negotiated Tax Exchange Resolution, Annexation of Petition No. 56-1017 to County Lighting Maintenance District 1687.
 - (f) State Legislative Bill Positions: AB 557, AB 676, AB 1573, SB 366, and SB 687, which are consistent with Upper District’s 2023-24 Legislative Policy Principles

adopted by the Board in January 2023.

**PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
PROPOSED REAUTHORIZATION OF A
WATER AVAILABILITY STANDBY
CHARGE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/24 [1]**

General Manager, Tom Love, provided a background on the standby charge that was implemented in the 1990s. He stated the standby charge is property tax charge of \$10 per parcel or per acre. The purpose of implementing the charge is to fund the recycled water project, both construction and operations, and fund our water use efficiency and conservation programs. The General Manager stated that the standby charge must be adopted by the Board on an annual basis.

There were no public comments.

President Santana closed the public hearing.

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 23-1,
IMPOSING STANDBY CHARGES FOR
FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1,
2023**

On motion by Director Treviño, seconded by Vice President Fellow, the ordinance was adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

**CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE
ELEVATOR UPGRADE PROJECT**

The General Manager provided a brief update of the elevator upgrade project. He and Evelyn Rodriguez, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer, have requested proposals from four firms, however, only two proposals were received. The General Manager recommended awarding GMS the contract. Staff confirmed with legal counsel that GMS’ proposal included the payment of prevailing wages. Lastly, the General Manager provided a timeline for the completion of the elevator upgrade.

On motion by Director Treviño, seconded by Secretary Chavez, the contract award for the elevator upgrade project was approved by the following vote:

**AYES: SANTANA, FELLOW, GARCIA, CHAVEZ AND
 TREVIÑO**
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

The General Manager provided an update from the workshop that was held with the producers and District staff. The strategic plan was provided to the Board in draft form and Ed Means of Means Consulting, LLC, provided an overview of the strategic plan. The intent is to incorporate the feedback from the Board and producers into a final draft for the Board’s consideration at the second Board meeting in June.

President Santana asked if Ed Means is going to alphabetize the core values.

Director Treviño expressed his concerns about our infrastructure and whether the District has enough preserves for catastrophic events.

Vice President Fellow suggested to explore succession plans for the future and asked if this would fall under strategy 6.

Treasurer Garcia asked if objective 3 of the strategic plan was on the previous strategic plan.

NOMINATION FOR ACWA REGION 8 FOR THE 2023/24 TERM AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 05-23-657

The General Manager mentioned Vice President Fellow has served in the ACWA Region 8 Board for many years. Vice President Fellow stated that Chairwoman Gloria Gray will not run for Chair of Region 8 and he plans to run for the position to represent Region 8. President Santana nominated Vice President Fellow as our ACWA Region 8 representative. Treasurer Garcia seconded the nomination.

On motion by Secretary Chavez, seconded by President Santana, the nomination for ACWA Region 8 for the 2023/24 term and adoption of Resolution No.05-23-657 was approved by the following vote:

AYES: SANTANA, FELLOW, GARCIA, CHAVEZ AND TREVIÑO
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

INFORMATION ITEMS

(a) Press Releases and News Articles

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Martin Koczanowicz, District Counsel, reported working with staff on the standby charges, preparation of the ordinance, and ensuring these items are compliant of the law.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Steve Johnson, District Engineer, provided a report on the hydrologic conditions. He shared the Baldwin Park Key Well is 230.2 as of May 19, 2023 and is slowing down.

He reported there is inflow to the San Gabriel Reservoir. It is still over 500 cfs, which is about 1,000 acre feet a day that the Basin is receiving. They are still releasing 1,000 cfs and are getting replenished in the Main San Gabriel Basin and Central Basin. Approximately 750 cfs are being conserved in our Basin, between the Santa Fe and the river, and the remainder of water is being distributed in the lower basin area.

He requested information from Los Angeles County to find out how much water was lost to the ocean. There were only three days they had water going past the spreading grounds that they could not control. He stated he will evaluate the percentage of water conserved compared to the total amount of water that was sent in the river and estimates 80-90% has been conserved.

Rainfall through the May was 155% at Puddingstone and 182% at San Gabriel Dam, which has set records. For the spreading of water, Los Angeles County stated 150,000 AF has been spread throughout our Basin, however, Steve Johnson estimates 160,000 AF.

Lastly, he stated 44 wells were sampled in April and 39 wells were sampled in March under the Title 22 Program. He reported that there were no notices of wells shutdown due to water quality issues.

Steve mentioned President Santana raised a question regarding how the Safe Yield has been for the past 10 years. He provided a brief presentation regarding what “Safe Yield” means for the basin and its background.

Treasurer Garcia thanked Steve Johnson for the presentation.

President Santana also thanked Steve for the presentation and expressed the importance of keeping our Basin healthy for our residents, and need for the imported water. She also expressed our support for the State Water Project and Pure Water Southern California.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The General Manager stated the District “pre-ordered” of 125,000 AF of imported water this year from MWD. This would start around June 1st and run until the end of the year. He mentioned Los Angeles County is releasing water from Morris Dam so they may continue their sediment removal project.

The General Manager went over several administrative matters with the Board. He mentioned the Board will have keys to gain access to the building and garage. Additionally, he stated the budget will be included in the agenda for adoption at the next Board meeting.

Lastly, he has scheduled Eric Batman from the Los Angeles County of Public Works to conduct a presentation on the San Gabriel River Flood Control and water conservation operations to the Board.

METROPOLITAN REPORT

Vice President Fellow mentioned he is the Vice Chair for MWD’s subcommittee on Public Outreach and provided information on the MWD’s outreach activities for the Climate Adaptation Master Plan and the Solar Cup Program. He stated ACWA did a study on messaging and how the public has responded to certain messaging.

He also provided an update on his meeting with the President of Citrus College, Dr. Greg Schultz, and discussed the idea of training young students for the workforce. He is hoping to have a booth for Citrus College at the next Waterfest to promote Citrus College’s programs. He also mentioned the MWD Board Directors want to have the Solar Cup Program return and suggested the municipalities should contribute more share of the program in their districts.

He talked briefly about the Colorado River negotiations.

Lastly, he was asked to present MWD’s One Water Award at the California Endowment to the Los Angeles County Arboretum, who received an award for their environmental efforts.

Treasurer Garcia commented on her positive experiences with the Solar Cup Program and mentioned her students were able to participate in this program. She hoped that the program would be brought back.

WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY REPORT

Secretary Chavez reported that Mike Whitehead is no longer on the Water Quality Authority and has been replaced with Robert DiPrimio. Mike Whitehead previously held the Treasurer position, and now the position has been filled by Robert Gonzalez, the Mayor of City of Azusa.

He briefly reported the budget and the approval of an education grant for a water education program for elementary and junior high students.

WATERMASTER REPORT

None.

AB 1234 COMPLIANCE REPORT

None.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Director Treviño stated how the District should develop relationships with the local electeds.

Secretary Chavez thanked the Board and staff for their condolences for his mother.

Treasurer Garcia expressed her appreciation of the Key Well social media post and the Watershed Restoration Program photos.

Vice President Fellow thanked General Manager, Tom Love, for working on the messaging with the producers and training people for the future from Monday's event. Vice President Fellow mentioned the Maryknoll Sisters' Prescence, located in Monrovia, called him to visit the convent. He mentioned they have a community garden and suggested having a native plant sale there. He wants to adjourn today in memory of Secretary Chavez's mother, Magdalena Chavez; former State Assemblywoman, Los Angeles City Councilwoman, and Los Angeles Supervisor, Gloria Molina; and former Baldwin Park City Councilwoman and Valley County Water District's Board Director, David Muse's wife, Teri Muse.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Santana stated she will be camping with the Cub Scouts this weekend.
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 Magdalena Chavez, Gloria Molina, and Terry Muse, and to a regular meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on June 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., at 248 E. Foothill Blvd., Room #103, Monrovia, CA 91016.

ATTEST

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

SEAL