

**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. – June 28, 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 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; Steven O’Neill, District Counsel; Jeff Helsley, Consulting Engineer; Patricia Cortez, Assistant General Manager, External Affairs; Venessa Navarrete, Executive Assistant; Jennifer Aguilar, Water Use Efficiency Analyst; Katherine Vazquez, Government and Community Affairs Assistant; and Ruben Gallegos, Project Assistant.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

David Muse, Dave Michalko, Tony Zampiello, Jose Martinez, and Eric Batman.

**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 – July 10, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
- (b) Administration and Finance – July 11, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
- (c) Water Resources and Facility Management – July 11, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion by Treasurer Garcia, seconded by Vice President Fellow, 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 regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on June 14, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

**SAN GABRIEL RIVER OPERATIONS**

Eric Batman, Senior Civil Engineer for the Los Angeles County Public Works, provided a presentation on the San Gabriel River Operations. He provided a brief history of LA County Public Works, their facilities, and a recap of the recent storm season. He elaborated on the purpose of the flood control district and how the groundwater provides one-third of the drinking water supply to LA County.

President Santana and Mr. Batman discussed what the number four represented on the presentation and how USG-3 is within the number four field district area of Public Works.

Mr. Batman stated there are 14 dams within the LA County system and provided information as to when dams were constructed, the types of valves, how the watershed responds and the purpose of the dams. Mr. Batman then described the storage capacity of the dams within the San Gabriel Canyon, providing about 83,000 feet of combined storage. He added that from the past storm season, the maximum outflow for Morris Dam was approximately 5,300 CFS which occurred on March 20, 2023. He then explained the importance of selecting locations for a spreading ground and the associated geology. He stated the largest and oldest spreading ground is the San Gabriel Canyon which was purchased by LA County Public Works in the 1960s and provides 8,000-acre feet of storage. Additionally, he presented other spreading grounds within the District's region and their storage capacities.

Mr. Batman highlighted the rubber dams that stretch out across the river, their purposes and locations. He then described the annual averages of captured stormwater stating that, on average, LA County Public Works captures approximately 200,000 acre feet of stormwater and recharges it to the groundwater basins. He added that about 45,000 acre feet of recycled water and 65,000 acre feet of imported water is recharged.

Mr. Batman went over the rainfall data over the last 10 years for Downtown Los Angeles stating on average, the area receives about 15.3 inches of rainfall while this year, the region received about 30 inches. He mentioned the LA County Public Works captured about 550,000 acre feet of stormwater or 275% of their average 200,000 acre feet.

President Santana asked if this represents the entire Los Angeles County.

Lastly, Eric Batman briefly discussed the sediment and debris from the burned watershed sites and how the County is noticing the turbidity in the water. He explained the County is currently cleaning out the Cogswell and San Gabriel dams, the importance of cleaning the dams, and the duration of the cleanout projects.

Vice President Fellow asked where the sediment is being transferred to.

Treasurer Garcia asked what the LA County Public Work's plan is into looking for more spreading grounds.

Vice President Fellow followed up with a question regarding the City of Irwindale, requesting information if the LA County Public Works is inquiring on a gravel pit.

Tom Love, General Manager, stated that the LA County Public Works is working on acquiring a gravel pit but that this is more related to the Pure Water Project.

Treasurer Garcia thanked Mr. Batman for providing the presentation.

Secretary Chavez asked if the East side of the spreading grounds is in the county jurisdiction and if the West side is federal. Additionally, he asked about who manages both sides of the basin.

President Santana asked for clarification on the comment Mr. Batman made regarding the water supplied to the County and if this was from groundwater recharge. Additionally, she asked if the region has been capturing rainwater more efficiently.

**2023 STRATEGIC PLAN**

Tom Love stated that he and staff are pleased with the five-year Strategic Plan and recommended its adoption. He thanked the Board and the producers for their participation and input.

On motion by Treasurer Garcia, seconded by Vice President Fellow, the 2023 Strategic Plan was approved by the following vote:

<b>AYES:</b>	<b>SANTANA, FELLOW, GARCIA, CHAVEZ AND TREVIÑO</b>
<b>NOES:</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>NONE</b>

**RESOLUTION NO. 06-23-658, WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN – LEVEL 2 ALERT**

Patty Cortez, Assistant General Manager, External Affairs, discussed the Water Shortage Contingency Plan and the actions the Board has taken in the last two years. She talked briefly on how the resolution would essentially discontinue the emergency water conservation plan requested to be implemented by Metropolitan Water District (Metropolitan) and to reaffirm the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan at Level 2.

Patty Cortez mentioned that the District has asked the retailers and cities to implement a voluntary 20% water demand reduction adding that the District has asked the retailers to establish an outdoor potable landscaping watering schedule to a maximum of three days per week during summer and a maximum of two days per week during winter. She stated the District is requesting retailers to utilize best management practices to continue making conservation a way of life. She then added that the District has reached out to the Conservation Action Roundtable (CAR) group consisting of all conservation coordinators and has received feedback regarding which levels are being implemented in their respective agencies.

On motion by Vice President Fellow, seconded by Treasurer Garcia, Resolution No. 06-23-658, Water Shortage Contingency Plan – Level 2 Alert, was approved by the following vote:

<b>AYES:</b>	<b>SANTANA, FELLOW, GARCIA, CHAVEZ AND TREVIÑO</b>
<b>NOES:</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>NONE</b>

Vice President Fellow requested to have a press release sent out on June 29, 2023.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Press releases and news articles listed on the agenda for the information of the Board were read and ordered received and filed.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Steven O'Neill, District Counsel, discussed the decision on the Sackett v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency case stating that the purpose of this case was to determine what constitutes waters of the United States per the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps regulations. He then reviewed the legislative background of the Clean Water Act of 1972 and the definition of the waters of the United States.

Vice President Fellow requested District Counsel to report on the Navajo Nation's water rights case at the next meeting.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Jeff Helsley, District Engineer, provided a report on hydrologic conditions stating the Baldwin Park Key Well is 232.6 feet as of June 23, 2023 or 0.7 feet higher than in the previous month and 47.4 feet higher than a year ago. He also reported that total storage capacity in the reservoirs is 83,255 feet which was drawn down

significantly and that total combined storage is now at 9,660 acre feet. Lastly, he reported that about 550,000 acre feet of water has been captured in the County.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Tom Love, General Manager, briefly discussed the USG-3 deliveries. He mentioned the operation in the canyon reservoirs have drawn down the Cogswell Dam and San Gabriel Dam to begin the sediment cleaning. He stated the dams were releasing 600 to 700 CFS up until June 19, 2023. He stated that outflow from Morris Dam has been reduced to 20 CFS. He then briefly discussed that the District worked with the County, Watermaster, and Metropolitan on moving State Water Project water into the system on June 20, 2023.

The General Manager stated that on the morning of June 22, 2023, the District had Metropolitan turn off USG-3 until Metropolitan can install a smaller 200 CFS orifice plate. He added that USG-3 was turned back on the following day and has been operating close to 200 CFS. He briefly described how the County moves water from Morris Dam to the Santa Fe spreading grounds. He then went over how the District, Metropolitan, and the County are working together on future improvements to the river crossing and USG-3 to improve and facilitate faster delivery of water.

He briefly went over Metropolitan's Climate Action Master Plan for Water (C.A.M.P. for Water) workshop. He explained that Metropolitan is going onto the next step of their Integrated Resources Plan (IRP). The IRP process identified the potential problems in terms of water supply, storage, and conveyance. He said this plan would identify solutions and incorporate a business plan.

The General Manager talked about the office closure due to Independence Day. He then discussed the grant award that Upper District and other water agencies received. He reported that the District's share is \$2.1 million out of a total grant of \$8 million for the implementation of the Turnkey Turf Program. The District will be reaching out to the producers to find eligible projects.

President Santana and the General Manager discussed the frequency of draining the reservoirs for sediment removal.

## **DIRECTORS COMMENTS**

Director Treviño expressed his gratitude to the General Manager for inviting speakers and the positive relationships Upper District has with them. He expressed his excitement about the direction Upper District is going.

Secretary Chavez briefly described the water supply tour he attended with 40 participants.

Treasurer Garcia stated she is grateful for the local natural resources and the presentations.

Vice President Fellow talked about the workshops he attended at Metropolitan Water District. He commented on the opinion piece included in the agenda packet regarding two supervisors from Northern California. He asked if the tunnel project will be continued due to Governor Newsom's latest budget deal.

President Santana mentioned the presentation the District recently received from Steve Baker regarding imported water received during the drought years. She explained how the region relied on imported water for at least 50% of supply for the last 10 years and how hard the communities worked to conserve. She explained the importance of the State Water and Pure Water Projects for the economy, our communities, and way of life.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.


**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

None.


**ADJOURNMENT**

President Santana asked if there were other business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting was adjourned to a regular meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on July 12, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., at 248 E. Foothill Blvd., Room #103, Monrovia, CA 91016.

**ATTEST**

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**PRESIDENT**

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**SECRETARY**

**SEAL**