

**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. – February 28, 2024**

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 February 28, 2024 at the hour of 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Santana, Fellow, Garcia, Trevino

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Chavez

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Love, General Manager; Steve O’Neill, District Counsel; Steve Johnson, District Engineer; Patty Cortez, Assistant General Manager, External Affairs; Evelyn Rodriguez, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer; Venessa Navarrette, Executive Assistant; Jennifer Aguilar, Water Use Efficiency Analyst; and Katherine Vazquez, Government and Community Affairs Assistant.

OTHERS PRESENT

Tara Robinson, Anteneh Tesfaye, Bill Hasencamp

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

District Counsel requested addition of a closed session item to the agenda pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9: potential litigation: one case. He explained that subsequent to the posting of the agenda, Upper District and his office received a letter concerning potential litigation that warrants a closed session.

On motion by Vice President Fellow, seconded by Treasurer Garcia, the agenda was adopted with Item 14, Closed Session under Government Code 54956.9, Potential Litigation, by the following vote:

AYES: TREVIÑO, GARCIA, FELLOW, SANTANA

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: CHAVEZ

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Santana announced that committee appointments will remain the same for 2024.

Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee – Tony Fellow, Chair and Ed Chavez, Vice-Chair

Administrative and Finance Committee - Jennifer Santana, Chair and Charles Treviño, Vice-Chair

Water Resources and Facility Management – Charles Treviño, Chair and Katarina Garcia, Vice-Chair

Next scheduled committee meeting dates are as follows:

- (a) Government Affairs and Community Outreach – April 8, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.
- (b) Administration and Finance – April 2, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.
- (c) Water Resources and Facility Management – April 3, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion by Treasurer Garcia, seconded by Director Treviño, the consent calendar was approved by the following vote:

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

- (a) Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on February 14, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

UPDATE ON COLORADO RIVER NEGOTIATIONS PRESENTATION

Mr. Bill Hasencamp, Manager of Colorado River Resources for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), provided a presentation to the Board of Directors regarding the Colorado River and the ongoing negotiations. He stated that a big announcement is coming out the following week about the proposals to be submitted by the Upper and Lower Basins to the Bureau of Reclamation on how the Colorado River should be operated for the next 20 years.

Secretary Chavez arrived at 4:09 p.m.

Mr. Hasencamp stated that the Colorado River, an extremely reliable watershed, flows through seven states and two countries and provides water to 40 million people, 38 Native American tribes and dozens of national parks.

He added that California had temporary usage of extra water for more than 50 years until 2003 when California had to reduce the use of water by 20% permanently. He stated that in 2022, the Colorado River made national news when Lake Mead was reported to be at its lowest level and that California responded by proposing a 400 AF annual reduction including MWD's proposed deferred delivery of storage water in Lake, potentially saving up to an additional 150,000 AF annually. He added that the other states did not see this as sufficient.

Mr. Hasencamp reported that in 2007, the rules of the Colorado River were negotiated and was called the 2007 Interim Shortage Guidelines effective through December 31, 2025. He stated that the guidelines cover storage, shortages, operations, power generation, sharing rights with Mexico and funding new programs. He added that the Bureau of Reclamation is set to amend the 2007 Guidelines with supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. He then went over the issues for the new guidelines including determining the level of severity to plan for and the parties involved in the negotiations. He also presented the timeline for the negotiations, the proposed Lower Basin alternative, and the priorities for urban Southern California.

Director Treviño and Mr. Hasencamp discussed the Native American tribes' water rights that are not being used and how these are being considered in the negotiations.

Vice-President Fellow and Mr. Hasencamp discussed why the other states do not listen to MWD.

President Santana and Mr. Hasencamp discussed the press conference that the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Southern Nevada Water Authority will be holding the following week which will highlight the proposals.

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

District Counsel reported working with staff on contract reviews, responding to subpoena records request, MWD issues and legal cases involving PFAS.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The District Engineer mentioned the water in the spreading grounds having a measurable effect on the Key Well. He stated that the Key Well level as of February 26, 2024 was 226.4 ft. He stated that the SWP entitlement affects potential water deliveries from MWD through USG-03 for replenishment purposes. He also reported that Upper District has purchased all the water in MWD's cyclic storage account and will be working with MWD on a new letter agreement.

The General Manager reported that the next SWP allocation update will be in March and that the most recent allocation has been increased to 15%.

The District Engineer reported on the local water storage and rainfall levels. He then stated that no well shutdown notices were received due to contamination. He also stated that he is working with Watermaster to get the PFAS results released.

Secretary Chavez, the District Engineer and President Santana briefly discussed the Colorado River levels in Laughlin, NV.

Vice-President Fellow, the General Manager, and the District Engineer discussed the Quagga Mussel threat in the SWP. The General Manager stated that an established colony was found in Castaic Lake.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The General Manager stated that Upper District will be continuing the annual review and update of the Quagga Mussel Control Plan. He also mentioned the calcium levels Quagga Mussels need to survive.

He reported that MWD has now had three budget workshops and that staff will be presenting to the Administration and Finance committee an update on MWD's budget. He also reported that MWD will be having a CAMP4W taskforce workshop on February 29th. He then reported that the San Gabriel Valley general managers are hiring a strategic policy advisor for MWD issues. He stated that a contract is being prepared to have Jeff Kightlinger, former general manager for MWD, onboard. He also briefly reported on the successful water tour organized for Assemblymember Papan and Assemblymember Rubio. He then reported on his recent attendance at the Urban Water Institute conference where he met the next Executive Officer of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, Mr. Russ Bryden.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Secretary Chavez stated that the water tour was highly informative.

Treasurer Garcia commended the presentation given by Mr. Hasencamp on the Colorado River Negotiations and expressed interest in hearing more about the Supreme Court case between the states.

Vice-President Fellow reported being asked to introduce Upper District's General Manager, at the next MWD Board meeting as the guest general manager.

The General Manager stated that MWD Chair Adan Ortega started inviting one member agency general manager to sit at the board table during the board meeting and engage in the discussions. He stated that he has been invited to the March 12th meeting and plan to let the MWD Board know of Upper District's accomplishments and ongoing work for the San Gabriel Valley.

Vice-President Fellow reported on MWD's budget workshop and budget planning meetings. He then requested to adjourn the meeting in memory of his mother, Mary Jo Fellow. He thanked the city councils for sending flowers.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was held pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9: Potential litigation: one case.

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened after closed session. District Counsel reported that the Board discussed the matter and gave instructions to staff.

ADJOURNMENT

President Santana asked if there were any other business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting was duly adjourned in memory of Mary Jo Fellow to a regular meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on March 13, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at 248 E. Foothill Blvd., Room #103, Monrovia, CA 91016.

SECRETARY

ATTEST

TREASURER

SEAL