

MINUTES
CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER
AGRICULTURAL POOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 13, 2023

The Agricultural Pool Committee meeting was held at the Watermaster offices located at 9641 San Bernardino Road, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, and via Zoom (conference call and web meeting) on April 13, 2023.

AGRICULTURAL POOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER

Bob Feenstra, Chair	Dairy
Jeff Pierson, Vice-Chair	Crops
Gino Filippi for Ron Pietersma	Crops
Ruben Llamas	Crops
Steven Raughley	County of San Bernardino
Nathan deBoom	Dairy
Leon Kazandjian	State of California – CDCR

AGRICULTURAL POOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT ON ZOOM

John Huitsing	Dairy
Geoff Vanden Heuvel	Dairy
Jimmy Medrano	State of California – CDCR
Tariq Awan	State of California – CDCR

WATERMASTER STAFF PRESENT

Peter Kavounas	General Manager
Joe Joswiak	Chief Financial Officer
Edgar Tellez Foster	Water Resources Mgmt. and Planning Dir.
Anna Nelson	Director of Administration
Justin Nakano	Water Resources Technical Manager
Frank Yoo	Data Services and Judgment Reporting Mgr.
Alexandria Moore	Executive Assistant I/Board Clerk
Ruby Favela	Administrative Analyst
Kelli Hills	Office Specialist/Receptionist
David Huynh	Senior Field Operations Specialist
Alonso Jurado	Senior Field Operations Specialist

WATERMASTER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER

Paul Hofer	Agricultural Pool – Crops
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WATERMASTER CONSULTANTS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER

Andy Malone	West Yost
Carolina Sanchez	West Yost

WATERMASTER CONSULTANTS PRESENT ON ZOOM

Benjamin Markham	Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
Garrett Rapp	West Yost

OTHERS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER

Tracy Egoscue	Egoscue Law Group, Inc.
Richard Rees	WSP USA

OTHERS PRESENT ON ZOOM

Diana Frederick	State of California – CIM
Carol Boyd	State of California – DOJ
Marilyn Levin	State of California – DOJ

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Feenstra called the Agricultural Pool Committee meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

(0:00:13) Ms. Moore conducted the roll call and announced that a quorum was present.

AGENDA - ADDITIONS/REORDER

(0:15:32) Vice-Chair Pierson requested for Consent Calendar Item I.C. to be pulled for separate discussion.

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be acted upon by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items prior to voting unless any members, staff, or the public requests specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action.

A. MINUTES

Approve as presented:

1. Minutes of the Agricultural Pool Committee Meeting held on March 9, 2023

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Receive and file as presented:

1. Cash Disbursements for the month of February 2023
2. Watermaster VISA Check Detail for the month of February 2023
3. Combining Schedule for the Period July 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023
4. Treasurer's Report of Financial Affairs for the Period February 1, 2023 through February 28, 2023
5. Budget vs. Actual Report for the Period July 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023
6. Cash Disbursements for March 2023 (Information Only)

(0:15:35)

Motion by Vice-Chair Jeff Pierson, seconded by Mr. Nathan deBoom, and passed by unanimous roll call vote as attached to these minutes.

Moved to approve Consent Calendar Items I.A. and I.B. as presented.

C. ARUNA REDDY OVERLYING (AGRICULTURAL) POOL INTERVENTION REQUEST

Recommend to the Advisory Committee to recommend to the Watermaster Board to approve and direct staff to file the request for intervention with the Court.

Vice-Chair Pierson raised a question. A discussion ensued.

(0:15:35)

Motion by Vice-Chair Jeff Pierson, seconded by Mr. Ruben Llamas, and passed by unanimous roll call vote as attached to these minutes.

Moved to not recommend Consent Calendar Item I.C. (the Aruna Reddy intervention request) to the Advisory Committee at this time.

II. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. WATERMASTER BOARD PHILOSOPHY RE STAFFING AND COMPENSATION

Review the draft principles and provide input.

(0:30:20) Mr. Kavounas gave a report. A discussion ensued.

B. OLD BUSINESS

None

III. REPORTS/UPDATES

A. WATERMASTER LEGAL COUNSEL

1. March 17, 2023 Hearing
2. April 5, 2023 Hearing
3. May 12, 2023 Hearing
4. Court of Appeal Case No. E079052
5. Court of Appeal Case No. E080457
6. Court of Appeal Case No. E080533
7. Kaiser Permanente Lawsuit

(00:41:38) Mr. Markham gave a report.

B. ENGINEER

1. Safe Yield Court Order Implementation
2. Maximum Benefit Annual Report

(00:45:56) Mr. Malone gave a report. A discussion ensued.

C. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Budget Schedule

(0:57:48) Mr. Joswiak gave a report.

(1:03:53)

Motion by Vice-Chair Jeff Pierson, seconded by Mr. Nathan deBoom, and passed by unanimous roll call vote as attached to these minutes.

Moved to approve the following:

- a) Moving \$41k from the current Special Projects account to the Pool Legal expense account***
- b) Moving \$10k from the current Special Projects account to the Pool Administration account***
- c) Retaining \$10,000 in the current Special Projects fund***
- d) Setting the Pool Legal expense budget for Fiscal Year 2023/24 at \$250k***
- e) Setting the Pool Administration budget for Fiscal Year 2023/24 at \$50k***
- f) Setting the Special Projects budget for Fiscal Year 2023/24 at \$61k***

D. GENERAL MANAGER

1. State Excess Water Supplies and Opportunities for Recharge
2. Other

(01:10:47) Mr. Kavounas gave a report indicating that he attended a Metropolitan Water District management meeting regarding excess State water supplies due to the recent rain and encouraged parties to consider recharge opportunities in the Chino Basin. Mr. Kavounas invited Ms. Sanchez of West Yost to give a report on the Board-Requested Recharge Project Analysis. Mr. Kavounas mentioned that the May Appropriative Pool Committee meeting would be happening during the week of the ACWA Spring Conference, and that staff suggests rescheduling it from May 11, 2023 to May 16, 2023. The Agricultural Pool Committee agreed that the date change is a good idea. A discussion ensued.

IV. POOL DISCUSSION

1. Chairman's Update
2. Pool Member Comments

None

V. OTHER BUSINESS

None

VI. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION - POSSIBLE ACTION

A Confidential Session may be held during the Pool Committee meeting for the purpose of discussion and possible action.

The Pool convened into confidential session at 3:45 p.m. to discuss the Court of Appeal Case.

Confidential session concluded at 4:07 p.m. with no reportable action. The Pool did not wish to reconvene into open session and the adjournment time was provided by Pool counsel in Attachment 4 below.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Feenstra adjourned the Agricultural Pool committee meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Secretary: 

Approved: May 16, 2023

Attachments:

1. 20230413 Roll Call Vote Outcome for Consent Calendar Items I.A. and I.B.
2. 20230413 Roll Call Vote Outcome for Consent Calendar Item I.C.
3. 20230413 Roll Call Vote Outcome for CFO report Item III.C.
4. 20230413 Adjournment (Email from Legal Counsel)

ATTACHMENT 1

20230413 Roll Call Vote Outcome

Member	Alternate	Consent Calendar
LaBrucherie, Jr., Ron		Yes
Pierson, Jeff, Vice-Chair		Yes
deBoom, Nathan		Yes
DeHaan, Henry		Absent
Huitsing, John*		Yes
Gino Fillipi for Pietersma, Ron		Yes
Llamas, Ruben		Yes
Raughley, Steven		Yes
Awan, Tariq*		Yes
Kazandjian, Leon		Yes
Medrano, Jimmy*		Yes
Feenstra, Bob - Chair		Yes
	OUTCOME:	Passed Unanimously by those present

*Participated via Zoom

ATTACHMENT 2

20230413 Roll Call Vote Outcome
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Member	Alternate	Consent Calendar I.C.
LaBrucherie, Jr., Ron		Yes
Pierson, Jeff, Vice-Chair		Yes
deBoom, Nathan		Yes
DeHaan, Henry		Absent
Huitsing, John*		Yes
Gino Fillipi for Pietersma, Ron		Yes
Llamas, Ruben		Yes
Raughley, Steven		Yes
Awan, Tariq*		Yes
Kazandjian, Leon		Yes
Medrano, Jimmy*		Yes
Feenstra, Bob - Chair		Yes
	OUTCOME:	Passed Unanimously by those present

*Participated via Zoom

ATTACHMENT 3

20230413 Roll Call Vote Outcome
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Member	Alternate	CFO Report III.C.
LaBrucherie, Jr., Ron		Yes
Pierson, Jeff, Vice-Chair		Yes
deBoom, Nathan		Yes
DeHaan, Henry		Absent
Huitsing, John*		Yes
Gino Fillipi for Pietersma, Ron		Yes
Llamas, Ruben		Yes
Raughley, Steven		Yes
Awan, Tariq*		Yes
Kazandjian, Leon		Yes
Medrano, Jimmy*		Yes
Feenstra, Bob - Chair		Yes
	OUTCOME:	Passed Unanimously by those present

*Participated via Zoom

ATTACHMENT 4

From: [Tracy Egoscue](#)
To: [Alexandria Moore](#); [Anna Nelson](#)
Subject: Ag Pool Closed Session
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 4:08:54 PM

The Ag Pool closed session adjourned at 4:07pm with no reportable action.

Thank you.

Tracy J. Egoscue
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