

MINUTES
CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER
AGRICULTURAL POOL COMMITTEE MEETING

March 14, 2024

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 March 14, 2024.

AGRICULTURAL POOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER

Bob Feenstra, Chair	Dairy
Jeff Pierson, Vice-Chair	Crops
Ruben Llamas	Crops
Gino Filippi for Ron LaBrucherie	Crops
Paul Hofer for Ron Pietersma	Dairy
Christen Miller	County of San Bernardino
Imelda Cadigal	State of California - CDCR
Jimmy Medrano	State of California - CDCR
Tariq Awan	State of California - CDCR

AGRICULTURAL POOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT ON ZOOM

Nathan deBoom	Dairy
Henry DeHaan	Dairy
John Huitsing	Dairy

WATERMASTER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT ON ZOOM

Bill Velto	City of Upland
Mike Gardner	Western Water

WATERMASTER STAFF PRESENT

Edgar Tellez Foster	Acting General Manager
Anna Nelson	Director of Administration
Justin Nakano	Water Resources Technical Manager
Frank Yoo	Data Services and Judgment Reporting Mgr.
Daniela Uriarte	Senior Accountant
Alexandria Moore	Executive Assistant I/Board Clerk
Alonso Jurado	Senior Field Operations Specialist
Ruby Favela	Administrative Assistant
Jordan Garcia	Senior Field Operations Specialist
Erik Vides	Field Operations Specialist
Rudy Nunez	Office Specialist/Receptionist

WATERMASTER CONSULTANTS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER

Andy Malone	West Yost
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WATERMASTER CONSULTANTS PRESENT ON ZOOM

Brad Herrema	Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
Scott Nelsen	Eide Bailly, LLP
Veva Weamer	West Yost

OTHERS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER

Gino Filippi	Crops
Paul Hofer	Crops
Tracy Egoscue	Egoscue Law Group, Inc.
Richard Rees	WSP USA

OTHERS PRESENT ON ZOOM

Diana Frederick
Lewis Callahan
Carol Boyd

State of California – CDCR
State of California – CDCR
State of California – DOJ

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Feenstra called the Agricultural Pool committee meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

(00:00:16) Ms. Moore conducted the roll call and announced that a quorum was present.

AGENDA - ADDITIONS/REORDER

None

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:
Minutes of the Agricultural Pool Committee Meeting held on February 8, 2024

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Receive and file as presented:
Monthly Financial Report for the Reporting Period Ended January 31, 2024

C. OBMP SEMI-ANNUAL STATUS REPORT 2023-2

Recommend to the Advisory Committee to recommend to the Watermaster Board to adopt the Semi-Annual OBMP Status Report 2023-2, and direct staff to file a copy with the Court, subject to any necessary non-substantive changes.

D. SGMA REPORTING FOR WATER YEAR 2023

Recommend to the Advisory Committee to recommend to the Watermaster Board to approve and direct staff to file the information/reports with the DWR.

(0:05:40) Vice-Chair Jeff Pierson requested the Acting General Manager to give an overview of consent calendar items I.C. and I.D. before approval.

(00:08:04) Mr. Tellez Foster gave a report on items I.C. and I.D. A discussion ensued.

(00:06:34)

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

Moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

II. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. OLD BUSINESS

None

III. REPORTS/UPDATES

A. WATERMASTER LEGAL COUNSEL

1. Watermaster Court Department Change
2. May 31, 2024 Court Hearing (Watermaster 46th Annual Report)
3. Court of Appeal Case No. E079052 (City of Chino, MVIC, MVWD, City of Ontario appeal re OAP Expenses and Attorney Fees)
4. Court of Appeal Consolidated Cases No. E080457 and E082127 (City of Ontario appeal re 2021- 22 and 2022-23 Assessment Packages)
5. Court of Appeal Case No. E080533 (Cities of Chino, Ontario appeal re 2022-23 Watermaster budget expenses to support CEQA analysis)
6. Kaiser Permanente Lawsuit

(00:25:41) Mr. Herrema gave a report and stated that Judge Ochoa has transitioned from the San Bernardino courthouse to Department R17 of the Rancho Cucamonga courthouse effective immediately.

B. ENGINEER

1. SGMA Reporting for Water Year 2023
2. Ground-Level Monitoring Program
3. Data Collection and Evaluation
4. 2025 Safe Yield Reevaluation
5. Emerging Contaminants Monitoring Plan

(00:54:53) Mr. Malone gave a report on items 1-4, and Ms. Weamer gave a report on item 5. A discussion ensued.

C. GENERAL MANAGER

1. Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget Release
2. Status Report: Exhibit G Physical Solution Transfers
3. Other

(01:33:23) Mr. Tellez Foster commented that the budget process is different this year; staff streamlined the process and thoroughly reviewed all line items to ensure the most cost savings to the parties. He invited Ms. Uriarte to give a report on item 1, Mr. Yoo. On item 2. Mr. Tellez Foster mentioned the Engineering contract expires in June 2024, and that a resources consultant, PSMJ, is helping Watermaster to review the services performed and compare for budget alignment.

IV. POOL DISCUSSION

1. Chairman's Update
2. Pool Member Comments

None

V. OTHER BUSINESS

(01:38:15) Mr. Tellez Foster indicated that the Board has selected Mr. Todd Corbin as Watermaster's new General Manager and would be extending a contract at this month's Board meeting.

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 3:23 p.m. to discuss the following:

1. Court of Appeal Case No. E079052
2. Future of the Agricultural pool

Confidential Session concluded at 4:45 p.m. with no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Feenstra did not wish to reconvene into open session, and the Agricultural Pool Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. as provided via email by Pool counsel as shown in Attachment 2.

Secretary: _____ 

Approved: _____ April 11, 2024

Attachments:

1. 20240314 Roll Call Vote Outcome for Consent Calendar
2. Adjournment (Email from Legal Counsel)

ATTACHMENT 1

20240314 Roll Call Vote Outcome
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Member	Alternate	Consent Calendar
Filippi, Gino for LaBrucherie, Jr., Ron		Yes
Pierson, Jeff, Vice-Chair		Yes
deBoom, Nathan*		Yes
DeHaan, Henry*		Yes
Huitsing, John*		Yes
Hofer, Paul for Pietersma, Ron		Yes
Llamas, Ruben		Yes
Miller, Christen		Yes
Awan, Tariq		Yes
Cadigal, Imelda		Yes
Medrano, Jimmy		Yes
Feenstra, Bob - Chair		Yes
	OUTCOME:	Passed Unanimously

*Participated via Zoom

ATTACHMENT 2

From: [Tracy Egoscue](#)
To: [Alexandria Moore](#); [Edgar Tellez Foster](#)
Cc: [Bob Feenstra](#); [Jeff Pierson](#)
Subject: Agricultural Pool Closed Session
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:46:01 PM

The Agricultural Pool closed session ended at 4:45 pm with no reportable action.

Thank you.

Tracy J. Egoscue (she/her)
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