

MINUTES
CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER
WATERMASTER BOARD MEETING

March 28, 2024

The Watermaster Board meeting was held at the offices of the Chino Basin Watermaster located at 9641 San Bernardino Road, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, and via Zoom (conference call and web meeting) On March 28, 2024.

WATERMASTER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER

James Curatalo, Chair	Cucamonga Valley Water District
Jeff Pierson, Vice Chair	Agricultural Pool – Crops
Bob Bowcock, Secretary/Treasurer	Non-Agricultural Pool – CalMat Co.
Scott Burton	City of Ontario
Steve Elie	Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Mike Gardner	Western Water
Bob Kuhn	Three Valleys Municipal Water District
Jimmy Medrano	Agricultural Pool – State of CA
Bill Velto	City of Upland

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

Scott Slater	Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
Andy Malone	West Yost

WATERMASTER CONSULTANTS PRESENT ON ZOOM

Scott Nelsen	Eide Bailly, LLP
Garrett Rapp	West Yost
Veva Weamer	West Yost

OTHERS PRESENT AT WATERMASTER

Gino Filippi	Agricultural Pool – Crops
Bob Feenstra	Agricultural Pool – Dairy
Tariq Awan	Agricultural Pool – State of CA
Lewis Callahan	Agricultural Pool – State of CA
Diana Frederick	Agricultural Pool – State of CA
Brian Gey	California Speedway Corporation
Hye Jin Lee	City of Chino
Debra Porada	City of Ontario
Melissa Cansino	City of Pomona
Chris Diggs	City of Pomona
Nicole deMoet	City of Upland
John Bosler	Cucamonga Valley Water District
Amanda Coker	Cucamonga Valley Water District
Eduardo Espinoza	Cucamonga Valley Water District
Jimmie Moffatt	Cucamonga Valley Water District

Mikayla Coleman
Eddie Lin
Jesse Pompa
Bryan Smith
Justin Scott-Coe
Justin Scott-Coe
Todd Corbin
Michael Mayer
Alyssa Coronado
Laura Roughton

CV Strategies
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Jurupa Community Services District
Jurupa Community Services District
Monte Vista Irrigation Company
Monte Vista Water District
Riverside Public Utilities
San Bernardino County
Santa Ana River Water Company
Western Water

OTHERS PRESENT ON ZOOM

Carol Boyd
Imelda Cadigal
Lauren Moran
Dave Crosley
Natalie Avila
Ron Craig
Chad Nishida
Braden Yu
Mark Gibboney
Rob Hills
Derek Hoffman
Christiana Daisy
Manny Martinez
John Lopez
David De Jesus
Matthew Litchfield
Braden Yu
Joshua Aguilar
Mallory O'Conner
Richard Rees

Agricultural Pool – State of CA
Agricultural Pool – State of CA
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
City of Chino
City of Chino
City of Chino Hills
City of Ontario
City of Upland
Cucamonga Valley Water District
Cucamonga Valley Water District
Fennemore Law
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Monte Vista Water District
Santa Ana River Water Company
Three Valleys Municipal Water District
Three Valleys Municipal Water District
West End Consolidated Water Company
Western Water
Western Water
WSP USA

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Curatalo called the Watermaster Board meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Chair Curatalo led the Board in the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

(00:00:52) Ms. Moore conducted the roll call and announced that a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

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:

1. Minutes of the Watermaster Board Special Meeting held on February 9, 2024
2. Minutes of the Watermaster Board Meeting held on February 22, 2024
3. Minutes of the Watermaster Board Special Meeting held March 5, 2024
4. Minutes of the Watermaster Board Special Meeting held March 13, 2024

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Receive and file as presented:

Monthly Financial Report for the Period Ended January 31, 2024

C. OBMP SEMI-ANNUAL STATUS REPORT 2023-2

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

Approve and direct staff to file the information/reports with the DWR.

(00:03:02)

Motion by Vice Chair Jeff Pierson, seconded by Mr. Scott Burton, there being no dissent, the item passed unanimously.

Moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

II. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT, GENERAL MANAGER

No recommendation. Public Board discussion, deliberation, and possible action on proposed employment agreement.

(00:04:00) Chair Curatalo opened the discussion regarding the GM contract. A discussion ensued.

(00:05:31)

Motion by Mr. Mike Gardner, seconded by Vice Chair Jeff Pierson, and passed unanimously by roll call vote as attached to these minutes.

Moved to approve Business Item II.A., the General Manager Employment Agreement.

B. RESOLUTION 2024-02 OF THE WATERMASTER ESTABLISHING AN EMPLOYER PAID MEMBER CONTRIBUTION WITH CALPERS

Adopt Resolution 2024-02 and direct staff to file the resolution establishing an EPMC with CalPERS.

(00:08:19) Chair Curatalo gave a report. A discussion ensued.

(00:08:47)

Motion by Vice-Chair Jeff Pierson, seconded by Mr. Mike Gardner, and passed unanimously by roll call vote as attached to these minutes.

Moved to approve Business Item II.B., Resolution 2024-02 establishing an employer paid member contribution with CalPERS as presented.

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

(00:21:02) Mr. Slater gave a report.

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

(00:23:47) Mr. Malone gave a report and invited Ms. Weamer to give an update on the Water Quality Monitoring Program. A discussion ensued.

C. GENERAL MANAGER

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

(00:45:06) Chair Curatalo announced that Mr. Todd Corbin will begin in his official capacity as the new Watermaster General Manager on April 15, 2024 and Mr. Tellez Foster will continue to be the Acting General Manager until Mr. Corbin's arrival. Mr. Tellez Foster reported changes to the budget process for this fiscal year, he commended Ms. Uriarte and team on the budget work; and stated that staff looks forward to stakeholders' feedback. Mr. Tellez Foster invited Ms. Uriarte to give a report on item 1, Mr. Yoo on item 2. Mr. Tellez Foster also mentioned that the PSMJ rate study is currently underway to analyze the market and assess the value of the engineering work ahead of the West Yost contract renewal in June. He also reported that MWD increased the State Water Project allocation to 30% and that MWD may bring more water to the DYY account. He announced that the OBMP CEQA has now been finalized. He thanked the Board for allowing him to serve as the Acting General Manager and staff for their patience and hard work during this transition. A discussion ensued.

IV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

(00:53:51) Mr. Gardner opened and thanked Mr. Tellez Foster for his efforts as interim and stated he did a remarkable job; the Board took turns commending Mr. Tellez Foster for his great work during the transition. The Appropriative Pool Chair, Mr. Diggs commended Mr. Tellez Foster for his relationship building with the Pools and taking Watermaster back to basics.

(01:01:23) Chair Curatalo stated we have opportunities under Mr. Corbin's leadership; collaboration with all stakeholders to continue to sustain the good work in the basin.

(01:03:20) Vice Chair Pierson addressed Mr. Justin Scott-Coe's email to Mr. Tellez Foster regarding the Watermaster budget process which he mentioned that Mr. Corbin will need to be apprised.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

None

VI. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION – POSSIBLE ACTION

Pursuant to Article II, Section 2.6, of the Watermaster Rules & Regulations, a Confidential Session may be held during the Watermaster Board meeting for the purpose of discussion and possible action.

The Board convened into confidential session at 12:05 p.m. to discuss the following:

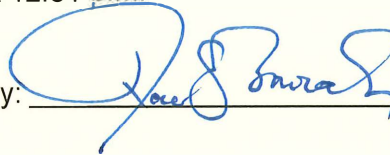
1. Kaiser Permanente lawsuit

Confidential session concluded at 12:31 p.m. with no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Curatalo adjourned the Watermaster Board meeting at 12:31 p.m.

Secretary: _____



Approved: _____ April 25, 2024 _____

Attachments:

1. 20240328 Roll Call Vote Outcome on Business Item II.A.
2. 20240328 Roll Call Vote Outcome on Business Item II.B.

ATTACHMENT 1

March 28, 2024 Watermaster Board Special Meeting Roll Call Vote Outcome

Member	Alternate	Business Item II.A.
Burton, Scott		Yes
Bowcock, Bob, Secretary/Treasurer		Yes
Steve Elie		Yes
Gardner, Mike		Yes
Kuhn, Bob		Yes
Medrano, Jimmy		Yes
Velto, Bill		Yes
Pierson, Jeff, Vice-Chair		Yes
Curatalo, James, Chair		Yes
	OUTCOME:	Passed Unanimously

ATTACHMENT 2

March 28, 2024 Watermaster Board Special Meeting Roll Call Vote Outcome

Member	Alternate	Business Item II.B.
Burton, Scott		Yes
Bowcock, Bob, Secretary/Treasurer		Yes
Steve Elie		Yes
Gardner, Mike		Yes
Kuhn, Bob		Yes
Medrano, Jimmy		Yes
Velto, Bill		Yes
Pierson, Jeff, Vice-Chair		Yes
Curatalo, James, Chair		Yes
	OUTCOME:	Passed Unanimously