

**MINUTES OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF GROUND WATER AGENCIES (AGWA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 21, 2007  
AT MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER**

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Chairman John Rossi called the meeting to order.

**Directors/Alternates present:**

Rick Iger, Vice Chair	Kern County Water Agency
Ken Manning	Chino Basin Watermaster
John Rossi, Chairman	Western Municipal Water District
Carol Williams, Secty/CFO	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster
Tony Zampiello	Raymond Basin Management Board

**Affiliates present:**

Terry Foreman	CH2M Hill
Kathy Kunysz	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

**Others present:**

Donna DiLaura	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster
Tom Field	Three Valleys Municipal Water District
Fred Fudacz	Nossaman Guthner Knox & Elliott LLP

**MINUTES/FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Chairman deferred approval of the March 26, 2007 meeting minutes to the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

Review and Consideration of Draft FY 2007-08 Budget – The Chairman deferred approval of the 2007-08 Budget due to lack of a quorum. (Subsequent to the meeting, staff contacted the Board members electronically for their vote and the FY 2007-08 Budget was adopted.)

Update on Alternative to CRWQCB Santa Ana Region Proposed WDRs for Injection/Percolation of Imported Water- Chairman Rossi reported on the progress of the workgroup formed to develop an alternative to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board's proposed Waste Discharge Requirements on imported water recharge. Currently, the Regional Board has agreed not to issue WDRs. He reported that the parties are continuing to prepare an agreement that would be circulated to all parties who would be part of the cooperative plan. Chairman Rossi also reported that the format of the agreement is based on the CEQA approach, is considerably shorter than the original draft, and will include notification procedures and conflict resolution procedures. Chairman Rossi stated that the second phase of the agreement process is expected to address monitoring requirements.

Update on GAMA program implementation/results in AGWA member areas – Chairman Rossi reported that he has reviewed the report prepared by USGS for the Temecula area GAMA study. He reiterated his concern regarding the potential for public relations issues once the report is available to the public. He stated that a better understanding of the health

risks associated with known contaminants is needed. A short discussion followed regarding the preparation of a fact sheet explaining the key points of the interpretive report. Director Iger reported that a one page glossary and description of terms has been added to the report. Director Zampielo suggested adding descriptions on how water is delivered, treated and blended. Also of concern is the accuracy of the data in the report, the number of wells sampled and the wording used to describe the reports findings. Chairman Rossi noted that ACWA's committees are planning to consider developing fact sheets on the health effects and risks of contamination in water.

Status of MWD Groundwater Basin Assessments - Ms. Kathy Kunysz reported that Metropolitan Water District is hosting a workshop on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to prompt discussion and feedback on the draft report. MWD requests that final comments be submitted by the end of June. She indicated that MWD staff is working to present a final draft of the Groundwater Basin Assessment to the MWD Board of Directors by September 2007. Chairman Rossi and Director Zampielo both stated that they would be attending the workshop.

Status of California Groundwater Coalition Effort with GRA and Others - Mr. Foreman reported that he attended the GRA/AGWA/AGWT jointly sponsored Legislative Symposium in March, along with various other AGWA members, and the event was very successful and provided productive meetings with legislators. The event also kicked off the creation of the California Groundwater Coalition, which includes AGWA, GRA and AGWT as key members.

Mr. Foreman reported that GRA and CGC are currently working on potential amendments or clarifications to SB 1002 (Perata) which would provide funds to implement statewide planning for water projects, facilities and programs. CGC is proposing that the statewide planning address the connection between groundwater and surface water. Director Williams stated that it would be more efficient for the State to provide funds to agencies like GRA or AGWA to conduct the studies referenced in the bill.

Mr. Foreman then distributed copies of a fact sheet prepared by CGC for the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee regarding the importance of groundwater for California's water supply. The paper, developed by members of GRA and AGWA, provides estimates of potential groundwater storage throughout the state, and also addresses groundwater contamination and treatment costs.

Director Williams then distributed a form for AGWA members to participate in the CGC effort. She stated that the CGC lobbyists at Hatch & Parent will begin scheduling meetings with legislators and would like to include the appropriate groundwater agency representatives for those legislative districts when possible. She requested that the form be completed and returned no later than next week. Lastly, Director Williams stated that more CGC participants are needed in order to reach the ten member requirement for the formation of a coalition, and encouraged individual AGWA members to consider joining -- although she noted that organizations such as the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster could not join because of their lobbying restrictions.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

MWD Liaison Committee – Chairman Rossi reported that he attended the MWD General Managers meeting last week. Discussions at the meeting included water availability (in regard to the State Water Project Delta smelt issue), facility needs, demand scenarios and policy questions regarding reliability. Chairman Rossi stated that he would contact Mr. David Clark with MWD to provide a status report at the July 16, 2007 meeting. Mr. Clark is currently heading up the area studies. He also reported that MWD has ceased deliveries of replenishment water.

A discussion followed regarding MWD water supplies. It was noted that MWD is calling on water banked through its Semi-tropic and Arvin-Edison storage agreements in order to supplement the reduced SWP deliveries. Director Iger reported that Kern County is working on an agreement to pump water from the Kern Fan in the winter, resulting in better water quality.

Additionally, the Chairman reported briefly on the status of the recent court ruling that the state Department of Water Resources does not have the necessary environmental permits from the Department of Fish and Game to operate the pumps at the Delta which supply water to the State Water Project. Recent tests have revealed that the number of smelt in the water is decreasing; therefore, additional action is likely to be taken to protect the endangered fish.

Communications Committee – Director Manning reported again that plans are underway for the 2008 conference, including discussions regarding scheduling, vendor booth availability and speaker forum topics. Director Manning suggested that a presentation on the results of the MWD Groundwater Basin Assessment Report may be of interest to many people.

With regard to the ongoing website upgrades, Director Manning reported that he has not spoken with the website designer lately but will follow up with him before the next board meeting.

Legislative/Regulatory Committee – Director Williams reported that SB 59 (Cogdill), a bond measure to provide funding for surface water and groundwater storage, was not successful in committee but may be included in the State Budget for this year. SB 59 primarily deals with surface storage but also includes \$500 million for conjunctive use and groundwater storage projects. SB 178, establishing a statewide mandatory groundwater elevation monitoring program, is currently in the Appropriations Suspense File due to potential fiscal impact. Additionally, Director Williams reported on Assembly Bill 885 (Calderon), which would require the District to periodically review the composition of its board of directors and recommend reform measures by January 1, 2009. Lastly, AB 1010 (Hernandez), which would extend the sunset date of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority to 2017, is expected to pass.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

Director Zampello reported that the Raymond Basin Management Board is continuing to review a proposal received from Geoscience to develop a groundwater monitoring plan. Additionally, the board is considering establishing a five-year Operating Safe Yield due to current low water levels.

Director Williams reported that the Baldwin Park Operable Unit cooperative cleanup project is undergoing compliance testing on the liquid-phase granular activated carbon treatment system installations recently completed at the Valley County Water District facility.

Director Manning reported that the State Water Resources Control Board hearings held in May on the water rights applications pending for the Santa Ana River went very well. Art Baggett of the SWRCB conducted the hearings. Director Manning stated that he has no doubt that the permits will be issued; however, how soon is unknown at this time. Attorneys for the individual parties are required to submit written arguments within the next few weeks. Director Manning also reported that Chino Basin Watermaster staff continues to prepare the 2007-08 budgets.

Director Iger reported Kern County Water Agency has approximately three million acre-feet of water in storage and close to a million acre-feet of Semi-tropic water. He also reported that KCWA has an \$80 million project to increase conveyance capacity to move water to different systems. This project includes \$23 million in Prop. 13 grant funding. Director Iger also noted that Irvine Ranch Water District is preparing CEQA documents for a project involving property located between two water districts in Kern County, adjacent to Kern's water bank. IRWD does not have conveyance rights for that area but might be able to come to an agreement with the Rosedale/Rio Bravo Water Storage District to wheel water.

On behalf of Six Basins, Mr. Field reported that the draft annual report will be presented to the board next week.

Chairman Rossi reported that, with regard to Integrated Regional Water Management planning, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority is seeking to become the governance group for that region and is hoping to join with other planning groups within the area.

Mr. Fudacz reported that ACWA, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster and other concerned water agencies jointly filed an amicus brief in the Supreme Court review of *United States v. Atlantic Research Corporation*. A final decision is expected in June, and the parties hope to have a newly refreshed CERCLA law pertaining to cost recovery. Additionally, Mr. Fudacz reported that MSGB Watermaster has won its motion for summary judgment in its claim against AISLIC for insurance matters relating to the South El Monte Operable Unit litigation, and settlement negotiations will follow. Additionally, a \$100 million settlement agreement has been reached in the Santa Clarita perchlorate litigation.

In regards to other business, Director Iger reported that the GRA **Future Demand Challenges and Solutions Symposium** will be held at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach, California on June 20-22, 2007. The GRA Technical Committee is seeking speakers, papers and sponsors. The consensus of the group was that AGWA does not have the staff available to host a booth at the symposium. Due to lack of a quorum, staff was directed to electronically poll the Directors to determine support for a sponsorship of the event in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of AGWA is scheduled for **Monday, July 16, 2007, at 1:30 p.m.** at the offices of the Chino Basin Watermaster, located at 9641 San Bernardino Rd., Rancho Cucamonga, CA, 91730.

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Carol Williams, Secretary/CFO

ATTEST:

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John Rossi, Chairman