

# MINUTES

## RAYMOND BASIN MANAGEMENT BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, July 18, 2023

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AND PARTIES REPRESENTED

Dennis Ahlen (A)	City of Alhambra
Jennifer Betancourt Torres	Lincoln Avenue Water Company La Canada Irrigation District Las Flores Water Company Pasadena Cemetery Association Valley Water Company
Chris Burt	Kinneloa Irrigation District Huntington Library and Art Gallery
Paul Cranmer	City of Arcadia
Jim Prior	San Gabriel County Water District
Jose Reynoso	City of Sierra Madre
Stacie Takeguchi	City of Pasadena
Jessica Taylor	California American Water Company
Ken Tchong	Sunny Slope Water Company
Lisa Yamashita-Lopez	Rubio Cañon Land and Water Association

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Martin Ray	City of Alhambra
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### OTHERS PRESENT

Brad Boman	City of Pasadena
Bob Fan	Las Flores Water Company
Nina Jazmadarian	Foothill Municipal Water District
Ken Kules	Pasadena Resident
Steve O'Neil	Aleshire and Wynder, LLP
Natalie Ouwersloot	City of Pasadena
Gary Takara	City of Pasadena

### STAFF PRESENT

Lauren Augino	Raymond Basin Management Board
Kelly Gardner	Raymond Basin Management Board
Steve Johnson	Stetson Engineers
Ana Mata	Stetson Engineers

### 1. PRELIMINARY ITEMS

A regular meeting of the Raymond Basin Management Board (RBMB) was duly and regularly held in the Conference Room of the Raymond Basin Management Board Office, at 725 North Azusa Avenue, in the City of Azusa, County of Los Angeles, State of California, 91702, and via Zoom Meeting (web-based video conferencing) on Wednesday, July 18, 2023, at the hour of 2:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Lisa Yamashita-Lopez, Chair. It was determined that a quorum was present. Self-introductions were made and no additions to the agenda or public comments were offered.

On motion made by Director Chris Burt, Secretary, seconded by Director Jose Reynoso, Vice Chair, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the April 19, 2023, meeting were approved.

2. TREASURERS REPORT

Director Paul Cranmer, Treasurer, reported that, as of June 30, 2023, the RBMB has collected \$918,700 in Assessments and \$1,400 in Long-Term Storage. All Assessments and Long-Term Storage Program Revenue has been collected for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23. He added that, as of June 30, 2023, the RBMB has spent \$514,000 (which includes Title 22, and Salvage Credit Reimbursable Expenditures), and currently has a balance of \$35,000 in Receivables and \$4,780,000 in available cash. Reserved Funds available for groundwater recharge projects are \$2,802,000.

Director, Yamashita-Lopez, Chair, asked for any questions of the Treasurer, and with none offered, ordered the financial statement for quarter ending June 30, 2023 received and filed.

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS AND APPROPRIATE ACTION

Director Yamashita-Lopez, Chair, referred to the written Committee reports included in the Board agenda packet and stated that the Committee met on June 6 and June 15, 2023.

At the June 6, 2023 Special meeting, she reported that the Committee received an overview and status update of the previously approved Winter In-Lieu Program with the City of Pasadena in the Monk Hill Subarea. Additionally, Director Yamashita-Lopez, Chair, stated that the Committee discussed Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) available programs.

At the June 15, 2023, the Committee reviewed a draft of today's Board agenda, the Annual Sierra Madre Spreading Report and MWD's available programs. The Committee also reviewed the basis for the corrected costs and made a recommendation for the RBMB's consideration to support revising the original approval of a net cost for the Winter In-Lieu Program of \$390,990.28 for retirement of 296.43 acre-feet of Decreed Right; and delivery of In-Lieu water from December 2022 through February 2023 pending verification of Pasadena's net cost and execution of an agreement by City of Pasadena and RBMB. The Executive Officer, Mrs. Kelly Gardner, stated that consideration of this item is necessary due to the change of costs associated.

On motion made by Director Jennifer Betancourt Torres, seconded by Director Ken Tcheng, and unanimously carried, the Board approved a net

cost for the Winter In-Lieu Program of \$390,990.28 for retirement of 296.43 acre-feet of Deeded Right and delivery of In-Lieu water from December 2022 through February 2023; pending verification of Pasadena's net cost and execution of an agreement by City of Pasadena and RBMB was approved.

4. PUMPING AND STORAGE COMMITTEE REPORT

Director Reynoso, Vice Chair, reported that the Committee met on June 6, 2023 and referenced the staff report included in the Board packet. The Committee received a status update on the City of Pasadena's monitoring well, update on the In-Lieu Program/Agreement, presentation on MWD's available programs and a reminder on the Meter Testing Program.

He stated that the Committee also met on July 10, 2023 and the discussion included the Monk Hill Subarea Winter In-Lieu Program, MWD Cyclic Cost Offset Program in the Monk Hill and Pasadena Subareas and Foothill Municipal Water District's Proposed Agreements for injection/in-lieu.

Related to MWD's Cyclic Cost Offset Program, the Executive Officer stated that no Board action is required at this time and no recommendation was made by the Committee.

Chair Yamashita-Lopez referenced the spreadsheet included in the Board packet illustrating an indication of participation and feedback received. She emphasized on the need for participation in responding with agency feedback in order to make sound decisions in a timely matter.

5. CONSIDERATION OF FORMATION OF AN AD HOC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND EVALUATE COST COMPARISON, BASIN SUSTAINABILITY, AND STORAGE OPPORTUNITIES

Director, Yamashita-Lopez, Chair deferred to the Executive Officer, Mrs. Gardner, to report on this item. Mrs. Gardner provided background stating that discussions were held at the Pumping and Storage and Executive Committee levels on how to engage the group in a technical analysis of programs. She added that this would be a great opportunity for Pumpers to review and evaluate cost comparisons, Basin sustainability and storage opportunities and in making recommendations to the Pumping and Storage Committee for review and consideration.

Following a discussion, the following expressed interest in participation:

- Chris Burt, *Kinneloa Irrigation District*
- Paul Cranmer, *City of Arcadia*
- Natalie Ouwersloot, *City of Pasadena*
- Jim Prior, *San Gabriel County Water District*
- Jose Reynoso, *City of Sierra Madre*
- Stacie Takeguchi, *City of Pasadena*

Mrs. Gardner stated that representation from all the subareas is important and RBMB staff will send an e-mail to all the Pumpers requesting any additional interest in being on the Ad Hoc Technical Committee.

On motion made by Director Jim Prior, seconded by Director Cranmer, Treasurer, and unanimously carried, approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Technical Committee to Review and Evaluate Cost Comparison, Basin Sustainability and Storage Opportunities.

6. EVALUATION OF SANTA ANITA SUBAREA GROUNDWATER PUMPING "500-FOOT RULE"

Mr. Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers, reported that this is an annual review of the groundwater levels within the East Raymond Basin - Santa Anita Subarea, that influences water production. He then referred to the staff report included in the agenda packet and provided an overview on groundwater pumping and levels.

Mr. Johnson stated that it is staff's recommendation to continue supporting the cities of Arcadia and Sierra Madre in their efforts to manage groundwater levels in the Santa Anita Subarea, and groundwater pumping continue to be reduced, consistent with the Judgment.

On motion made by Director Cranmer, Treasurer, seconded by Director Reynoso, Vice Chair, and unanimously carried, the Santa Anita Subarea Groundwater Pumping "500-Foot Rule," was received and filed.

7. ANNUAL REVIEW OF CITY OF SIERRA MADRE'S IMPORTED WATER SPREADING PROGRAM

Mr. Johnson reported that this is an annual review of the City of Sierra Madre program that spreads imported MWD water into the Santa Anita Subarea for groundwater recharge. He then provided a Basin overview on the groundwater levels.

Director Reynoso, Vice Chair, reported on water deliveries to the Sierra Madre Spreading Grounds during Fiscal Year 2022-23, stated that they included 1,150 acre-feet of treated imported water, 2,180 acre-feet from the Sierra Madre Wash and 1,936.00 acre-feet from the Santa Anita Dam for a total of 5,266 acre-feet. He stated that as of July 2, 2023 the groundwater level was 260.0 feet, an increase of 49.0 feet from this time last year. Director Reynoso, Vice Chair, stated that the program has proven to be very effective in helping maintain and restore groundwater levels in the Basin and looks forward to continuing the program.

In response to question by Mrs. Gardner, Director Reynoso, Vice Chair, responded that a decline in the percolation rate has been seen as result of all the water saturating the spreading grounds.

On motion made by Director Cranmer, Treasurer, seconded by Director Prior, and unanimously carried, the Annual Review of City of Sierra Madre's Imported Water Spreading Program, was received and filed.

8. REPORTS AND RESULTS OF METER TESTING AND AUTHORIZATION TO PROCESS APPROPRIATE ADJUSTMENTS

Mrs. Lauren Augino, Water Analyst II, stated that this is a routine matter reviewed this time each year and referred to reports provided relative to the results of the meter testing.

She then referred to Table 13 illustrating the Meter Testing Program, noting that the table now includes the meter serial number for tracking purposes. Mrs. Augino also noted that for any meter not tested, the agency has provided a written or verbal communication as to the status of the well.

In response to a question by Director Yamashita-Lopez, Mrs. Gardner stated that the physical inspection process will resume in the fall.

On motion made by Director Reynoso, Vice Chair, seconded by Director Burt, Secretary, and unanimously carried, changes and appropriate adjustments, if any, to the production reports were authorized and the meter results approved to be processed for the Raymond Basin Annual Report.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Steve Johnson, referred to the written Engineers Report included in the agenda packet, highlighting hydrologic conditions and information by subarea on rainfall, groundwater levels, production records and spreading.

On motion made by Director Burt, Secretary, seconded by Director Cranmer, Treasurer, and unanimously carried, the Engineer's Report, was received and filed.

10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mrs. Gardner reported that a written copy of a report on outside activities is included in the Board packet, noting that this is a report that will be included going forward to show RBMB's representation in different environments outside of regular meetings. She highlighted that on June 29, 2023, RBMB was invited to a press conference with the Los Angeles County Supervisor Ms. Kathryn Barger regarding a \$10.5 million grant awarded to the Santa Anita Dam project. She added that RBMB was an original partner in this project.

As the RBMB representative on two steering committees (the Rio Hondo Watershed Area and Upper San Gabriel River Watershed) for the Safe, Clean Water Program, she stated that activity and updates will be included in future reports.

Mrs. Gardner thanked the City of Pasadena for their assistance in moving forward with the monitoring well project, noting that Stetson Engineers is

working on the bid package and reassured everyone that this was a budgeted item.

Related to meter testing, Mrs. Gardner thanked all Parties for submitting their information and no Parties were found to be outside of the acceptable 5% operating range. She reminded everyone of the meter testing process stated in the Rules and Regulations of the Judgment and By-laws. Mrs. Gardner emphasized that meters are to be properly installed for accurate reporting in the Annual Report. She stated that last year there were several corrections that led to a change in what was distributed on September 1, 2022 versus what was published before the October 2022 RBMB meeting. Mrs. Gardner also stated that this Board is obligated to hold Producers accountable for proper reporting as required in the Judgment and Rules and Regulations.

Chair Yamashita-Lopez appreciated staff's participation in the grant award ceremony for the Santa Anita Dam project.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

Director Yamashita-Lopez, Chair, referred to the items included in the Board packet.

Mrs. Gardner referenced Table 10. Transfers or Leases of Decreed Right included in the Board packet, stating that although the groundwater lease between Lincoln Avenue Water Company and Las Flores Water Company was received today, it will be reflected in the 2022-23 Fiscal Year.

On motion made by Director Prior, seconded by Director Burt, Secretary, and unanimously carried, the information items were noted, and received and filed.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a question by Director Takeguchi, regarding the RBMB's decision on the Cyclic Off-set Program, Director Yamashita-Lopez, Chair, stated that there will be further discussion and would like to see RBMB action as soon as possible.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, a motion was made by Director Prior, seconded by Director Cranmer, Treasurer, and unanimously carried, adjourning to the next Regular Board meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.

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Lisa Yamashita-Lopez, Chair

Attest:

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Chris Burt, Secretary

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