

MINUTES

RAYMOND BASIN MANAGEMENT BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AND PARTIES REPRESENTED

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
Stacie Takeguchi*	City of Pasadena
Jessica Taylor	California American Water Company
Lisa Yamashita-Lopez	Rubio Cañon Land and Water Association

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Martin Ray	City of Alhambra
Jose Reynoso	City of Sierra Madre
Ken Tcheng	Sunny Slope Water Company

OTHERS PRESENT

Ken Kules	Pasadena Resident
Tom Majich	Kinneloa Irrigation District
Steve Slaten	Jet Propulsion Laboratory

STAFF PRESENT

Lauren Augino	Raymond Basin Management Board
Kelly Gardner	Raymond Basin Management Board
Chris Gonzalez	Raymond Basin Management Board
Mayra Lopez	Stetson Engineers
Ana Mata	Raymond Basin Management Board
Jenny Savron	Stetson Engineers

\* Ms. Takeguchi arrived later in the meeting.

1. PRELIMINARY ITEMS

A regular meeting of the Raymond Basin Management Board (RBMB) was duly and regularly held in the Conference Room of the City of Azusa Light and Water Administration Facility, at 729 North Azusa Avenue, in the City of Azusa, County of Los Angeles, State of California, 91702, on Wednesday, October 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 Paul Cranmer, Treasurer, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the July 18, 2023, meeting were approved.

2. REPORT FROM OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Mr. Steven Slaten, Remedial Project Manager, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)/Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), provided an update on their Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Program, that included background, status of treatment, drought impacts and contingency planning, 1,2,3-Trichloropropane evaluation and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances investigation update.

3. TREASURERS REPORT

Director Cranmer, Treasurer, reported that, as of September 30, 2023, the RBMB has collected \$918,700 in Assessments and \$400 in Long-Term Storage. All Assessments and Long-Term Storage Program Revenue has been collected for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24. He added that, as of September 30, 2023, the RBMB has spent \$84,000 (which includes Title 22, and Salvage Credit Reimbursable Expenditures), and currently has a balance of \$42,000 in Receivables and \$4,693,000 in available cash. Reserved Funds available for groundwater recharge projects are \$3,197,000.

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

4. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Kelly Gardner, Executive Officer, reported that the Committee met on September 21, 2023, to review the Audit of Financial Statements for FY 2022-23, noting that the Audit was presented to the Executive Committee earlier in the day. She reported that RBMB received a clear, unqualified audit from the firm of Egan and Egan, Certified Public Accountants, confirming that RBMB's financial statements are in compliance with standard accounting principles and procedures.

Mrs. Gardner added that at the request of Director Yamashita-Lopez, Chair, RBMB will be preparing a mid-year budget review in December 2023 to be presented at the January 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.

Director Yamashita-Lopez, Chair, asked for any questions, and with none offered, on motion made by Director Jim Prior, seconded by Director Cranmer, Treasurer, and unanimously carried, the Financial Audits for FY 2022-23 were received and filed.

5. MONK HILL TASK FORCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Gardner referred to the written Committee report included in the Board packet and stated that the Committee met on October 3, 2023. She stated that the Committee reviewed the In-Lieu Programs in the Monk Hill Subareas and recommend that Pumping and Storage Committee submit for RBMB approval.

6. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Gardner referred to the written Committee report included in the Board packet and stated that the Committee met on September 19, 2023. She reported that the Committee received an update on the formation of the Committee that included an outlook and direction to develop a list of short-term and long-term goals. Additionally, Mrs. Gardner stated that the Committee discussed the Monk Hill Small Pumper Working Group, Monk Hill Subarea In-Lieu Program, and the Washington Park Monitoring Well.

*Ms. Takeguchi joined the meeting.*

7. PUMPING AND STORAGE COMMITTEE REPORT AND APPROPRIATE ACTION

Mrs. Gardner referred to the written Committee report included in the Board packet and stated that the Committee met on August 1, 2023 and October 3, 2023, stating that action is needed on the following items:

Item A. Approval of Participation in the Cyclic Cost Offset Program in the Monk Hill Subarea

On motion made by Director Jennifer Betancourt Torres, seconded by Director Prior, and unanimously carried, Item A was approved.

Item B. Approval of Increase of Assessments in the Monk Hill Subarea to Repay Reserves within 5-years for participation in in-lieu programs

On motion made by Director Yamashita-Lopez, Chair, seconded by Director Betancourt Torres, and unanimously carried, Item B was approved.

Item C. Approval of Scope, Schedule and Budget for the update of the Basin Model

On motion made by Director Prior, seconded by Director Burt, Secretary, and unanimously carried, Item C was approved.

8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS AND APPROPRIATE ACTION

Director Yamashita-Lopez, Chair, referred to the written Committee report included in the Board packet and stated that the Committee met on September 21, 2023 requiring action on the following item:

A. Evaluation of the Monk Hill Pumping Reduction Plan Exemption Request – Rubio Cañon Land & Water Association

On motion made by Director Burt, Secretary, seconded by Director Prior, with Director Yamashita-Lopez, Chair, abstaining and unanimously carried, Item A was approved.

B. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Program Options

On motion made by Director Cranmer, Treasurer, seconded by Director Prior, and unanimously carried, Item B was deferred to the Committee level.

9. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF PASADENA REGARDING WASHINGTON PARK MONITORING WELL

Mrs. Gardner referred to the Agreement included in the Board packet, stating that the Agreement has been reviewed by the City of Pasadena and RBMB's General Counsel, respectively. The Agreement is for design, construction, monitoring and maintenance of Washington Park Monitoring Well. She noted that the City of Pasadena's preference is not to reference Division of Water Rights Permitting (CEQA) in the agreement. Mrs. Gardner stated that RBMB counsel is reviewing CEQA's inclusion in the agreement.

On motion made by Director Burt, Secretary, seconded by Director Prior, and unanimously carried, authorized execution of Agreement with the City of Pasadena regarding its Washington Park Monitoring Well.

10. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF "WATERMASTER SERVICE IN THE RAYMOND BASIN" FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-23

Mrs. Gardner stated that the annual report was delivered to all Parties in accordance with the Judgment on August 31, 2023, stating that the report is available in hard copy and has been posted to the RBMB website.

On motion made by Director Cranmer, Treasurer, seconded by Director Prior, and unanimously carried, the annual report of "Watermaster Service in the Raymond Basin" for FY 2022-23 was adopted.

11. SUMMARY OF CITY OF MADRE'S REPLENISHMENT PROGRAM

Ms. Jenny Savron, Consulting Engineer, reported that this is an annual review of the City of Sierra Madre program that spreads imported Metropolitan Water District of Southern California water into the Santa Anita Subarea for groundwater recharge. She reported that the City of Sierra Madre continued its replenishment deliveries during FY 2022-23, noting that the deliveries are having a beneficial impact by allowing the City of Sierra Madre and the City of Arcadia to pump from the Santa Anita Subarea.

Ms. Savron referred to the staff report and provided an overview of the program.

Director Yamashita-Lopez, Chair, asked for any questions, and with none offered, ordered the Annual Spreading Report for the City of Sierra Madre received and filed.

12. ANNUAL REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT SCENARIO I (AMSI) FOR THE PASADENA SUBAREA PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Ms. Savron provided background on the AMSI, stating that the RBMB adopted a resolution in July 2019 to address declining water levels and basin water supply that included decreasing decreed rights and the suspension of Long-Term Storage Accounts. She then provided an annual overview on the impacts on water levels and financial impacts to Producers.

Ms. Savron referred to the staff report included in the Board packet, reporting on data for FY 2022-23. She reported that as of June 30, 2023, the static groundwater elevation at the Craig Well was 458.0 feet above mean sea level, which is an increase of about 43.0 feet since the start of the AMSI in 2017. The increase of about 43.0 feet in static groundwater elevation appears to be due to the AMSI, above average rainfall, and water conservation programs. There were no reports from Producers in the Pasadena Subarea that experienced additional financial impacts due to the AMSI during FY 2022-23.

The RBMB staff's recommendation is to continue the implementation of the AMSI to continue stabilizing groundwater levels. If not for the AMSI and past In-Lieu Program, water levels would likely have decreased further. Additionally, it is recommended that RBMB evaluate additional In-Lieu opportunities with Producers to help manage water levels in the Pasadena Subarea.

On motion made by Director Betancourt, seconded by Director Prior, and unanimously carried, the annual evaluation of the Alternative Management Scenario I for the Pasadena Subarea was received and filed.

13. ANNUAL WATER BALANCE/BUDGET FOR THE MONK HILL, PASADENA AND SANTA ANITA SUBAREAS

Ms. Savron provided background and overview on the annual water balance/budget for the Monk Hill, Pasadena and Santa Anita Subareas, stating that the Raymond Basin experienced declining water levels during FYs 2011-12 to 2021-22. In response, the RBMB responded by implementing programs to assist in addressing water supply concerns in all three subareas of the Raymond Basin, that included annual water balance/budget for each subarea as a planning tool for Producers to consider additional programs to achieve balance.

Ms. Savron then referred to the staff report included in the Board packet, discussing considerations for each subarea for FY 2022-23.

On motion made by Director Cranmer, Treasurer, seconded by Director Prior, and unanimously carried, the annual water balance/budget for the Monk Hill, Pasadena and Santa Anita Subareas was received and filed.

14. REVIEW OF JESTEBERG COMPANY'S APPLICATION TO DRILL PRIVATE WELL (870 ORLANDO RD., SAN MARINO, CA 91108 – CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER COMPANY SERVICE AREA)

Mrs. Gardner reported that RBMB staff received an inquiry from the Jesteberg Company to drill a private well. She stated that the proposed new well will be located at 870 Orlando Rd. in the City of San Marino and will be drilled to depth of approximately 300 feet below ground surface (bgs) with a capacity of 20 gallons per minute. The new well will have a 16-inch diameter well casing and will be perforated from about 200 feet bgs to about 300 feet bgs. The proposed well is not anticipated to interfere with groundwater cleanup plans in the Raymond Basin, impact contamination migration, or interfere with existing wells in the vicinity.

Mrs. Gardner also reported that the Jesteberg Company is not a party to the Raymond Basin Judgment and has indicated that water usage from the proposed private well will be used for on-site landscape irrigation purposes only. She stated that as part of the evaluation, the Jesteberg Company will enter into a production agreement with RBMB prior to drilling the new well limiting to no more than two acre-feet of water extracted per year. The Jesteberg Company will also be required to measure and report all groundwater production and groundwater levels to RBMB monthly. The proposed new well will be metered and the meter will be tested annually for accuracy. The RBMB staff has reviewed the Jesteberg Company's proposal and treatment according to the RBMB Well Guidelines and determined that it's in compliance.

Following a discussion, Mrs. Gardner, will send a letter to the Division of Drinking Water stating the RBMB's concerns on groundwater quality and compliance with the intent of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. She added that production agreement will address those concerns.

Additionally, Mrs. Gardner will contact the applicant requesting their presence at the January 2024 Board of Directors Meeting in order for the RBMB to have an opportunity to ask questions related to purpose and usage.

On motion made by Director Cranmer, Treasurer, seconded by Director Prior, and unanimously carried, the review and evaluation of the Jesteberg Company's Application to Drill Private Well was deferred to the January 2024 Board of Directors Meeting for further discussion.

15. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ms. Savron referred to the written Engineers Report included in the Board packet, highlighting hydrologic conditions and information by subarea on rainfall, groundwater levels, production records and spreading.

Director Yamashita-Lopez, Chair, asked for any questions, and with none offered, ordered the Engineer's Report was received and filed.

16. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mrs. Gardner reported that a written copy of her report on Outside Activities is included in the Board packet.

Related to the 2024 Strategic Planning Workshop, Mrs. Gardner provided an update, stating that a call is scheduled with the prospective consultants: Ohlund Management and Technical Services, Means Consulting, LLC and Rauch Communications to discuss specific details.

17. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Director Yamashita-Lopez, Chair, asked for any questions, and with none offered, the information items were noted, and received and filed.

18. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

19. 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, January 17, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.



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Lisa Yamashita-Lopez, Chair

Attest:



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Chris Burt, Secretary