

**Board of Directors**  
**Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency**  
**Draft Minutes for the April 17, 2024**

Board of Directors			
Attending	Agency	Board Member	Alternate
X	<b>City of Beverly Hills</b>	<b>Robert Welch</b>	Vince Damasse
X	<b>City of Culver City</b>	<b>Sean Singletary</b>	
X	<b>City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	Jesus Gonzalez	<b>John Huynh attended the meeting</b>
X	<b>County of Los Angeles</b>	<b>Gina Natoli, Vice-Chair</b>	
X	<b>City of Santa Monica</b>	<b>Sunny Wang, Chair</b>	

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM.

**2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**

Sunny Wang, City of Santa Monica (Chair)  
 Gina Natoli, County of Los Angeles (Vice Chair)  
 Robert Welch, City of Beverly Hills  
 Sean Singletary, City of Culver City

John Huynh, alternate for the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power –was not present at roll call, but joined at the beginning of the Closed Session

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Dudek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the pledge, roll call and determination of a quorum, the Board of Directors went to closed session at 8:06 AM.

**4. Closed Session**

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
 (Section 54956.9(d)(1) of the California Government Code)

*Hillcrest Country Club v. County of Los Angeles, et al*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV03479

The Board returned from closed session at 8:21 AM and opened the public forum. Vice Chair Natoli reported that the Court has dismissed the litigation with Hillcrest Country Club.

**5. Disclosure of ex parte communications for Board Members**

Vice-Chair Natoli, Chair Wang, Director Singletary, Director Huynh, and Director Welch received several emails from members of the public, specifically, John Davis and Patricia McPherson.

**6. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Minutes from the regular, quarterly GSA meeting from January 17, 2024.

Motion by Director Welch, seconded by Director Huynh to approve the meeting minutes. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

**7. Public Comment**

The following members of the public provided comment: Dr. Margot Griswold, Patricia McPherson, John Davis

A break was taken from 8:30am to 8:48am.

**8. Informational Items**

**A. GSP Annual Report**

Dr. Jill Weinberger (Dudek, GSA consultant) presented an overview of information including in the GSP Annual Report. Chair Wang commented that the funding awarded to the GSA under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Drought Response Program only covered the recharge well project, not other GSP projects, such as monitoring wells. Chair Wang asked Dr. Weinberger for an estimate in the change in groundwater elevation included in the report, and Dr. Weinberger stated approximately 80 feet. Vice-Chair asked why there was an increase in chloride concentrations increased in recent years, and Dr. Weinberger responded that she would review and follow up.

The following members of the public provided comment: Patricia McPherson and Dr. Margot Griswold.

Chair Wang made added that he had met with the Regional Board, and the Board would be publishing dewatering volume data at Playa Vista to refine and update models.

**B. Example ordinances on groundwater extraction wells and monitoring**

Dr. Jill Weinberger (Dudek, GSA consultant) presented examples of ordinances for groundwater extraction wells and monitoring. Chair Wang asked the GSA consultant to

develop a draft ordinance for the Board to review and consider at the next Board meeting. Vice Chair Natoli agreed that she would like to see the GSA move forward with an ordinance. Chair Wang asked how the ordinance would be enforced if passed by the GSA. Melanie Tory (Counsel, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power) responded that for Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Board would have to approve the ordinance to begin enforcement in their jurisdiction. Susan Cola (Counsel, City of Santa Monica) stated that the GSA would develop a model ordinance and give direction to adopt the ordinance.

Vice Chair Natoli stated that the Board is requesting for the GSA and legal counsels to prepare a draft ordinance for the GSA Board to review at the next meeting.

The following members of the public provided comment: Conners Everts and Patricia McPherson.

There was discussion amongst the Board of obtaining pumping and dewatering data from the Regional Water Board, and how data should be incorporated into the draft ordinance.

## 9. Action Items

### **A. Approve Cost sharing plan between GSA member agencies (continued from January 17, 2024 SMBGSA Board Meeting)**

The Board discussed various proposed cost share plans between GSA member agencies: equal share of total 5-year cost, and cost share based on land area in the Basin. Director Welch noted that Beverly Hill leadership were in favor of the land area-based cost share plan. Chair Wang suggested that another approach, which has been previously discussed would be to split admin costs equally and split implementation costs based on pumping.

**Chair Wang** made a motion to continue this item (9A) and for all respective attorneys to work together to devise a proposed cost share plan and present the plan at the next meeting.

**Director Singletary** seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **B. Approve GSA Bylaws:**

- i. Article IV, Section 1
- ii. Article VI, Section 1 (continued from July 19 SMBGSA Board Meeting)

The Board decided that the member agency order for Chair/Vice Chair rotation would be as follows: City of Culver City (Spot 1), City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Spot 2), City of Beverley Hills (Spot 3), City of Santa Monica (Spot 4), and County of Los Angeles (Spot

5). It was also requested that language surrounding the option to decline the Chair/Vice Chair position be added to the Article VI.

There was no public comment.

**Vice Chair Natoli** made the motion to approve the bylaws as amended. **Chair Wang** seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **C. Elect new Chair and Vice-Chair**

Under the approved bylaws, Vice Chair Natoli became the new Chair, and Director Singletary declined the role of Vice Chair, which triggered the member of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to be seated. Director Huynh declined as he is the alternate and stated he would speak with Director Gonzalez

The Board elected the Chair and continued the Vice Chair conversation to the next meeting. **Director Huynh** made the motion and **Director Singletary** seconded the motion.

### **10. Solicitation of Items to be Discussed at the Next Regular Board Meeting**

Presentation from the GSA consultant on what information from the Ballona Creek Wetlands FEIR was used in the GSP.

Set meeting dates and times for 2025 and 2026.

### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09am.