

**Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
April 14, 2022**

**10:00 AM Via ZOOM**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**SMBGSA Members and SMBGSA Alternates in Attendance:**

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

**Members of the Public in Attendance**

Jane Gray, Dudek  
Jill Weinberger, Dudek  
Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project  
Lisette Gold, City of Santa Monica  
Judy Abdo, Representative to the Metropolitan Water District for the City of Santa Monica  
Dr. Margot Griswold  
Patricia McPherson, President of Grassroots Coalition  
Susan Cola, City of Santa Monica  
Chris Aguillon, City of Santa Monica

**Call to Order, Roll Call, Determination of a Quorum**

Ms. Gray, Dudek, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, she took a roll call vote, determined that all members were present with the exception of Mr. Singletary who joined at the close of the approval of the meeting minutes, at which time his presence established a quorum. Ms. Gray noted his arrival in the record at the end of the first public commenter.

**4. Consent Items**

- A. Approval of Resolution AB 361 and Approval of Resolution 2022 – 03 for Continuance of AB 361. The motion was made by Chair Wang, seconded by Vice Chair Natoli. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.
  
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the January 13, 2022 Meeting.

Vice Chair Natoli corrected the spelling for the Ballona Wetland. She also requested minor spelling error corrections.

Chair Wang moved to approve the meeting minutes as amended by Vice Chair Natoli and Director Demasse seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Forum**

Ms. Gray opened the forum to public comments and explained that this was for item not on the agenda. Dr. Margot Griswold requested that the GSA Board pursue a grant for monitoring wells. Ms. Patricia McPherson spoke in support of Dr. Griswold's suggestion of a grant. She also requested grant funding to support a hydrology study related to Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems for the Ballona wetland.

Chair Wang requested clarification from Dr. Weinberger as to whether or not DWR approval of the GSP was needed prior to applying for grants. Dr. Weinberger stated that the GSA could move forward obtaining grants for the GSA and GSP implementation. Vice Chair Natoli thanked Dr. Griswold for her offer to write a grant and also thanked both for their comments and looked forward to hearing further suggestions. In response, Ms. McPherson stated she had also submitted the request in writing to the GSA. Ms. Gray then closed Public Form.

### **5. Informational Items**

- A. Discussion related to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report to the Department of Water Resources

Chair Wang introduced the Informational Item and Dr. Weinberger provided a presentation to the Board. Vice Chair Natoli requested that presentation be submitted prior to the meeting so Board members and the public can review in advance.

### **6. Action Item**

- A. Approval of a Letter of Support for the City of Santa Monica's Existing Potable Water Wells approving a letter supporting in support of City's potable water wells pursuant to Executive Order N-07-22.

Chair Wang introduced the Action Item and Dr. Weinberger provided a presentation of Executive Order N-07-22. She explained that the GSA is not required to prepare or submit the letter related to the well fields under the City's jurisdiction. Vice Chair Natoli commented that she did not receive a Draft letter and Dr. Weinberger stated she did not have one. Chair Natoli also posed question related to the siting of replacement wells, the anticipated change in the production of water for new wells and was analysis of wells analyzed in the GSP.

Chris Aguillon, CIP Manager for the City of Santa Monica provided information in response to Vice Chair Natoli's questions, specifically, regarding siting that the "rule of thumb" is to site replacement wells Within 50 feet of the existing well; with regards to the production, Mr. Aguillon explained that there has been a reduction in capacity of the existing well. The existing well operates at approximately 400

GPM (gallons per minute) and the recommended rate for the new well is approximately 900 GPM. Hence the intent of the replacement well is to restore capacity. Finally, Dr. Weinberger addressed the question related to the evaluation of wells within the GSP. She stated that there were a number of analyses in the GSP and the one utilized for future production, which was the scenario utilized for planning related to minimum thresholds and measurable objectives, the full anticipated capacity of the well fields with replaced wells was used.

Vice Chair Natoli had a follow up question related to proposed well 10 I, specifically if it was analyzed in the GSP and considered a management action. Dr. Weinberger responded that it was considered in the GSP as a Project and under future modeling scenarios, not as a guarantee, but as a tool to move forward towards sustainable yield. Dr. Weinberger then requested that Mr. Aguillon discuss the City's Indirect Potable Reuse project underscoring that the water would come from that Project.

Chair Wang asked a question about the pumping rates and remediation efforts associated with the Olympic Well Field. Dr. Gold explained that the city's settlement with the two polluters in the Olympic well field, specifically Boeing and Procter and Gamble, pursuant to the modified Clean Up and Abatement Order (CAO) issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board ensures that city has full containment and hydraulic control on the groundwater plume that exists in the B Zone of the Groundwater Basin. The B Zone is the aquifer zone where most of the plume resides. The C Zone is where the city draws its potable water from and that is under the B Zone. Therefore, contamination must be controlled within the B Zone so as no containment migrates into any other sub-basins. Therefore, Chair Wang continued, the replacement water not only restores capacity, but also provides containment control over the plume. Dr. Gold concurred and elaborated that as contamination moves down from the B Zone into the production zone that that there is active restoration and remediation of the that contamination, in that the city will we pull it to fulfill the long-term goal of a cleaner Zone in to 50-60 years.

Director Demasse followed up with a question to Chair Wang to clarify whether or not the city investigated rehabilitation of the well as opposed to drilling a new well, and if not, would the existing well be abandoned. Mr. Aguillon stated that the plan was to abandon it and Chair Wang elaborated that the existing well had previously undergone several rehabilitations.

Vice Chair Natoli asked about the Draft letter that has not been reviewed by the Board. Dr. Weinberger offered to circulate the draft letter and requested that the Board approve the letter in concept. Ms. Cola, City Attorney for the City of Santa Monica, stated that she agreed that the Board could approve the letter in concept, if the Board was comfortable. Vice Chair Natoli concurred with the approach provided that the final letter be attached to the materials for the July meeting. Vice Chair Natoli then made a motion, which was amended by Chair Wang to support through a letter the city's installation of four (4) replacement wells and one (1) groundwater recharge well and for the final letter be provided with materials for the July meeting.

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

**Adjournment**

Chair Wang adjourned the meeting.

DRAFT