



UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 25, 2025 | 4:30pm

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 4:30pm at the District office located at 248 E. Foothill Blvd, Rm. 103, Monrovia, California. The presiding officer was President Jennifer Santana.

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Chavez, Treviño, Fellow, and Santana

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Garcia.

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Love, General Manager; Martin Koczanowicz, District Counsel; Stan Chen, District Engineer; Patty Cortez, Assistant General Manager; Evelyn Rodriguez, Chief Financial Officer; Venessa Navarrette, Executive Assistant; Katherine Vazquez, Water Resources Analyst; Alexis Silva, Project Assistant; Jessica Hernandez, Administrative/Accounting Assistant; and Yesenia Bugarin, Intern

OTHERS PRESENT

Randy Schoellerman, Kelly Gardner, Lenet Pacheco, Sonnet Burgess, Terrie Serey, Kaixin Zhang, Caitlyn Xu, Emily Tian, Wendy Mattick, Rhye Mattick, Kathryn Zarate, Y-Ling Huang, Shihyen Hsu, Skylar Wang, Jinjun He, Lily Lie, Suwandi Usman, Liliana Barrangan, Alonzo Estrada, Sylar Segovia, Antonio Segovia, Sage Segovia, Janevi Segovia, Cheyun Xia, Erik Barreto, Sophie Zhang, Jiarui Shen

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On motion by Vice President Fellow, second by Director Treviño, the agenda was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: TREVIÑO, CHAVEZ, FELLOW AND SANTANA
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: GARCIA

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion by Director Treviño, seconded by Vice President Fellow, the consent calendar was approved by the following vote:

AYES: TREVIÑO, CHAVEZ, FELLOW AND SANTANA
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: GARCIA

(a) Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on June 11, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF “BEING WATER WISE IS...” ART CONTEST WINNERS

Alexis Silva presented an overview of this year's “Being Water Wise Is...” Art Contest. She stated 105 submissions were received from 18 schools across all five divisions. 15 of the top-scoring entries were submitted to MWD's student art calendar contest, which will be announced later this year. Additionally, 250 public votes were cast at Waterfest 2025.

The Board of Directors presented awards to the winners present in four categories, K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. The winners received certificates and took group photos with the Board.

Director Treviño expressed appreciation for the student participants, noting the inspiration and hope they bring for the future. He stated that seeing young people engaged in water issues is one of the most rewarding aspects of serving as a director. He congratulated all the winners.

Director Chavez congratulated all the winners and thanked their supporters. He noted that while there are five directors advocating for water, the students' artwork also powerfully advocates for the future of water and life.

Dr. Fellow expressed his happiness in seeing everyone present and shared his excitement about the upcoming Metropolitan calendar featuring artwork from the San Gabriel Valley. He emphasized the importance of art in life, sharing that he began painting later in life and deeply values art, music, food, travel, and literature. He praised the students for their talent and presentation and wished them continued success.

President Santana thanked all the participants for their involvement and encouraged the students to continue pursuing their passion for art. She shared a personal story about almost attending art school before choosing to study biology at UC Davis, noting that if you don't keep practicing, you can lose your skills. She recently reached out to an art school herself after nearly 20 years away from painting and urged the students not to wait—keep creating and developing their talent.

WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY UPDATE

Randy Schoellerman, Executive Director of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA), provided an in-depth annual update highlighting progress in groundwater cleanup, particularly targeting volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and PFAS contamination. He began with a brief history of the WQA's formation in response to groundwater contamination discovered in 1979, its evolution into a special district in 1992, and its mission of planning and financing remediation projects in coordination with local, state, and federal agencies. The WQA is a non-regulatory special district that oversees 33 active treatment facilities with a 34th underway and has helped remove over 200,000 pounds of contaminants.

He continued to report key updates include new PFAS treatment projects funded by \$9.4 million in federal grants, a \$10 million agreement with the state for South El Monte remediation, and progress on expanding the Whitmore Street treatment site. He also addressed EPA regulatory changes, staff retirements, and the

importance of the WQA's recent extension to 2050 to support long-term cleanup efforts and funding stability.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items listed on the agenda were presented as information items and ordered received and filed:

Press Releases and News Articles

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

District Counsel reported that recent activity has focused on providing guidance related to a new case concerning social media policies. A refresher on this topic may be scheduled for a future board meeting. He also noted ongoing work with staff on the 789, Inc agreement.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The District Engineer reported that discussions are ongoing with San Gabriel County Water District and Sunny Slope Water Company regarding potential expansions, including an interconnection with Alhambra. Upper Water staff expects to finalize the emergency response plan soon. The feasibility study for reactivating the MWD interconnection with the City of Monrovia is nearly complete, pending the city's review of water lease information. A draft IRP will be submitted to Upper Water for review in the near future. Lastly, Three Valleys continues its LAFCO process with only minor parcel boundary changes reported.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The General Manager briefly provided context to the Engineer's Report regarding the MWD interconnection options with San Gabriel County Water District and Sunny Slope Water Company. He explained that they are entirely reliant on their wells, and in the event of contamination or other issues that render them inoperable, they have no alternative water supply. He stated that new direct connections to MWD are cost-prohibitive, so alternatives such as enhancing interconnections with neighboring MET-connected agencies are being explored.

Tom then reported that USG-03 remains active, delivering over 290 CFS, with total deliveries surpassing 40,000 acre-feet for the year. If operations continue through September, MWD may reach its 200,000 acre-foot cyclic storage goal. He also noted that no new Golden Mussel detections have occurred south of the March detection area. MWD continues intensive monitoring, including DNA testing, at key sites such as Silverwood, Devil Canyon, Live Oak Reservoir, and USG-03.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Treviño expressed appreciation to staff for their excellent work on the District's contests and outreach efforts, noting that their dedication positively reflects on both the District and its directors within the community.

Director Chavez echoed Director Treviño's appreciation for staff and gave special recognition to Alexis Silva for her first presentation to the board, commending her poise and performance, noting it was flawless from an educator's perspective.

Director Fellow thanked staff and highlighted the recent firescape workshops held in Monrovia and Arcadia, which were well-attended

and supported by Kat, Alexis, and Patty. He commended community interest and fire department participation. He also reported on the recent two-day Metropolitan Water District (MWD) meetings, which included updates on the general manager search and a workshop on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Key issues discussed were the aging infrastructure—such as nearly century-old transformers—and the urgent need to increase repair and rehabilitation funding from approximately \$200 million to \$400 million annually over the next decade. He noted the high competency of MWD's engineering and finance teams but cautioned that significant rate increases are likely due to deferred maintenance and large-scale projects like Pure Water and Delta Conveyance. Upper District staff is proactively informing producers to prepare for potential rate impacts.

Director Santana echoed her colleagues' praise for the staff, specifically commending their excellent work on the student art program *"Being Water Wise is..."*.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

President Santana asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting was adjourned to a regular meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on July 09, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT

ATTEST

SECRETARY

SEAL