

AGENDA ITEM 4A

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CENTRAL BASIN WATERMASTER WATER RIGHTS PANEL

MARIPOSA CENTER, MEETING ROOM
8550 JEFFERSON ST. PARAMOUNT, CA 90723

1:30 P.M, THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025

Chair Falagan called the meeting of the Central Basin Watermaster Water Rights Panel to order at 1:34 pm.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Falagan led the pledge of allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Panel Members

Steve Lenton	Bellflower-Somerset Mutual Water Company
Dan Mueller	City of Downey (Arrived during Item 6)
Derek Nguyen	City of Lakewood
Anatole Falagan	City of Long Beach
Joanna Moreno	City of Vernon
Raymond Cordero	City of Whittier
Toby Moore	Golden State Water Company

Also Present

Jim Markman	RWG Law
Matt Tryon	Pico Water District
Jackie Ramirez	Water Replenishment District (Secretary)
Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District
Esther Rojas	Water Replenishment District

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Secretary Ramirez provided edits for the November 14th Panel meeting minutes on pages 3 and 4 of 5 by changing "Orange County Water Authority" to "Orange County Water District." And bullet point number 5 from "The LA model showed more flow from Orange County into LA, while the Orange County model showed more flow in the opposite direction" to "The USGS model (LAC) showed fluctuation of flow from Orange County into LA County for some years and from Los Angeles County to Orange County based on pumping. While the Orange County model showed more flow into LA County."

Panel Member Moore also made a comment about making an edit to page 4 of 5 on the second paragraph, line 5 from “Central Basin to Orange County” to “Orange County to Central Basin.”

Chair Falagan entertained a motion to approve the Consent Calendar including the edits in the meeting minutes. The motion was made by Panel Member Moore and seconded by Treasurer Nguyen.

The consent calendar was approved by a unanimous voice vote of 6 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (6-0-0).

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Water Replenishment District's summary reports showed the activities from Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to December 12, 2024, payments totaling \$28,718.13 were processed leaving a balance of \$622,675.12.

The CBWRP summary tables showed payments for four types of services: Administrative Services, Meter Testing, Legal Services, and Miscellaneous. For the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year, the November and December payments totaled \$11,035, bringing the overall Fiscal Year expenditures to \$10,142.75. The current account balance is \$130,722.25; approximately 86% of the total budget.

Chair Falagan entertained a motion to receive and file the Treasurer's Report. The motion was made by Panel Member Lenton and seconded by Panel Member Moreno.

The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote of 6 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (6-0-0).

Note: Vice Chair Mueller arrived during the end of Item 5.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE BODY REPORT

Esther Rojas provided an update on the status of the Administrative Body.

2024 – 2025 Groundwater Pumping

For Administrative Year (AY) 2024-25 through November, Central Basin groundwater pumping was 73,776.02 acre-feet (af) that includes storage withdrawals, which is 7.6% more than the same period in the previous AY.

2024 – 2025 Water Rights Activity

For AY 2024-25 as of January 2nd, there were 26 leases processed transferring 12,940.25 af of rights, of which 20 leases are with flex and 6 leases without flex.

There have been three sales permanently transferring 16.15 af of APA and four transactions permanently transferring 68.00 af of one-year carryover.

2024 – 2025 Storage Activity

For Administrative Year (AY) 2024-25 a total of 23,226.79 af have been withdrawn from storage.

2024 – 2025 Watermaster Invoices

Staff closed out the 2024-2025 Budget. Staff reimbursed the AY 2024-25 Panel Assessment fees collected, which was a total of \$54,136.90 and past due balances from prior years.

Other Announcements

As a result of approving the Annual Watermaster Report, staff has limited printed copies of the report, if you would like a copy please contact staff.

Staff is hosting their bi-annual Watermaster Workshop on Thursday, February 6, the RSVP will be sent via email on Friday, January 10. The workshop is usually combined, but this year staff decided to break it up in two sessions, one for Central and West for more clarity. Staff encourages everyone to attend, but especially new staff. The workshop will highlight the management of water rights and pumper examples, and Brian Partington will be presenting the topic on well maintenance.

Chair Falagan entertained a motion to receive and file the Treasurer's Report. The motion was made by Panel Member Moreno and seconded by Panel Member Cordero.

The motion was approved by a roll call voice vote of 7 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (7-0-0).

7. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Markman reported that a letter was sent to all Panel members regarding RWG Law acquiring City of Paramount as a general account, Nick Ghirelli will be the City Attorney.

Chair Falagan reported he received the notice.

Panel Member Moore had questions regarding if RWG represents similar entities like Paramount within the Basin, who own water rights.

Attorney Markman stated that the law firm has represented several cities in the Central Basin such as Artesia, Norwalk, Vernon, and Bell Gardens and have not had any conflicts.

Panel Member Moore noted that within the notice it mentioned if there were any conflict in the future regarding groundwater rights or related to, that RWG Law would not represent either party. Parties would opt for a conflict waiver. Panel Member Moore questioned whether that would be the same case with Paramount or any other party RWG Law represents.

Attorney Markman clarified that both parties would have to waive the conflict.

8. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Ramirez reported that she had booked the facility for the Panel meetings in 2025. The meeting on May 8th will take place at Mariposa Center in the meeting room, while meetings for March 13, July 10, September 11, and November 13 will take place at the normal meeting location at Progress Park.

Panel Member Moore requested the Panel website be updated to reflect the new panel members.

9. WATER METER TESTING

Secretary Ramirez presented the meter testing summary for October and November 2024. During October and November, 32 meters were tested, and 32 meters were determined to be within the acceptable margin of error.

Chair Falagan entertained a motion to receive and file the Administrative Body Report. The motion was made by Panel Member Lenton seconded by Vice Chair Mueller.

The motion was approved by a roll call voice vote of 7 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (7-0-0).

10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 13, 2025 WATER RIGHTS PANEL MEETING

Secretary Ramirez will include an item for FY 2025-26 Panel Assessment/Budget for discussion and possible formation of an ad-hoc committee.

12. WATER RIGHTS PANEL MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Nguyen wished everyone a great 2025.

Panel Member Moreno provided well wishes to everyone's family with all the fires.

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 1:51 pm.



CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


SECRETARY