

AGENDA ITEM 4A

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CENTRAL BASIN WATERMASTER
WATER RIGHTS PANEL
PROGRESS PARK
BOARD ROOM
15500 DOWNEY AVE., PARAMOUNT CA 90723**

1:30 P.M, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

Chair Falagan called the meeting of the Central Basin Watermaster Water Rights Panel to order at 1:36 pm.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Falagan led the pledge of allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Panel Members

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

Also Present

Jackie Ramirez	Water Replenishment District (Secretary)
Esther Rojas	Water Replenishment District
Jim Markman	RWG Law
Dean Wang	City of Long Beach
Matt Qassis	LADWP

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Falagan presented the Consent Calendar.

Panel Member Moore had questions about the Otterai invoice on item 4b of the consent calendar; therefore, Chair Falagan pulled item 4b from consent calendar to discuss.

Chair Falagan entertained a motion to approve item 4a on the Consent Calendar. The motion was made by Panel Member Moore and seconded by Vice Chair Mueller.

Item 4a on the consent calendar was approved by a unanimous voice vote of 5 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (5-0-0-0).

Secretary Ramirez provided clarification on the Otterai invoice. Otterai is a meeting transcriber subscription used to record meetings for the Panel. The invoice was approved prior by the Panel. Typically, WRD pays for the subscription and later seeks reimbursement. The copy of the Otterai invoice was included in the administrative services invoice as back up.

Chair Falagan entertained a motion to approve item 4b on the Consent Calendar. The motion was made by Panel Member Moore and seconded by Vice Chair Mueller.

Item 4b on the consent calendar was approved by a unanimous voice vote of 5 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (5-0-0-0).

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Nguyen presented the report.

The Water Replenishment District's summary reports showed the activities from July 1, 2025, to April 20, 2026, payments totaling \$31,317.19 were processed leaving a balance of \$686,236.70.

The CBWRP summary tables showed payments for four types of services: Administrative, Meter Testing, Legal, and Other.

For the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year, January and February payments totaled \$13,642.86, bringing the overall Fiscal Year expenditures to \$34,927.18. The current account balance is \$116,972.82; approximately 77% of the total budget.

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 Moore.

The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote of 5 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (5-0-0-0).

6. ADMINISTRATIVE BODY REPORT

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

2025 – 2026 Groundwater Pumping

For Administrative Year (AY) 2025-26 July through March, Central Basin groundwater pumping was 125,944.76 acre-feet (af) including storage withdrawals, which is 0.1% or 74.72 af more than the same period in the previous AY. This includes 35,278.86 af of storage production.

2025 – 2026 Water Rights Activity

For AY 2025-26 as of April 27, there were 25 leases processed transferring 14,952.50 af of rights, of which 19 leases are with flex and 6 leases without flex.

There have been two sales permanently transferring 8.14 af of APA and one transaction permanently transferring 20.00 af of one-year carryover.

2025 – 2026 Storage Activity

For AY 2025-26 a total of 35,278.86 af has been withdrawn from storage.

2025-2026 Watermaster Budget

Esther announced that staff mailed out the AY 2026-27 budget notice on March 24 to all parties. She explained that the AY 2026-27 overall total budget increased by three percent (3%) compared to last year, which reflects adjustments for cost-of-living impacts on labor, and inflation affecting services and operational costs. Water rights holders had until April 15th to submit any objections in writing and no objections were received.

Esther added that per the Judgment, the Panel must approve the Administrative Body budget when there is an increase. Once approved, staff will mail the consolidated invoices, which include the Administrative Body and Panel assessments, in early June.

She further explained that the Administrative Body assessment is assessed to all parties with groundwater extractions within the past three years (active parties), which includes the current and prior two AYs. For AY 2026-27, there are 55 active parties, with a total of 210,744.95 acre-feet (af) of APA. The assessment consists of \$20 assessment per active party plus a proportion of the remaining Administrative Body budget based on each active party's APA.

The total budget AY 2026-27 is \$280,560 of this amount, \$1,100 is collected through the \$20 assessment, and the remaining \$279,460 is apportioned among the 55 active parties, based on their APA. The total APA of the active parties is 210,744.95 af. Active parties will be assessed \$1.32 (\$1.326058) per af of APA in addition to the \$20 assessment.

Treasurer Nguyen questioned if the number of active pumpers had gone down because he believed it was 62 the year prior.

Esther clarified that the number of active pumpers was reduced and mentioned that active pumpers are those that have pumped in the last two years and current year, therefore, some pumpers could have been dropped from prior years.

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

The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote of 5 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (5-0-0).

7. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

8. SECRETARY'S REPORT

None.

9. WATER METER TESTING

Secretary Ramirez presented the meter testing summary for February 2026. During this period, 27 meters were tested, and 27 meters were determined to be within the acceptable margin of error.

Secretary Ramirez noted that the March invoice was received and will be included in the next meeting's agenda.

10. WATER METER TESTING CONTRACT

Chair Falagan explains that DWR is not continuing meter testing as an activity; therefore, the Panel is now in need of a new meter testing service. Chair Falagan sought guidance from Attorney Markman.

Attorney Markman stated that there is no contractual format for purchasing on behalf of Panel; therefore, the Panel is entitled to purchase any agent to perform the function, of which meter testing is one of them.

Chair Falagan sought the input from the Panel on how they would like to move forward with seeking a new meter testing vendor.

Treasurer Nguyen noted that some individual pumpers have specific vendors that they use for meter testing and proposes to ask for some recommendations and quotes or post a request for proposal (RFP).

Attorney Markman recommends an RFP based on reliance and reputation for performing testing services and send out to potential meter testing vendors.

The Panel further discusses the RFP, potential contractors and examines other neighboring basin's methods.

Chair Falagan asked Attorney Markman and WRD Staff to work together to prepare an RFP as an open solicitation where any qualified firm can submit a proposal. The Panel also noted that they will create a contact list of vendors to ensure known firms are invited to submit.

Dean Wang provided a public comment recommending WRD staff to reach out to MWDOC since they have an active a meter testing RFP.

Chair Falagan entertained a motion on the proposed action to release the RFP as a public solicitation. The motion was made by Panel Member Moreno and seconded by Vice Chair Mueller.

The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote of 5 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (5-0-0-0).

11. FY 2026-27 PANEL BUDGET & ASSESSMENT

Treasurer Derek Nguyen reported that the Budget Ad-Hoc Committee had prepared its recommended budget for FY 2026-27. He stated that each year, the Panel establishes its Assessment Rate and adopts its annual budget based on revenues generated through assessment, projected expenditures, and unrestricted reserves requirements.

Treasurer Nguyen reported that the projected expenditure for FY 2025-26 is \$58,000, which is lower than the adopted budget of \$151,900, and that the unrestricted reserves target has been set at \$600,000. He noted that the projected carry-over for the end of FY 2025-26 is estimated at \$673,450, including estimated interest income of \$17,500, which exceeds the targeted reserves of \$600,000.

He further reported that Attachment "A" reflects actual expenditures and revenues from FY 2016-17 through FY 2025-26, as well as adopted, year-to-date, and projected figures for the current fiscal year, and presents the option for FY 2026-27.

Treasurer Nguyen stated that to maintain reserves at the target amount, the Budget Ad-Hoc Committee recommends an assessment rate of \$0.25 per AF for FY 2026-27, based on projected revenue, expenditures, carry-over, and reserves as reflected in Attachment "A."

Chair Falagan entertained a motion to approve the budget as presented. The motion was made by Panel Member Moore and seconded by Panel Member Moreno.

The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote of 5 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (5-0-0-0)

12. LARGE PUMPER ELECTION

The Panel took a recess at 2:05pm for votes to be counted by Secretary Ramirez and Esther Rojas.

The meeting was reconvened at 2:10pm.

Secretary Ramirez presented the results of the Large Pumper election. The City of Long Beach received 32,692 votes, the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power received 17,236 votes, City of Downey received 0 votes, Golden State Water Company received 28,213.20 votes, and the City of South Gate received 27,736.62

votes, therefore the City of Long Beach, Golden State Water Company and the City of South Gate have a majority of the vote.

Chair Falagan entertained a motion to approve the adoption of resolution 2026-01. The motion was made by Panel Member Moreno and seconded by Treasurer Nguyen.

The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote of 5 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (5-0-0).

13. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

14. AGENDA ITEMS FOR JULY 9, 2026, WATER RIGHTS PANEL MEETING

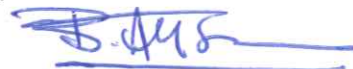
Secretary Ramirez stated that there will be an item for the Panel officer election to vote for the next Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer. In addition, there will be an item added for the Water Meter Testing contract.

15. WATER RIGHTS PANEL MEMBER COMMENTS

Panel Member Moore expressed his appreciation to Vice Chair Mueller for the City of Downey's contribution to the Water Rights Panel.

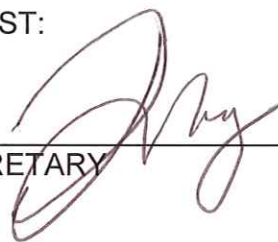
Chair Falagan expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to have served as Chair of the Panel and announced that Dean Wang will represent the City of Long Beach moving forward

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 2:14 pm.



CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:



SECRETARY