MINUTES OF THE
CENTRAL BASIN WATERMASTER
WATER RIGHTS PANEL

PROGRESS PARK
BOARD ROOM
15500 DOWNEY AVE., PARAMOUNT, CA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016
1:30 P.M.

Chairman Honeycutt (Signal Hill) called the regular meeting of the Central Basin Watermaster Water Rights Panel to order at 1:30 pm.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Panel and those in attendance began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Panel Members
John Oskoui  City of Downey
Jason Wen  City of Lakewood
Chris Cash  City of Paramount
Charlie Honeycutt  City of Signal Hill
Toby Moore  Golden State Water Company
Ken Bradbury  Montebello Land and Water Company
Chris Garner  City of Long Beach

Also Present
Mohammad Mostahkami  City of Downey
Chris Repp  LADWP
Hye Jin Lee  City of Whittier
Mark Grajeda  Pico Water District
Ed Castaneda  ODWD
Randy Silvett  ODWD
Ken Scott  Ecogas
Bill Manasian
Vince Brar
Don Armendeniz  Cal Water
Dan Mueller  City of Downey
Christina Dixon  City of Huntington Park
James Markman  Richards, Watson, Gershon
Kevin Sales  KJServices Environmental Consulting
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Panel Member Cash (Paramount) made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2015 meeting of the Water Rights Panel. Panel Member Moore (Golden State Water) seconded the motion which was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Panel.

Panel Member Moore made a motion to approve the Warrant List with the caveat that sufficient funds were in the Panel's account to make the payments. He was concerned because the Treasurer's Report that was received did for the meeting did not reflect a recent Assessment Billing payment of $73,581.22 that was transferred from the Water Replenishment District to the Panel. Assuming that the payment had been received and the funds made available, his motion was to approve the Warrant List as presented. Panel Member Bradbury (Montebello Land & Water Co.) seconded the motion which was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Panel.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Panel Member Moore (Golden State Water) presented the Treasurer Report.

Mr. Moore reviewed the financial report prepared by the City of Lakewood. The City's summary report showed that the balance of the WRP's account as of January 8, 2016 was $5,381.79. In addition a copy of an email from the Water Replenishment District shows that a transfer of $73,581.22, representing the Assessment Billing payments of 45 of 130 Central Basin water rights holders, was transferred to the City of Lakewood, for the Water Rights Panel, on December 31, 2015.

A motion to Receive and File the item was made by Panel Member Wen (Lakewood) with a second by Panel Member Bradbury. The item was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Panel members.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE BODY REPORT

Mr. Jason Weeks of the Water Replenishment District was not present at the meeting. Chairman Honeycutt presented a review of the Monthly Water Rights Activity Report as included in the meeting's agenda package.

The other issue to be discussed as part of this item, the Annual Watermaster Report Update and Draft, was postponed until the March meeting of the Panel.
A motion to Receive and File the item was made by Panel Member Cash, with a second by Panel Member Garner (Long Beach). The item was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

7. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT UPDATE

Because of Mr. Week's absence, this item was moved to the Panel's March meeting.

A motion to continue this item to the Panel's March meeting was made by Panel Member Bradbury and was seconded by Panel Member Cash. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Panel.

8. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Chairman Honeycutt introduced Mr. James Markman of Richards, Watson, Gershon to present an update on any issues or matters that potentially impact the Panel or water purveyors in the Central Basin.

Mr. Markman stated that of the four parties that had over extraction issues, three have agreed to lease in water rights to cover their over extraction (or groundwater extraction without any water rights). All three will need to file with the Court to intervene on the Settlement in order to acquire the water rights to cover their over extractions.

The fourth over extracting party, and by far the largest, is Caltrans. The attorneys are still waiting to meet with Caltrans on behalf of the Water Rights Panel.

Panel Member Oskouei (Downey) made a motion to receive and file the attorney's report. The motion was seconded by Panel Member Bradbury and approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Panel.

9. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Chairman Honeycutt introduced the Regional Disadvantaged Communities Incentive Program (RDCIP) Ad Hoc Committee members Panel Member Cash and Panel Member Grajeda for comments.

Panel Members Cash and Grajeda helped develop the finalized application, along with the Panel's consultant Grace Kast, for the Regional Disadvantaged Communities Incentive Program. Ms. Kast reviewed the application with the Panel members and also explained how the GIS mapping function will work to help applicants determine if the census tracks covered by a proposed project meet the disadvantaged communities requirement of the program.

Several Panel members had comments on the finalized application documents:

Mr. Grajeda stated that the application includes a section for the project funding requesting (as appropriate) within the general project description narrative.
Ms. Kast stated that the application will be PDF file available on the Panel’s website (www.cbwatermaster.org) which will incorporate fillable fields for the applicants project information. The goal was to design an application that was broad enough to allow for a wide variety of project submittals. The application is also designed to allow the Panel to review the project application based on its description and to develop questions as the project’s description is reviewed.

Mr. Oskoui stated that he liked the simple application form because he believed it will allow the Panel to identify and review the broadest range of potential projects. Mr. Cash stated that there was the primary driver behind the application’s simple design.

Panel Member Oskoui made a motion to accept the RDCIP application as developed and to move forward with making the application form available on the Water Rights Panel’s web site. The motion was seconded by Panel Member Cash and approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Panel.

10. WATER METER TESTING

Chairman Honeycutt reported no water meters out of compliance.

The Panel noted that the current water meter testing contract with the Department of Water Resources ends June 30, 2016. The Panel requested that the Secretary contact the DWR and request a new proposal to cover the water meter testing needs for the next two years (through June 2018)

A motion to Receive and File the item was made by Panel Member Cash, with a second by Panel Member Bradbury. The item was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Panel members.

11. SECRETARY’S REPORT

Kevin Sales of KJ Services Environmental Consulting stated that a retest was conducted by the DWR of the water meter at Paradise memorial Park in Santa Fe Springs. The meter on this well had failed its initial test. The retest showed that the meter is now in compliance. With this successful retest there are no tested well meters that are currently out of compliance.

A motion to Receive and File the item was made by Panel Member Bradbury, with a second by Panel Member Wen. The item was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Panel members.

12. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

No written communications received.
13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY 14, 2016 WATER RIGHTS PANEL MEETING

The agenda was discussed for the Water Rights Panel meeting of March 10, 2016.

The Panel Secretary will present the new proposal from the Department of Water Resources for continuing to support the Panel’s well meter testing program.

The WRD will provide an update on the status of the Watermaster Annual Report, including when it is due and what period the report should cover.

Kim Markman will work with the over extraction subcommittee, which includes Panel Member Oskouei and Chairman Honeycutt, to setup a meeting with Caltrans. Mr. Markman will also provide an update on the status of the three other over extractors and their status on securing water rights.

The Panel Secretary and Treasurer will provide the Panel with an update on the payment status of the FY 15/16 Assessment Billing.

The Panel Secretary will ensure that the RDCIP application documents are up and running on the Panel’s web site.

14. WATER RIGHTS PANEL MEMBER COMMENTS

Panel Member Moore asked if the historical Watermaster Annual Reports could be made available on the Water Rights Panel website. He also asked that the Panel’s web site be linked to the WRD web site and visa versa. The Panel Secretary will work on seeing what interconnectivity can be made.

Several panel members discussed an issue that was occurring in the West Basin regarding water rights holders who, after drilling new wells, could not get the necessary permits from the State to begin to operate them. It appears to be an issue between two State agencies, possibly the Department of Water Resources and the Division of Drinking Water. So far the issue only appears to be affecting water rights holders in the West Basin. The Panel members were asked to let each other know if they hear of the same situation beginning to occur in the Central Basin.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Honeycutt adjourned the meeting at 2:05 pm.