

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM STEERING COMMITTEE
Monday, April 8, 2024**

OCWD Director Bruce Whitaker called the Groundwater Replenishment System Steering Committee meeting to order in the OCWD Boardroom. Public access was also provided via Zoom webinar. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, the Secretary called the roll and reported a quorum.

Committee Members

Bruce Whitaker
 Chad Wanke
 Cathy Green
 Ryan Gallagher
 Van Tran (absent)
 David Shawver

Alternates

Roger Yoh (absent)
 Bob Ooten
 Dina Nguyen (absent)
 Andrew Nguyen
 Steve Sheldon (absent)
 Pat Burns (absent)

OCWD Staff	OC San Staff
John Kennedy, Mehul Patel, Kira Erquiaga, Leticia Villarreal	Rob Thompson, Jennifer Cabral

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was moved, seconded and duly carried [6-0] as follows.
 Yes – Whitaker, Wanke, Green, Gallager, Shawver, Ooten

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the GWRS Steering Committee meeting held January 8, 2024, are approved as presented.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2. GWRS Operating Budget Summary

Executive Director of Operations/GWRS Mehul Patel provided an overview of the Water Production Group work plan and the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 line-item department budget for GWRS. He stated that the total recommended 2024-25 Budget is \$58.2 million, including \$900,000 demand response credit and excludes both Alamitos barrier and GAP costs.

3. GWRS Operations Update

Mr. Patel reported that the average daily production for the quarter, January through March, was 87 mgd. He stated production was limited during this reporting period due to limited seawater intrusion and mid basin injection demand due to high groundwater levels. He shared that as of March 31, 2024, the GWRS Fiscal Year 2023-24 production to date is 84,611 af which is 16,347 af below the target fiscal year production to date of 100,958 af. He advised that the shortfall is due to OC San construction project that limited feed water flows to the GWRS

during the early part of the year. He reported that he anticipates GWRS production will increase in the second quarter of 2024 as recharge basin capacity is freed up.

4. Orange County Sanitation District Plan No. 2 Salinity Investigation

OC San General Manager Rob Thompson provided an update on the salinity investigation. He stated that since the last update in January 2024, OC San has completed an extensive sampling within the Balboa Peninsula. He shared that OC San has forwarded the findings to OCWD and City of Newport Beach for further investigation. Mr. Thompson anticipates the City of Newport Beach will take the lead going forward in identifying infiltration hot spots and repairing them appropriately.

5. GWRS First Quarter Outreach Report (January - March)

OCWD Senior Communications Specialist Kira Erquiaga provided an overview of outreach for the first quarter of 2024.

First Quarter Highlights:

- 27 GWRS tours conducted accounting for 591 guests
- 12 Speakers bureau engagements
- Rob Thompson, General Manager of OC San was the speaker for the webinar *Addressing Contaminants of Emerging Concern Through Innovation, Research and Technology* held February 29. The webinar had 130 live attendees and 246 recorded Views
- Two awards were received: National Environment Achievement Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and Community Water Champion Award from the WaterReuse National Association

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
Bruce Whitaker 7/9/2024
OCWD Director Bruce Whitaker, Chair