

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, April 14, 2025**

OC San Director Gallagher 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**

Ryan Gallagher  
 Cathy Green  
 Chad Wanke  
 Denis Bilodeau (arrived 5:25 p.m.)  
 Jon Dumitru  
 Van Tran

**Alternates**

Roger Yoh (arrived 5:30 p.m.)  
 Bob Ooten  
 Dina Nguyen (absent)  
 Andrew Nguyen  
 Fred Jung  
 Pat Burns

<b>OCWD Staff</b>	<b>OC SAN Staff</b>
John Kennedy, Mehul Patel, Gina Ayala, Christina Fuller	Robert Thompson, Jennifer Cabral

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Dumitru and carried [5-0] as follows.

Yes –Gallagher, Green, Wanke, Dumitru, Tran

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the GWRS Steering Committee meeting held January 13, 2025, are approved as presented.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

2. History of the GWRS Steering Committee

Executive Director of Operations/GWRS Mehul Patel recalled that at the January GWRS Steering Committee meeting, the chair requested a document to summarize the history of the committee. He advised that the GWRS Steering Committee was originally called the Joint Cooperative Committee, JCC, and was first formed on March 6, 1997. He stated that the JCC was formed to oversee planning, design, and construction activities associated with development of the GWRS. He noted that the role of the committee was to facilitate day-to-day decision making on key issues associated with the development of the GWRS with all final approvals required by both full Boards of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and Orange County Sanitation District (OC San). Mr. Patel reported that the GWRS Steering Committee currently meets on a quarterly basis and is comprised of three members from the Boards of OCWD and OC San and stated that the current role of the committee continues to be to advise staff as needed. OC San Director Gallagher stated that quarterly meetings may no

longer be necessary and requested that staff return to the next meeting in July with meeting schedule options for the Committee to consider.

3. GWRS Operating Budget Summary

Mr. Patel provided an overview of the Water Production Group work plan and the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 line-item department budget for GWRS. He stated that the total recommended 2025-26 Budget is \$58 million, including \$1,000,000 demand response credit and excludes both Alamitos barrier and GAP costs.

4. GWRS Operations Update

Mr. Patel reported that the daily production for the quarter, January to March 2025, was 111 mgd. He stated that production was limited during this period due to limited recharge capacity due to high groundwater levels. He stated that as of March 31, 2025, the GWRS Fiscal Year 2024-25 production total is 84,255 af which is 11,831 af below the target production of 96,086 af.

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

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala reported that for the first quarter of 2025 a total of 39 GWRS tours were conducted accounting for 898 guests. She stated that the Next Generation Water Leaders program was revamped to include video and trivia to peak interest of students and will undergo further updates to meet educational standards and maximize student engagement. Ms. Ayala noted that staff is exploring ways to update tour displays throughout the GWRS plant.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Signed by:  


OC San Director Ryan Gallager, Chair