

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

OC San Director Wanke 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**

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

**Alternates**

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

<b>OCWD Staff</b>	<b>OC SAN Staff</b>
Mike Markus, Mehul Patel, Gina Ayala, Leticia Villarreal	Robert Thompson, Jennifer Cabral

• Annual Reorganization of GWRS Steering Committee Officers

GWRS Steering Committee member Ryan Gallagher stated the Steering Committee reorganizes on an annual basis. It was a consensus of the Committee members present to approve the following nomination:

- 2024 GWRS Steering Committee Chair – OCWD Director Bruce Whitaker
- 2024 GWRS Steering Committee Vice Chair – OC San Director Chad Wanke

Director Wanke conducted the remainder of the meeting.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Green, duly seconded and carried [6-0] as follows.

Yes – Wanke, Green, Gallagher, Whitaker, Shawver, Tran

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the GWRS Steering Committee meeting held October 9, 2023, are approved as presented.

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### 2. GWRS Operations Update

Executive Director of Operations/GWRS Mehul Patel reported that the daily production for the quarter, October through December 2023, was 113 mgd. He stated the average production total for the reporting period was lower than normal due to two separate planned outages required for the final expansion Division of Drinking Water revised permit conditions. Mr. Patel reported that the fiscal year goal (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) to date as of December 31, 2023 was 59,847 af which is 7,704 af below the target production. He advised that the shortfall is primarily due to an OC San construction project that limited feed water flows to GWRS during the last reporting period. He anticipates that GWRS production will remain near current levels in the fourth quarter of 2023.

### 3. Orange County Sanitation District Plant No 2 Salinity Investigation Update

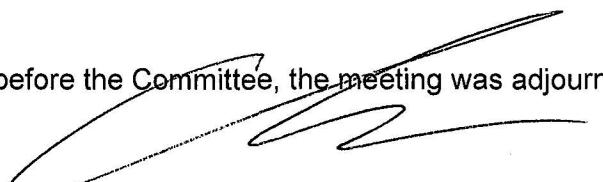
General Manager of OC San Rob Thompson provided an update. He shared since the previous update on the high salinity levels coming from Newport Beach and Huntington Beach. He reported a study was designed to find where the water was coming from. He stated these investigations identified the potential sources were the local sewers along the coastline. He advised that the local sewers are not owned or operated by OC San but by local cities or sanitation districts. Mr. Thompson stated OC San, OCWD and the City of Newport Beach will continue to investigate and work together to find potential remedies and noted that staff will continue to update the Committee at the next quarterly meeting.

### 4. GWRS Fourth Quarter Outreach Report (October - December)

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala reported that for the fourth quarter of 2023 GWRS tours continued to be active with a total of 30 tours conducted accounting for 600 guests. She stated that this amount was more than double that of the last quarter. She shared OCWD hosted the Groundwater Adventure Tour for the first time since 2019 and will continue to host on a yearly basis. She reported GWRS received 7 awards during the fourth quarter.

## ADJOURNMENT

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



OC San Director Chad Wanke, Vice-Chair