AGENDA ITEM 4A

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CENTRAL BASIN WATERMASTER
WATER RIGHTS PANEL
CLEARWATER BUILDING
AUDITORIUM
16401 PARAMOUNT BLVD., PARAMOUNT, CA 90723

1:30 P.M, THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

Chair Falagan called the meeting of the Central Basin Watermaster Water Rights Panel to order at 1:35 pm.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Falagan led the pledge of allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Panel Members	
Steve Lenton	Bellflower-Somerset Mutual Water Company
Dan Mueller	City of Downey (arrived during item 3)
Derek Nguyen	City of Lakewood
Anatole Falagan	City of Long Beach
Joanna Moreno	City of Vernon
Raymond Cordero	City of Whittier
Toby Moore	Golden State Water Company

Also Present	
Matt Qassis	LADWP
Alberto Corrales	South Montebello Irrigation District
Floyd Smith	Midland Park Water Trust
Sidney Smith	Midland Park Water Trust
Jackie Ramirez	Water Replenishment District (Secretary)
Asha Kreiling	Water Replenishment District
Esther Rojas	Water Replenishment District

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Floyd Smith from Midland Park Water Trust provided an in-person comment and explained the history of Midland Park Water Trust and concluded with their continued goals to seek new solutions, partnerships to maintain its dedication to serving their community by providing clean and safe water. Mr. Smith provided a document in writing to Chair Anatole.

Vice Chair Mueller arrived during item 3.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Falagan entertained a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was made by Panel Member Moore and seconded by Treasurer Nguyen.

The consent calendar was approved by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (7-0-0).

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Water Replenishment District's summary reports showed the activities from Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to April 16, 2025, payments totaling $45,956.74 were processed leaving a balance of $668,955.58.

The CBWRP summary tables showed payments for four types of services: Administrative Services, Meter Testing, Legal Services, and Miscellaneous. For the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year, the March and April payments totaled $5122.49, bringing the overall Fiscal Year expenditures to $34,512.86. The current account balance is $117,387.14; approximately 77.3% 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 Lenton.

The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (7-0-0).

6. ADMINISTRATIVE BODY REPORT & FY 2025-26 ADMINISTRATIVE BODY BUDGET

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

2024 – 2025 Groundwater Pumping

For Administrative Year (AY) 2024-25 through March, Central Basin groundwater pumping was 125,421.15 acre-feet (af) that includes storage withdrawals, which is 8.8% more than the same period in the previous AY.

2024 – 2025 Water Rights Activity

For AY 2024-25 as of April 30th, there were 28 leases processed transferring 12,947.00 af of rights, of which 22 leases are with flex and 6 leases without flex.

There have been three sales permanently transferring 16.15 af of APA and four transactions permanently transferring 68.00 af of one-year carryover.

2024 – 2025 Storage Activity

For Administrative Year (AY) 2024-25 a total of 37,372.46 af have been withdrawn from storage.

2025-2026 Watermaster Budget

Staff mailed AY 2025-26 budget letters on March 26th. The AY 2025-26 total budget is increasing by 3% compared to last year's budget total. With the cost-of-living increasing labor costs, an increase to the budget was necessary. The proposed

budget is $272,400. From the budget amount, $1,160 is collected through the $20 assessment and the remaining amount will be approportionated among the active parties based on their APA, with the assessment coming out to $1.28 per acre-foot.

Staff recommend approval of the Administrative Body budget. Consolidated invoices are expected to be mailed in early June once the Panel approves their budget and assessment.

Other Announcements
To assist pumpers in managing their water rights as we approach the end of the AY, staff emailed the comprehensive summary of active water right holders and the individual water rights worksheet to assist with running scenarios and provide an opportunity for collaboration amongst pumpers. The water rights calculator is also available for use at www.rights.wrd.org. Water right holders have until August 15 to submit any lease agreements, deeds (sales), and carryover into storage requests for it to count in the 2024-25 administrative year.

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

The motion was approved by a roll call voice vote of 7 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (7-0-0).

Chair Falagan also entertained a motion to consider the approval of the AY 2025-2026 Administrative Body Budget. The motion was made by Panel Member Moore and seconded by Panel Member Lenton.

The motion was approved by a roll call voice vote of 7 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (7-0-0).

7. ATTORNEY'S REPORT
None. Attorney Markman was absent.

8. SECRETARY'S REPORT
None.

9. WATER METER TESTING
Secretary Ramirez presented the meter testing summary for January and February 2025. During December, 4 meters were tested, and 4 meters were determined to be within the acceptable margin of error.

Secretary Ramirez also mentioned that Abi who handled the meter testing for the Panel at the Department of Water Resources, has retired and they are transitioning stages and should expect more meter testing in the next couple of months.

Chair Falagan entertained a motion to receive and file the Administrative Body Report. The motion was made by Panel Member Cordero and seconded by Panel Member Moreno.

The motion was approved by a roll call voice vote of 7 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (7-0-0).

10. WATER RIGHTS PANEL FY 2025-26 BUDGET & ASSESSMENT

Derek Ngyuen presented the Water Rights Panel Budget and Assessment. The budget criteria are to maintain a minimum unrestricted reserve of $600,000. For the FY 24-25 total projected expenditure will be about $50,000. There will be over $100,000 in carryover funds

The Ad Hoc Committee recommended an assessment of $0.25 cents per acre-foot that will leave an estimated balance of $645,353 at the end of the FY 2025-26. In prior years the Panel budgeted $100,000 but have not nearly used half of the budgeted amount, and the Ad Hoc Committee does not expect to use that full budgeted amount next year, which would result in the carryover funds being over $600,000.

Chair Falagan entertained a motion to approve the Panel Budget and Assessment. The motion was made by Panel Member Moore and seconded by Panel Member Lenton.

The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote of 7 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 no's (7-0-0).

11. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE JULY 10, 2025 WATER RIGHTS PANEL MEETING

None.

13. WATER RIGHTS PANEL MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 1:51 pm.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SECRETARY