

# San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

**DATE:** July 10, 2023  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Lance Eckhart, General Manager  
**BY:** Lance Eckhart, General Manager  
**SUBJECT: DIRECTOR'S PRESENTATION: WATER EDUCATION FOR LATINO LEADERS (WELL) PROGRAM**

**RECOMMENDATION**

This is a Board-related presentation and discussion; Staff has no recommendation.

**BACKGROUND**

Director Letulle has attended various meetings of the Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) organization. He was recently accepted to the 2023 AAPI UnTapped Fellowship Program, which that organization sponsors.

The program costs \$3,500, and meetings commence on July 21, 2023. There are 13 meetings scheduled over the next six months, some virtual and some in-person. In-person meetings occur in Los Angeles, Owen's Valley, San Diego, and Sacramento.

**ANALYSIS**

The Board has approved various policies and ordinances to guide Board members and Staff in making decisions about participation in various meetings and conferences and considering the cost of such participation.

Excerpts from the Directors' Travel and Expense policy:

***(Section) 3. ORDINARY AND NECESSARY BUSINESS EXPENSES.***

*Those ordinary, necessary, and reasonable business expenses incurred from activities directly related to Agency purposes are reimbursable. Expenses incurred as a result of a bona fide personal, family, or medical emergency that would not have been incurred were it not for Agency business are also reimbursable. Because the Pass Agency is a public agency, such expenses should be carefully considered, bearing in mind that these are public funds and that only a reasonable level of expense is warranted.*

*Actual, reasonable, ordinary, and necessary business expenses incurred by attendance of events approved by the Board as days of service and at educational events related to water issues in the area, region, or state is necessary for the education of the directors and shall be reimbursed by the Agency upon presentation of satisfactory evidence (receipts, including travel expense receipts) of the expenditures. Attendance at these events includes regular or special meetings of any organization in which San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency is a member, or at special events,*

*programs, conferences, symposiums, or seminars deemed necessary by the director (s) for their continuing education and information.*

Words that are emphasized throughout the policy include “ordinary” and “reasonable.” Consideration of the nexus between the Agency, its mission, and the activity is also emphasized.

Section 4 in Ordinance 17 lists approved meetings:

*The definition of Board meetings, committee meetings, workshops, and days of service shall be limited to the following as set forth below. The Finance & Budget Committee of the Agency shall determine, by examination and vote, that the meetings submitted for payment of a Board member’s fees are in accordance with these guidelines. Board members shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Finance & Budget Committee to the full Board.*

*(a) Attendance at any meeting of the Agency Board that requires public notice in accordance with the Brown Act including, but not limited to, regular and special Board meetings and standing committee meetings.*

*(b) Attendance at meetings of an ad hoc committee of the Agency Board.*

*(c) Attendance at regular, special or committee meetings of any organization in which the Agency is a member.*

*(d) Attendance at meetings of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster.*

*(e) Attendance at special events, programs, or symposiums (not to exceed 1 day) or conferences (not to exceed 3 days) for the following organizations:*

*(i) Association of California Water Agencies*

*(ii) Special Districts Association of Riverside County*

*(iii) State Water Contractors*

*(iv) Water Education Foundation*

*(v) Riverside County Water Symposium*

*(vi) American Water Works Association*

*(f) Attendance at any meeting related to or informing the Board members on matters within the jurisdiction of the statutory powers of the Agency, provided that such meetings deal with substantive issues and consume more than a minor amount of the Board member’s time.*

*(g) Attendance at any meeting submitted for consideration and approved as a day of service by the Agency Board of Directors.*

Possible Board considerations are as follows:

- Nexus with Agency mission and business
- Aggregate budget for Travel and Education expenses
- Individual Director Travel and Education expenses
- Public perception of involvement and cost

In addition, the Board may see this as an opportunity for additional networking and future involvement with the Water for Latino Leaders organization and its events and conferences. A report by Director Letulle upon completing the fellowship may be an opportunity for the Board to consider engagement further.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Besides the cost of the fellowship, Director Letulle could include these meetings on his monthly pay requests. An average of about two meetings per month could be included over the six months of participation. In addition, reimbursement for travel expenses for the in-person meetings would also be expected.

The recently approved General Fund Budget for FY 2023-24 includes \$50,000 for Directors' Travel and Education.

Using expenditure totals from FY 2022-23 as a guide, it is expected that this amount would not be exceeded for all Directors' Individual Director's totals for FY22-23 range from about \$5,000 to about \$8,000.

### **ACTION**

Board decision.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Excerpt from Water Education for Latino Leaders website  
Water Education for Latino Leaders acceptance letter addressed to Chancer Letulle  
Water Education for Latino Leaders invoice for the fellowship



## WELL UnTapped Fellowship Program

Applications for the WELL – AAPI UnTapped Fellowship are now open! Apply below!

Water is one of the most important public policy issues in California and local Latino leaders are now emerging as key contributors in the water policy arena. Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) was founded in 2012 with the goal of strengthening the voice of local Latino leaders, ensuring they have context for and participation in water policy decisions.

Latino and other people of color have been historically locked out of decision-making and leadership roles, particularly on the issue of water policy. Latinos represent nearly 40 percent of California's population but only account for 2 percent of elected water officials and water policy professionals. WELL believes that the next generation of leaders should reflect the diversity of California and that they should have the knowledge and expertise about water issues that will make them more effective in leading water policy.

### **WELL UnTapped**

Building on its success in water education, WELL launched **WELL UnTapped**, a selective, six-month program for local elected leaders aimed at helping participants make an impact on California water policy while addressing individual community water challenges. The UnTapped program creates an opportunity for local leaders to engage with water issues through a comprehensive and active exploration of history, governance, public policy, geography, and economics and their relationship to human rights and climate change.

The overarching goal of the WELL UnTapped fellowship program is to give local elected officials a deeper understanding of the fundamentals of water policy and governance. UnTapped sessions are held at different watersheds throughout California, and session content includes lectures given by water professionals and skill-based exercises that help participants ask better public policy questions and strengthen public leadership and relational skills. Upon completing the program, fellows will have gained the following skills:

**Public Narrative:** An evidence-based method to engage others in organizing work. The method, developed by Marshall Ganz, an organizer and lecturer at Harvard Kennedy School of Government, comes out of his theory of *strategic capacity*. Through practicing what Ganz coined the Story of Self, Story of Us, and Story of Now, fellows hone critical *public leadership skills* and learn how to *recruit important allies* to build a team of concerned and willing leaders. Through the process of Public Narrative, WELLos share what motivated them to become a local elected official and what prompts them to continue. This motivation engages like-minded individuals to join them in not only improving their community's water situation but improving the outcomes for all kinds of issues.

**WELL Method of Inquiry:** The Method of Inquiry is modeled after established teaching models that develop analytic skills to deal with complex fact situations. It is assumed that UnTapped fellows already possess many of these skills acquired through experience and common sense problem-solving in their personal and professional lives. The Method of Inquiry will build on those skills. It is also assumed that while fellows may have the experience to varying degrees in

dealing with complex water issues, they do not have the time to become experts in the field of water policy and management in California or even experts within their own communities. The objective of the Method of Inquiry is to give each fellow the skills needed to ask questions of water experts, organize the relevant facts, recognize what is unknown, find out where to get the information needed to make intelligent choices about complex water policy and management issues, and as necessary, how to lead communities in better planning and managing water supplies and water quality.

**Legislative Water Workshop Project:** Led by UnTapped Fellowship graduates, the Legislative Water Workshop capstone project gives graduates an opportunity to work with their California state legislators to share educational discussions with the local elected officials in the legislative district regarding the water issues impacting their region.

Once fellows graduate from UnTapped, they are inducted into the [WELL UnTapped Network \(WUN\)](#), where they can continue engaging in learning and training opportunities about California water policy. Graduates of the WELL UnTapped Fellowship program are referred to as WELLo's and to date WELL has graduated a total of 45 elected officials from throughout California.

Join WELL UnTapped's statewide network of Latino elected leaders. Learn from each other. Leverage the Power of UnTapped. Together we can make a difference in our communities and help address one of the most critical issues of our day.



June 1, 2023

Honorable Chander Letulle  
Director  
San Geronio Pass Water Agency  
1210 Beaumont Avenue,  
Beaumont, CA 92223

Dear Director Letulle,

**Congratulations!**

**On behalf of Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL), I am pleased to inform you that you have been accepted as a Fellow for 2023 WELL - AAPI UnTapped Fellowship Program.** We received several applications this year and you were selected from a competitive group of selected leaders. Your application and interview demonstrated a true passion for protecting our environment and advancing your communities interests. We look forward to the synergy from your cohort's dynamic experience and backgrounds.

This is the sixth cohort of the WELL UnTapped Fellowship. By accepting to be a part of this cohort you will be a part of a vigorous group made up of other local elected officials to learn and discuss some of the state's most pressing water policies. Your participation in WELL UnTapped will play a significant role in preparing our state as it faces an ongoing water crisis. We will formally announce our cohort on June 30, 2023, until then please do not share this information on social media/online. WELL staff will provide you with the social media kit for sharing your acceptance into the program.

**To confirm your participation in the program, sign a copy of the acceptance letter and submit your onboarding documents by June 15, 2023.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (909) 670-2928.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul C. Hernandez", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul C. Hernandez  
Executive Director

**WELL Board of Directors:** Victor R. Griego, Jr. [Founder and President, WELL](#), Miguel A. Luna, [Principal of Urban Semillas](#), Cástulo R. Estrada, [Vice President, Coachella Valley Water District](#), Tony Estremera, [Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District](#), Irais Lopez-Ortega, [Councilmember, City of Calistoga](#), Joone Kim Lopez, [General Manager, Moulton Niguel Water District](#), Diana Mahmud, [Former Councilmember, City of South Pasadena](#), Gary Serrato, [Former General Manager, Fresno Irrigation District](#)

**930 Colorado Blvd., Building 1, Los Angeles, CA 90041 | 909.670.2928 | [www.latinosforwater.org](http://www.latinosforwater.org)**



**Invoice Date: June 7, 2023**

To:  
Honorable Chander Letulle  
Director  
San Geronio Pass Water Agency  
1210 Beaumont Avenue  
Beaumont, CA 92223

From:  
Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL)  
930 Colorado Blvd. Bldg. 1  
Los Angeles, CA 90041  
(909) 670-2928

## INVOICE #2023-31

Item	Description	Cost
WELL -AAPI UnTapped Fellowship Program - 2023	WELL AAPI UnTapped Fellowship Program - 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 2023 - December 2023</li> <li>• 8 Water Education Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Four (4) In-Person Sessions</li> <li>○ Four (4) Virtual Sessions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	\$3,500.00

**Total Invoice.....\$3,500.00**

***Payment is due July 14, 2023.***

*Please make checks payable to: "Water Education for Latino Leaders"*

*WELL is a 501(c)3 organization. Tax ID # 84-3563310*

Feel free to contact Stephanie Nava-Angeles if you have any questions at (909) 670-2928.