



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

May 26, 2023

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Mr. George McGraw to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2025.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. McGraw is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Mr. McGraw will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Cynthia Ruiz, whose seat will be vacant on July 5, 2023, or at the time Ms. Ruiz's successor is confirmed by the City Council, whichever is first.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Bass'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: George McGraw
Commission: Board of Water and Power Commissioners
End of Term: 6/30/2025

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** Caucasian
2. **Gender:** Male
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 13 - East LA
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** M.A., International Law and Settlement of Disputes, United Nations University for Peace
7. **Occupation/profession:** Founder & CEO, DigDeep Right to Water Project
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume/bio
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Appointment
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Race	Gender	Term End
Katz, Nurit	South Valley	4	Caucasian	F	6/30/2023
Brady, Nicole	Central	4	Caucasian	F	6/30/2026
Lehrer, Mia	Central	4	Latinx	F	6/30/2024
McClain-Hill, Cynthia	Central	14	African American	F	6/30/2027
Ruiz, Cynthia	East LA	14	Native American	F	6/30/2025



GEORGE MCGRAW

DigDeep Right to Water Project (digdeep.org)

Founder, CEO – Los Angeles, CA

EDUCATION

United Nations University for Peace

M.A. International Law and the Settlement of Disputes
Concentration: The Human Right to Water and Sanitation

Loyola University Chicago

B.A. Political Science Honors, Philosophy, Summa Cum Laude, *PBK*

BIOGRAPHY

George McGraw is a leading American advocate for the human right to water and sanitation. He founded digdeep.org in Los Angeles in 2012—the only WaSH (water, sanitation, hygiene) organization working in the United States, where over 2.2 million people live without a tap or toilet at home. While billions of dollars have been invested to alleviate water poverty globally, those efforts are virtually nonexistent in the US, one of the only high-income countries where the Water Access Gap is widening because of forces such as climate change and widespread economic inequality. In response, DigDeep develops infrastructure, education, and research programs aimed at extending clean, running water and flush toilets to every American.

Under George's leadership, DigDeep has grown to serve communities through its Navajo Water Project (AZ, NM, UT), Appalachia Water Project (WV, KY), and *Colonias* Water Project (TX). George is also a respected voice in the water and public policy space, co-authoring the first national report on water access, *Closing the Water Access Gap in the United States* (2019) with the current EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, Radhika Fox, offering opinion and analysis for publications such as *The New York Times*, and providing subject area expertise to legislators and the Biden presidential transition team.

George is also a leading queer voice in social entrepreneurship and environmental justice. He is an Ashoka Fellow, a Civil Society Fellow at the Aspen Institute, and former Social Entrepreneur in Residence at Stanford University. George holds an M.A. in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes from the United Nations University for Peace, where he first developed the concept of a “minimum core” for the human right to water. George has shared his insights as a frequent university lecturer, guest on national broadcast news, and as a speaker for major corporations and universities.

SKILLS

- Leadership: Built and lead an LA-based team of more than 80 staff; certified Great Place to Work™
- Thought Leadership: Published author in WaSH, human rights, US policy, and social entrepreneurship
- Speaking: Events hosted by Google, Ford, US Water Alliance, CGI, TED, ADL, and others
- Teaching: Frequent guest lecturer at Stanford, Northwestern, Columbia, Harvard (2023), and others
- Legal: Expertise in international law and the human right to water; Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Corporate: Advised, developed ESG/CSR and marketing campaigns with Coca-Cola, Kohler, others
- Fundraising: Raised over \$40M; developed digital marketing platform with >70k grassroots donors
- Design: Lead DigDeep creative direction, brand, print, graphic design, UX, UI, video, and web
- Language: Fluent in English and Spanish; working proficiency in Italian, French, German, and Hindi

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS & CERTIFICATIONS

- [Ashoka Fellow](#)
- [Civil Society Fellow](#), Aspen Institute
- Advisory Board, AI Global Trend-Sensing to Advance Health Equity in the US, Robert Wood Johnson Fdn.
- Social Entrepreneur in Residence (SEERs Fellow), Stanford University
- Finalist, Innovation by Design Award, Fast Company
- US Water Prize
- ASN Magis Medal
- Loyola University Chicago [Commencement Speaker](#)
- Chairman, Board of Governors of the Los Angeles Athletic Club
- Certification in international refugee law, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Certification in conflict analysis, US Institute for Peace
- Certification in negotiation and conflict management, US Institute for Peace

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS [see more>](#)

[Closing the Water Access Gap in the United States: A National Action Plan, 2019](#) (report)

[Draining: The Economic Impact of America's Hidden Water Crisis, 2022](#) (report)

Stanford Social Innovation Review (SSIR): [The United States Needs its own WASH Sector](#)

LA Times: [For Millions of Americans, Lack of Access to Water Isn't Just a Drought Problem](#)

New York Times: [How Do You Fight Coronavirus without Running Water?](#)

New York Times: [For These Americans, Clean Water is a Luxury](#)

Loyola Chicago Intl. Law Review: [Defining and Defending the Human Right to Water and Its Minimum Core](#)

The Hill: [Americans Left Behind in the Global Fight for Clean Water](#)

The Nation: [Dying of Thirst in America](#)

[Healing Earth: Science, Spirituality and Ethical Issues Facing our World](#) (textbook)

SELECTED PRESS [see more>](#)

Upworthy Voices: [George McGraw, DigDeep](#)

CBS Sunday Morning: [Americans Without Water](#) (Emmy nominee)

CBS Sunday Morning: [The Navajo Water Lady](#) (Emmy winner)

USA Today: [How Expanding Water Access Could Boost the US Economy by \\$200 Billion](#)

NBC Nightly News: [West Virginia Community Struggles without Reliable Water Access](#)

Forbes: [Meet the Entrepreneur Who is Closing America's Water Gap](#)

The Washington Post: [It's Almost 2020, and Two Million Americans Still Don't Have Running Water](#)

The Takeaway: [No Tap or Toilet: Millions of Americans Lack Access to Running Water](#)

Soledad O'Brien: [Did you turn on your tap today? More than a Million in America Can't](#)

PBS NewsHour: [How Off-Grid Navajo Residents are Getting Running Water](#)



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

May 26, 2023

Dear Mr. McGraw:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2025, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

To begin the appointment process, please review, sign, and return the enclosed Remuneration Form and undated Letters of Separation **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensure the most efficient, open, and accountable city government possible.

Mayor's Office policy requires all potential commissioners to be fingerprinted as part of the background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with Personnel's Background Unit so that you may schedule an appointment to have this done. You must schedule the appointment **within one week** of receiving this letter.

Should this apply to your commission, you will be receiving a packet from the City Ethics Commission containing information about the City's conflict of interest laws, and a copy of the State Form 700/Statement of Economic Interests. You are required to complete and return this form **within 21 days** of your nomination to the City Ethics Commission via the California Fair Political Practices Commission's eDisclosure website, or by mailing the forms to City Hall at 200 N. Spring Street, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Nicole Enriquez at the City Ethics Commission by email at nicole.enriquez@lacity.org.

As part of the appointment process, Hugo Soto-Martinez, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, the Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee, may wish to meet with you to answer any questions they have. Our office will assist with arranging these meetings.

Mr. George McGraw
May 26, 2023
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Additionally, you will be required to attend public meetings at City Hall where your appointment will be considered. You will be hearing from our office and a City Council Clerk who will let you know when your appointment will be considered by the Energy and Environment Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified of the date when your appointment will be presented to the full City Council. Before you may begin serving, you will be required to take the Oath of Office in the City Clerk's Office located in Room 395 of City Hall. If you require parking for these meetings, please contact my Commissions team by email at myr-commissions@lacity.org.

Per the City Charter, most commissioners must be registered voters of the City of Los Angeles, and must therefore reside within Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, or your contact information changes, please contact my Commissions team immediately at the email address listed below. While we hope that you complete a successful term, if for some reason you intend to resign, please do so in writing to my Commissions team at myr-commissions@lacity.org.

Congratulations, and thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Bass".

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment I
Mr. George McGraw
May 26, 2023

Nominee Check List

I. Within 7 days:

- Email the below completed documents, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: myr-commissions@lacity.org OR mail them to:
Office of the Mayor
Attn: Commissions Team
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012
 - Remuneration Form
 - Undated Separation Letters (2)
- Schedule an appointment to get fingerprinted to complete a background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit.

II. Within 21 days:

- File the following forms with the City Ethics Commission. If you are required to file, you will receive these forms via email from that office.
 - Statement of Economic Interest (“Form 700”)
IMPORTANT: The City Council will not consider your nomination until your completed form is reviewed by the Ethics Commission.
 - CEC Form 60

III. The Mayor’s Office will notify the below Councilmembers of your nomination, so that they may reach out to schedule a meeting with you should they wish.

- Your City Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez
- Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination

IV. Public Meetings at City Hall:

- Energy and Environment Committee Hearing
- Full Council Hearing