

**SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY**  
**1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223**  
**Minutes of the**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**August 17th, 2020**

IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS), AND  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, **THERE WILL BE  
NO PUBLIC LOCATION FOR ATTENDING THIS BOARD MEETING IN PERSON.** MEMBERS  
OF THE PUBLIC MAY LISTEN AND PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT TELEPHONICALLY BY  
CALLING THE FOLLOWING NUMBER: 669-900-6833  
OR JOIN BY ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84741543920>  
MEETING ID **847 4154 3920**

**Directors Present:** Ron Duncan, President  
Lenny Stephenson, Vice President  
Michael Thompson, Treasurer  
Blair Ball, Director (arrived 2:00 pm)  
David Fenn, Director  
David Castaldo, Director  
Steve Lehtonen, Director

**Staff Present:** Lance Eckhart, General Manager  
General Counsel Jeff Ferre  
Thomas Todd, Finance Manager  
Cheryle Stiff, Executive Assistant  
Casmir Olaivar, Social Media Specialist

1. **Call to Order, Flag Salute, Invocation, and Roll Call:** The meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors was called to order by Board President Duncan at 1:30 p.m., August 17, 2020 by teleconference. David Fenn led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Director Thompson gave the invocation. President Duncan requested a roll call.

<b><u>Roll Call:</u></b>	<b><i>Present</i></b>	<b><i>Absent</i></b>
Director Castaldo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Ball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Director Lehtonen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Stephenson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Fenn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Thompson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A quorum was present.

2. **Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda:** *President Duncan asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda.* There being none the Agenda was adopted as published.

3. **Public Comment:** *President Duncan asked if there were any members of the public that wished to make a public comment on items that are within the jurisdiction of the Agency that are not on today's agenda. There were no members of the public that spoke at this time.*

4. **Consent Calendar:**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, July 6, 2020
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering Workshop, July 13, 2020

*President Duncan asked for a motion on the Consent Calendar. Director Thompson made a motion, seconded by Director Stephenson, to adopt the consent calendar.*

<b><u>Roll Call:</u></b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Noes</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Director Castaldo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Ball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Lehtonen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Stephenson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Fenn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Thompson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion passed 6-0-1.

5. **Reports:**

**A. General Manager's Report:** General Manager Eckhart stated that the Agency is flowing 24 cfs to Noble Creek; 700 acre-feet has been delivered since recharged started a week ago. Operations and Maintenance Manager Ken Falls is working with vendors to repair Fiesta Facility pond controllers.

**General Manager's Update:** General Manager Eckhart reported on the following: **Sites Reservoir:** SWCs are in talks with DWR on a potential contract amendment to help pay for Sites through Debt Service funds. It is possible that some SWCs will have to drop out if it cannot be paid for through the tax rate. The project is now moving into Phase 2. **Staff Resignation:** Our Public Information Specialist has handed in her two week resignation. Staff has been speaking with Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) about potentially hiring them to do the Agency's Social Media content at an affordable price.

**B. General Counsel Reports:** General Counsel Ferre provided a written report. There was no discussion on this item.

**C. Directors Reports:** 1) **Director Fenn** reported that he attended a Beaumont Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on August 14<sup>th</sup>. He also announced that he has decided to run for Beaumont City Counsel. He stated that it is not in conjunction with Counsel Member Carroll's filing of running for the Agency's Board. He mentioned that should he win the City Council seat

he will be handing in his resignation to the Agency. **1) Director Stephenson** reported that he attended YVWD's Board meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup>. **3) Director Lehtonen** reported on the Watermaster meeting that was held on August 5<sup>th</sup>. **4) President Duncan** reported that he attended the Banning Chamber of Commerce Drive-thru Food Distribution on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**D. Committee Reports:** **1) Director Thompson** stated that the Conservation and Education Committee stated that in addition to what will be discussed during item 6A of the Agenda, the committee also discussed a potential Social Media campaign that will integrate the Banning Bench and the White Water flume, and how it affects this region.

**6. New Business:**

**A. Consideration and Possible Action to Contract with Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD):** A staff report and a Contract for Performance of Water Conservation Public Outreach Programs for the 2020-21 Academic Year were included in the agenda packet. Director Thompson stated that in the past the Agency has budgeted \$15k for the Agency's classroom educational programs, which is administered by IERCD. This year the Committee is recommending, in addition to the 15k, that an additional \$10k be allotted for optional programs. General Manager Eckhart noted that we have contracted with IERCD for the past seven years to develop and implement classroom educational programs associated with resource management. The contract is basically doing the same curriculum as before, but with utilizing social distance learning in order to deal with the COVID-19 issue. The proposal also considers 3 optional programs for the 2020-21 fiscal year that could widely benefit the greater region. These optional programs are well within the IERCD's areas of competency and the local office has qualified staff to implement said optional programs. General Manager Eckhart provided a brief outline of what each of the optional programs would entail. Education Coordinator Jasmine Orozco Clark spoke on how IERCD is pivoting with COVID-19 for classroom discussions. She also provided some incite IERCD's social media for other agencies. IERCD's District Manager Mandy Parkes also provided additional information on social media for other agencies. Director Thompson made a motion, seconded by Director Castaldo to approve the contract for the academic year 2020-21, not to exceed \$25k. President Duncan asked for public comment. There being none this item was open for discussion with the Board members. President Duncan requested from IERCD to provide to the Board, sometime in the near future, an example of how the additional \$10k will be utilized. After discussion, President Duncan requested a roll call vote.

<b><u>Roll Call:</u></b>	<b><i>Aye</i></b>	<b><i>Noes</i></b>	<b><i>Absent</i></b>	<b><i>Abstain</i></b>
Director Castaldo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Lehtonen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Stephenson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Fenn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Director Thompson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion passed 6-1, with Director Stephenson opposed.

**B. Consideration and Possible Action of Cost Share Agreement with BCVWD on Sites Reservoir:** A staff report and a copy of the Sites Reservoir Project Participation in Phase 2 Reservoir Project Agreement were included in the agenda packet. General Manager Eckhart noted that the Board considered participation in Phase 2 of the Sites Reservoir Project on May 18, 2020. Phase 2 of the project will include major permitting work, environmental compliance and design work. BCVWD has been participating in the Sites project since 2018. The Agency is participating in the Sites project at 14k acre-feet; 10k will go to the Agency and 4k acre-feet will go to BCVWD. The Agency's share of Phase 2 is \$1 million; \$400k is BCVWD cost. BCVWD is concerned that if the Agency were to pull out of the project it would leave BCVWD with a stranded asset. Therefore, modifications to the original agreement between the Agency and the District were requested by the District. The modifications would allow the District to continue participation in the Sites project if the Agency was to opt out of future project phases. Staff is requesting that the Board authorize the General Manager to execute the Sites Reservoir Project Participation in Phase 2 Reservoir Project Agreement between the Agency and the District. President Duncan requested public comment. There being none discussion of this item ensued between the Board members. After discussion, Director Castaldo made a motion, seconded by Director Ball, to accept the contract as presented. President Duncan asked for a roll call vote.

<b><u>Roll Call:</u></b>	<b><u>Aye</u></b>	<b><u>Noes</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain</u></b>
Director Castaldo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Lehtonen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Stephenson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Fenn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Thompson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion passed 7-0.

**C. Consideration and Possible Action to Contract with Tully & Young for 2020 Urban Water Management Plan:** A staff report was included in the agenda packet. General Manager Eckhart stated that this item was initially discussed back in May 2020. At that time the Board considered the item and requested that staff present additional proposals for consideration. During the August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Engineering workshop three proposals and a PowerPoint presentation were presented to the Board. After discussion, the Committee recommended moving this item forward to the Board for discussion and possible action. General Manager Eckhart noted that Tully & Young has an extensive amount of experience on some of the larger issues dealing with Delta Conveyance, Delta Stewardship Councils, and water transfers.

Considering the area's foreseeable supply challenges, it will be important to the Agency and stakeholders to have a legally defensible approach to UWMP planning for the region. Tully & Young also provided the greatest value when considering costs and hours. Staff's recommendation is to contract with Tully & Young for the preparation of the Agency's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan for a cost not to exceed \$93k. President Duncan requested public comment. There being none discussion on this item was open to the Board members. Director Stephenson made a motion, seconded by Director Ball, to accept the contract as presented in the amount of \$93k. Discussion ensued among the Board members. After discussion, President Duncan requested a roll call vote.

<b><u>Roll Call:</u></b>	<b><u>Aye</u></b>	<b><u>Noes</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain</u></b>
Director Castaldo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Lehtonen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Stephenson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Fenn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Thompson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion passed 7-0.

**7. Topics for Future Agendas: None.**

**8. Announcements:**

- A. Finance & Budget Workshop, August 24 2020 at 1:30 p.m.  
– Teleconference/Zoom
- B. Office closed Monday, September 7, 2020 in Observance of Labor Day
- C. Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday September 8, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.  
– Teleconference/Zoom

**9. Adjournment**

**Time: 2:57 pm**

  
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Lance E. Eckhart, Secretary of the Board

gmr