

**SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY**  
**1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223**  
**Minutes of the**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**July 12, 2021, 1:30 p.m.**

IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS),  
AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20,  
THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM.

**Board Present:** Steve Lehtonen, President  
Board members Larry Smith, Vice President  
Attended by video Mickey Valdivia, Treasurer  
conferencing/ Blair Ball, Director  
teleconferencing Ron Duncan, Director  
Chander Letulle, Director  
Robert Ybarra, Director

**Staff Present:** Lance Eckhart, General Manager  
Staff members Tom Todd, Jr., Finance Manager  
attended by video Cheryle Stiff, Executive Assistant  
conferencing/ Jeff Ferre, General Counsel  
teleconferencing

- 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 Lehtonen at 1:30 pm, July 12, 2021, by video/teleconference. President Lehtonen led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. President Lehtonen gave the invocation. President Lehtonen requested a roll call.

<u><b>Roll Call:</b></u>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	
Director Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arrived at 1:46 pm
Director Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Director Letulle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Director Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Director Valdivia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Director Ybarra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
President Lehtonen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

A quorum was present.

- 2. Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda:** President Lehtonen asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. General Manager Eckhart responded, stating that there was no adjustment to the agenda.
- 3. Public Comment:** President Lehtonen asked for public comments on any matter within the Agency's jurisdiction. There were no public comments at this time.

**4. Consent Calendar:**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting, June 21, 2021.
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Finance and Budget Workshop, June 28, 2021

President Lehtonen asked for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Letulle made a motion, seconded by Director Duncan, to adopt the consent calendar as presented.

<u><b>Roll Call:</b></u>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Noes</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Director Ball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Letulle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Valdivia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Ybarra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President Lehtonen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion passed 6-0, with Director Ball absent.

**5. Reports:**

**A. General Manager’s Report:** General Manager Eckhart reported on the following:

- 1) **Announcement:** Thomas Todd’s new title is Chief Finance Officer.
- 2) **Drought Conditions:** As drought conditions intensify, Governor Newsom expanded the State’s Emergency Declaration, bring a total to 50 counties under a drought state of emergency. He is requesting a voluntary 15 percent reduction in water use.
- 3) **Legislative Bills:** Update on the type of bills related to Federal Infrastructure, California trailers bills for drought and COVID-19. Staff is looking into grant support.
- 4) **In-person meetings:** Working with a contractor for some design options in the board room.

**B. General Counsel’s Report:** General Counsel Ferre reported on the Governor’s current Executive Orders related to the Board meetings and the Brown Act. He also reported on the regulations related to mask requirements. General Counsel Ferre then addressed the Brown Act Requirements for Committee meetings. He concluded his report and answered questions from the Board.

**6. New Business:**

**A. Transfer of Property from the Former Beaumont Redevelopment Agency (RDA) to the City of Beaumont for a Public Purpose:** A staff report, and related materials, were included in the agenda packet. General Manager Eckhart introduced Economic Development Manager Kyle Warsinski to explain the City of Beaumont’s request about the RDA transfer of property from the Successor Agency RDA to the City for one dollar, with no compensation being due to the Agency. He provided background information on the formation of the RDAs and that they were dissolved in 2012, at which time the state of California set forth a plan in which the cities must dispose of their RDA

properties. He explained that the City of Beaumont had owned three properties, two of which were transferred immediately. The remaining property is adjacent to the City of Beaumont's Waste Water Treatment Plant. The intent is to transfer the property from the RDA to the City of Beaumont for a future expansion to the WWTP. Mr. Warsinski concluded his explanation of the request for the RDA transfer. President Lehtonen requested comments from the Board. After discussion, Director Smith made a motion, seconded by Director Duncan, to approve the agreement to transfer 52 acres (APN 417-030-034) from the City of Beaumont Successor Agency to the City of Beaumont. President Lehtonen requested public comment. There being none, he 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 Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Letulle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Valdivia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Ybarra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President Lehtonen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion passed 7-0

- B. Consideration of Resolution 2021-11, Revising the Investment Policy:** A staff report and Resolution No. 2021-11 were included in the agenda packet. General Manager Eckhart noted that this item was discussed at the last workshop and approved for Board consideration. President Lehtonen asked for comment from the Board on this item. There being none, Director Duncan made a motion, seconded by Director Ybarra, to adopt Resolution 2021-11. President Lehtonen asked for public comment. There being none, President Lehtonen 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 Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Letulle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Valdivia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Ybarra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President Lehtonen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion passed 7-0

- C. Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for FY 2021-22:** A staff report, was included in the agenda packet. President Lehtonen noted that this item was discussed at the last workshop, and approved for Board consideration. Chief Financial Officer Thomas Todd noted that the request is for a 3.5% COLA for Staff, excluding the General Manager, effective July 1, 2021, and effective January 1, 2022 for Directors. After discussion, Director Duncan made a

motion, seconded by Director Valdivia, to approve the COLA of 3.5% for FY 2021-22 for Staff and calendar year 2022 for Directors. President Lehtonen asked for public comment. There being none, President Lehtonen requested a roll call vote.

<b><u>Roll Call:</u></b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Noes</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Director Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Letulle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Valdivia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Ybarra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President Lehtonen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion passed 7-0

- D. Annual Appropriations Limit:** A staff report, a calculation sheet for the Appropriations Limit for FY ending 6/30/2022, and Resolution No. 2021-12 were included in the agenda packet. Chief Financial Officer Thomas Todd noted that each year the Board is required by a California Statute to set an appropriations limit and post the calculations for a minimum of fifteen days before Board consideration. After discussion, Director Valdivia made a motion, seconded by Director Duncan, to approve the Appropriations Limit for FY 2021-22 and Resolution 2021-12. President Lehtonen asked for public comment. There being none, President Lehtonen requested a roll call vote.

<b><u>Roll Call:</u></b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Noes</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Director Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Letulle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Valdivia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Ybarra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President Lehtonen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion passed 7-0

- E. Discussion of San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Law:** A staff report, a Pass Agency Law Highlights sheet and a copy of the Act were included in the agenda packet. General Manager Eckhart reviewed the history of the Agency and the Agency's Act.

**7. Reports – Directors**

- A. 1) Director Ybarra** noted that General Manager Eckhart will be the speaker at the Banning Chamber of Commerce on July 21<sup>st</sup> at Casa Cruz.
- B. Committee Reports: 1) President Lehtonen** stated that there is a change in the Committee assignments as follows: Director Letulle will replace Director Valdivia on the Recharge Facility Review Committee. In addition, Director

Valdivia will replace Director Letulle's position on the Conservation and Education Committee.

8. **Topics for Future Agendas:** Director Ybarra requested discussion on the number of paid meetings for Directors.
9. **Announcements**
  - A. Finance and Engineering Workshop, July 19, at 6:00 p.m.  
– Teleconference/Zoom
  - B. Regular Board Meeting, July 26, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. – Teleconference/Zoom
  - C. Regular Board Meeting, August 9, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. – Teleconference/Zoom
10. **Adjournment:** President Lehtonen adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

***Draft – Subject to Board Approval***

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Lance Eckhart, Secretary of the Board

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