

**SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY**  
**1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223**  
**Minutes of the**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**August 9, 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.

<b>Board Present:</b>	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

<b>Staff Present:</b>	Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Staff members	Tom Todd, Jr., Chief Financial Officer
attended by video	Cheryle Stiff, Executive Assistant
conferencing/	Jeff Ferre, General Counsel
teleconferencing	Maya Mouawad, General Counsel

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 Steve Lehtonen at 1:30 pm, August 9, 2021, by video/teleconference. President Lehtonen led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Director Ball gave the invocation. President Lehtonen requested a roll call.

<b><u>Roll Call:</u></b>	<b><i>Present</i></b>	<b><i>Absent</i></b>
Director Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 noted that item 7A will be preceding item 6A. He asked if there were any additional adjustments to the agenda. General Manager Eckhart responded, stating that there were no additional adjustments.
3. **Public Comment:** President Lehtonen asked for public comments on any matter within the Agency's jurisdiction. Kevin Walton (resident of Banning) commented in support of item 6A, maintaining the current tax rate.

4. **Consent Calendar:**

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting, July 26, 2021

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

<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.

5. **Reports:**

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

- 1) **Grant Consultant:** Kennedy Jenks has been retained for grant services.
- 2) **Agency IT Update:** Staff have received a preliminary design for modification of the Board and Conference rooms. Bids will be solicited in the near future. General Manager Eckhart remarked that he visited both Rancho Cucamonga Water District and BCVWD to review the changes that they have made to their conference and board rooms for teleconferencing capabilities.
- 3) **SGPWA Administrative Building Upgrade:** Painting has commenced.
- 4) **Announcement:** The So. Cal. Water Conference will take place on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. The keynote speaker is Jennifer Pierre.

B. **General Counsel's Report:** General Counsel Ferre introduced Maya Mouawad. Ms. Mouawad is an attorney with the Environmental Law & Natural Resources practice group at Best Best & Krieger LLP. She is observing today's meeting because Mr. Ferre will be on vacation next week and she will be present at the August 16<sup>th</sup> workshop. Mr. Ferre mentioned that a request was made by a member of the Board to discuss the number of days of service or number of days per month for which a Director can receive compensation at a future Board meeting. He noted that the Agency has two resolutions and two Ordinances. He recommended that the Ordinances be combined into one Ordinance, with updated information. He stated he will provide a report on the current Agency guidelines upon his return, and lead a discussion with the Board on streamlining these items. The Board could also discuss potential changes to the number of paid days of service. Any changes would require a public hearing and a new Ordinance passed by the Board.

6. **New Business:**

A. **Consider Contract Extension with the Inland Empire Resource**

**Conservation District for Fiscal Year 2021-22:** A staff report and related materials were included in the agenda packet. General Manager Eckhart state that Mandy Parkes (General Manager of IERCD) was present to answer any questions from the Board. He noted that this is the eighth year that the Agency is considering entering into a contract with IERCD. This year the contract is for an amount not to exceed \$25,000. On June 8, 2021 the Water Conservation and Education Committee reviewed the contract, and discussed the program in detail. The Committee decided by consensus to present this item for Board approval. After discussion, President Lehtonen requested a motion. Director Duncan made a motion, seconded by Director Valdivia, to approve the contract with IERCD for Fiscal Year 2021-22. President Lehtonen requested public comment. There being none, he 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 6-1, with Director Letulle opposed.

## 7. Old Business:

- A. Setting Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2021-22, Resolution 2021-13:** A staff report, Resolution 2021-12, and a PowerPoint presentation were included in the agenda packet. General Manager Eckhart noted that this item was presented at the July 26, 2021 Board meeting and at that time, the Board requested additional information. General Manager Eckhart remarked that the Board adopted the budget for the General Fund on June 21, 2021, and the budget for the Debt Service Fund on July 26, 2021. The Debt Service Fund is used to pay for all State Water Project-related costs. The Board reviews the Debt Service Budget and then decides on a rate that will provide sufficient income to meet the Agency obligations for the State Water Project and related expenses. The Board action today is to set the tax rate. General Manager Eckhart detailed the projected costs of the Debt Service Fund and reviewed projected growth in the area. The Board was provided with three different tax rate scenarios (17.50, 17.25, and 17.00 cents per \$100 of the assessed value) for a median house value of \$400,000. Staff recommendation is that the Board approve Resolution 2021-13, maintaining the tax rate at 17.50. General Manager Eckhart concluded his presentation. President Lehtonen asked for public comment. He read an email from David Fenn (resident of Beaumont); Mr. Fenn was opposed to maintaining the current tax rate and was in favor of lowering the tax rate to 17.00 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Joyce McIntyre (resident of Calimesa) was also opposed to maintaining the current tax rate and was in favor of lowering the tax rate. Kevin Walton (resident of Banning) reiterated his support for maintaining the current tax rate. Dan Jagers (General Manager – BCVWD) stated that he believes that staff has made a good recommendation, due to the uncertainty of the economy. President Lehtonen requested any further public comment. There being none,

he opened this item up to Board discussion. President Lehtonen responded to Mr. Fenn's email in order to correct a couple of Mr. Fenn's statements. After discussion from the Board, Director Ball made a motion to approve a tax rate of 17.00 cents per \$100 of assessed value for fiscal year 2021-22. President Lehtonen asked for a second on the motion. There being none, the motion died for lack of a second. Director Letulle made a motion, seconded by Director Valdivia, to approve a tax rate of 17.50 cents per \$100 of assessed value as recommended by staff. After discussion, 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 6-1, with Director Ball opposed.

## 8. Reports – Directors

A. **1) President Lehtonen** noted that there will be a General Manager Ad-hoc Committee meeting next week.

B. **Committee Reports: 1) Director Ybarra** stated that there was a Capital Improvement Committee meeting on August 6th. He informed the Board that the Committee will be meeting every two weeks, until further notice.

**2) Director Valdivia** reported that he attended a meeting on August 6th about a multi-use flood control and imported water facility in the Calimesa area. He noted that he will not be able to attend next Monday's meeting. He requested that Director Smith run his portion of the meeting. Director Smith acknowledged the request.

## 9. Topics for Future Agendas: None

## 10. Announcements

A. Water Conservation and Education Committee Meeting, August 10, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. - Teleconference/Zoom

B. Finance & Engineering Workshop, August 16, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. - Teleconference/Zoom

C. Board Meeting, August 23, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. - Teleconference/Zoom

11. **Adjournment:** President Lehtonen adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.



Lance Eckhart, Secretary of the Board