

**SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY**  
**1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223**  
**Minutes of the**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**October 11, 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., Chief Financial Officer  
attended by video Cheryle Stiff, Executive Assistant  
conferencing/ Jeff Ferre, Legal 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 Steve Lehtonen at 1:30 pm, October 11, 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.

| <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 asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. General Manager Eckhart stated that there were no adjustments.
- 3. Public Comment:** President Lehtonen asked for public comment on any matter within the Agency's jurisdiction that is not on the agenda. He informed the public that there will be an opportunity to comment on specific agenda items, as the items are addressed. There was no public comment.

4. **Consent Calendar:**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, September 27, 2021.

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

| <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"/> |

The motion passed 7-0.

5. **Reports:**

- A. **General Manager's Report:** General Manager Eckhart stated that he will pass on reporting today.

- B. **Legal Counsel's Report:** Legal Counsel Jeff Ferre stated that he will pass on reporting today.

6. **New Business:**

- A. **Conduct a Public Hearing: Consideration and Possible Action to Adopt Ordinance No. 17 Increasing the Number of Days for which a Board Member may Receive Per Diem Compensation and Updating Definitions of Meetings and Days of Service which are Eligible for Per Diem Compensation:** Legal Counsel introduced this matter by going over the staff report and the proposed ordinance. Following the staff report, President Lehtonen thanked the public for attending today's meeting. He noted that having a public hearing today by teleconferencing is a bit challenging. He had been presented with an alternative, whereby the public hearing would be postponed and held at a venue that would allow both in-person and virtual public attendance. President Lehtonen made a motion, seconded by Director Ball, to continue the meeting until November 8, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. at the office of the Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District. President Lehtonen requested public comment. The following individuals spoke: Greg Eccles, James Krausz, Danelia Andrede, Laura Leindecker, Collen Wallace, Julie Hutchinson, Jim Tickemyer, Michael Thompson, Joyce McIntire, and Steve Mehlman. Vice President Smith made a substitute motion to continue the public hearing during today's meeting as publicly notified. Director Duncan seconded the motion. After discussion by the Board, President Lehtonen requested a roll call vote on the substitute motion.

| <b><u>Roll Call:</u></b> | <b>Aye</b>                          | <b>Noes</b>                         | <b>Absent</b>            | <b>Abstain</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 type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

The substitute motion passed 5-1-1, with Director Ball opposed, and President Lehtonen abstaining.

**Public Hearing Time: 2:04 p.m.**

President Lehtonen opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance 17 at 2:04 p.m. Counsel Ferre advised the Board on how to conduct the public hearing and stated that this is the time to receive public comment. President Lehtonen requested verbal public comment. The following individuals spoke: Collen Wallace, Laura Leindecker, Daniela Andrade, Gregory (last name not given), Steve Mehlman, Lynette Simonson, James Krausz, and Glenn Stull. General Manager Eckhart informed the Board that the Agency received thirty-six written public comments. He read each one, except for those individuals who were present and had submitted letters and wished to read their own. Letters were received from the following members of the public: Janice Felker, Stuart Grimstad, Robert and Sheila Wines, John Reininger, Susan Gagnon, James Thurow, Katherine Talkington, Terry Dabbs, Co-writers Lloyd White and David Fenn, Mary Pickett, Donna Thornbury, Rosemary Peterson, Jacqueline Gilliland, Rhea Weber, Harry Kulda, Charlotte Schweder, Lynette Simonson, David Hoffman, Roswitha Alejandre, Mayda Cox, James Jackson, David Diefendorf, Kathleen Wells, Bill and Barbara Brown, Barbara Elness, Margaret Maher, Inge Schuler, Carmela Cunningham, Sarah Godbold, Sharon Hamilton, Jowie (last name not provided), Carol Betz, Cynthia Kuran, Michael Thompson, Frank Burgess, and James Krausz. **President Lehtonen closed the Public Hearing at 3:15 p.m.** President Lehtonen requested comments from the Board. The Board discussed the proposed Ordinance. After discussion, President Lehtonen requested a motion. Director Ball made a motion to deny the ten meetings and stay with five. The motion died for a lack of a second. Director Ybarra made a motion, seconded by Director Letulle, to adopt Ordinance No. 17. 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 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"/> |

The motion passed 6-1, with Director Ball opposed.

- B. Adoption of Resolution No. 2021-18 Authorizing Remote Teleconference/Virtual Meetings of San Geronio Pass Water Agency Legislative Bodies for the Period of October 11, 2021, to November 10, 2021:** Legal Counsel presented the staff report and the proposed Resolution No. 2021-18 which would implement AB361 and provide the option to continue with virtual meetings, as long as the current COVID State of Emergency remains in place. If this resolution is adopted, it will need to be reestablished every 30 days. The Board then discussed this matter. President Lehtonen made a motion, seconded by Vice President Smith to approve Resolution No. 2021-18. President Lehtonen requested public comment. David Fenn spoke. After further 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 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"/> |

The motion passed 7-0.

- C. Adoption of Board of Directors Technology Use Policy for Agency-Owned Electronic Devices:** A staff report, and a proposed Policy for Agency-Owned Electronic Devices were presented by General Manager Eckhart. He noted that since the onset of COVID-19, the use of technology to conduct Agency business has accelerated and that it has been an ongoing technological challenge. President Lehtonen requested public comment. Kevin Walton spoke. President Lehtonen requested comments from the Board. After discussion, Vice President Smith made a motion, seconded by Director Letulle, to adopt the Board of Directors Technology Use Policy for Agency-Owned Electronic Devices. 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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"/>            |

The motion passed 6-1, with Director Ball abstaining.

- D. Adoption of Resolution No. 2021-19 Establishing a Recommended Earlier Schedule for the Posting and Distribution of Agendas and Materials:** A staff report and the proposed Resolution No. 2021-19 were presented. President Lehtonen referred to Director Valdivia since he initiated this agenda item. Director Valdivia then made a number of comments regarding this proposal. This resolution would formalize agenda posting directives which would recommend that the agenda be posted and the agenda packet be distributed at least 96 hours in advance of a Regular board meeting whenever reasonably possible. President Lehtonen requested public comment. Kevin Walton spoke. President Lehtonen requested comments from the Board. Vice President Smith requested a revision to the resolution to replace the recommendation language of '96 hours in advance' with language to the effect of 'the Thursday before the Regular Board meeting.' After further discussion, it was proposed that language be added providing a recommendation to the effect of 'the end of business day on Thursday.' After further discussion, President Lehtonen requested a motion. Director Ball made a motion, seconded by Director Ybarra to adopt Resolution No. 2021-19 with the amendment adding language that included 'at least by the end of the business day on Thursday in advance of regular meetings' to the existing language of '96 hours in advance.' After further 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 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"/> |

The motion passed 7-0.

**7. Reports – Director Reports and Committee Reports**

**A. 1) Vice President Smith** reported on a meeting that he attended at the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. Senator Ochoa-Bogh spent a full day at SBVMWD educating herself on water issues. He also reported on the Special District Leadership Academy. **2) Director Duncan** reported on the Capital Improvement Meeting. He stated that the Water Conservation and Education Committee meeting will be held tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. **3) Director Valdivia** reported on the Beaumont Chamber Breakfast that he attended. He noted that the corner of Brookside Avenue and Beaumont Avenue is congested with students and would like to see walkways for student safety. **4) Director Ball** commented that the Feasibility Study Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. **5) Director Ybarra** asked General Manager Eckhart to report on what took place at the Capital Improvement meeting. General Manager Eckhart stated that the Agency is considering collaborating with South Mesa Water Company, City of Calimesa, and Riverside County Flood Control for basin recharge. He also updated the Board on the Backbone pipeline project. Director Ybarra noted that he is working with a group on new technology to help with the drought that we are

experiencing.

**8. Topics for Future Agendas:** Director Ball requested information on BHMWC and the video drone project. Director Valdivia requested an update on the City of Beaumont's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

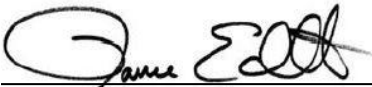
**9. Announcements**

**A.** Water Conservation and Education Committee Meeting, October 12, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. - Teleconference/Zoom

**B.** Finance & Engineering Workshop, October 18, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.  
- Teleconference/Zoom

**C.** Board Meeting, October 25, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. - Teleconference/Zoom

**10. Adjournment:** President Lehtonen adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.



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Lance Eckhart, Secretary of the Board

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