

SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY
1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
November 8, 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 attended by video conferencing/
teleconferencing Larry Smith, Vice President
Mickey Valdivia, Treasurer
Blair Ball, Director
Ron Duncan, Director
Chander Letulle, Director
Robert Ybarra, Director

Staff Present: Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Staff members attended by video conferencing Tom Todd, Jr., Chief Financial Officer
Jeff Ferre, Legal Counsel

Consultants Present: Sam Gershon, Albert Webb & Associates
Consultants attended by video conferencing Sinnaro Yos, Albert Webb & Associates

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, November 8, 2021, by video/teleconference. Director Letulle led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Director Duncan gave the invocation. President Lehtonen requested a roll call.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
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"/>
Treasurer 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. There was no public comment.

4. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, October 25, 2021.
- B. Adoption of Resolution No. 2021-20 of the Board of Directors of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference/Virtual Meetings of the Pass Water Agency Legislative Bodies for the Period of November 8, 2021 to December 7, 2021 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions.

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

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Aye	Noes	Absent	Abstain
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"/>
Treasurer 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: Mr. Eckhart reported on the recent storm and the status of Agency-installed K-rails. Riverside County is in the process of redistricting, and he will be attending the public hearing on November 9 to make comments on the importance of not dividing communities between different county districts.
- B. Legal Counsel’s Report: Legal Counsel Jeff Ferre reported on SB274, which updates the Brown Act to include email delivery of agendas.

6. New Business

- A. Election of ACWA Officer for 2022-2023: The Board selected Vice President Smith to be the primary representative to vote for ACWA Officers at the upcoming ACWA Conference, and selected Treasurer Valdivia to be the secondary representative. After discussion, a motion was made by Director Duncan, seconded by Director Ybarra to accept the slate as proposed by the current ACWA Board.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Aye	Noes	Absent	Abstain
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"/>
Treasurer 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

The motion passed 7-0.

- B. Awarding of Contract to Albert A. Webb and Associates for a Backbone Water System Feasibility Study: A staff report and the proposed contract were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Eckhart introduced the topic, and gave a brief overview of the scope of work. He introduced Mr. Sam Gershon of Albert Webb and Associates, and highlighted Mr. Gershon’s decades of involvement with various aspects of the proposed project. Mr. Gershon gave a brief overview of the proposed project. President Lehtonen requested comments from the Board. The Board discussed various aspects of the proposed project. President Lehtonen requested public comment. Mr. Art Vela, City of Banning, Mr. John Covington and Mr. Kevin Walton spoke. After further discussion, President Lehtonen requested a motion. Director Duncan made a motion, seconded by Director Ybarra, to award the proposed contract for a Backbone Water System Feasibility Study to Albert Webb and Associates. President Lehtonen requested a roll call vote.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Aye	Noes	Absent	Abstain
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"/>
Treasurer 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. Joint Funding Agreement Between SGPWA and the USGS for the Annual Extension of the Cooperative Water Resources Program: A staff report and draft contract were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Eckhart reviewed the Agency’s involvement with the USGS monitoring program, noting our decades-long involvement with measuring and monitoring the water level in the Agency’s service area. He also noted that this contract reduces the overall cost compared to previous years and increases the USGS matching amount. President Lehtonen requested Board comment. The Board discussed various aspects of the proposed contract. President Lehtonen requested public comment. There was no public comment. President Lehtonen requested a motion. Director Duncan made a motion, seconded by Vice-President Smith, to approve the Joint Funding Agreement between SGPWA and the USGS for the Annual Extension of the Cooperative Water Resources Program. President Lehtonen requested a roll call vote.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Aye	Noes	Absent	Abstain
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"/>
Treasurer 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) Director Ball attended the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District meeting on October 28, 2021. He also attended the Financial Feasibility Committee meeting on November 2, 2021. 2) Director Ybarra attended the San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance meeting on November 3, 2021. 3) Director Smith attended the BCVWD Finance Committee meeting. 4) Treasurer Valdivia attended the Collaborative Agencies meeting on November 3, 2021, and the City of Banning Council meeting, and the Good Morning Banning Breakfast.

8. Topics for Future Agendas

President Lehtonen reminded the Board that the General Manager’s Goals & Objectives still needed to be reviewed and suggested scheduling a Closed Session on December 13 for that purpose.

9. Announcements

President Lehtonen reviewed the announcements:

- A. Finance and Engineering Workshop, November 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. - Teleconference/Zoom
- B. Regular Board Meeting, November 22, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. - Teleconference/Zoom
- C. The office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday, Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26, 2021
- D. 2021 ACWA Fall Conference, November 30, 2021 through December 2, 2021
- E. Beaumont, November 11, 2021, Veteran’s Day Parade

10. Closed Session

A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, Legal Counsel

- The Board adjourned to closed session at 2:56 p.m.
- The Board opened the closed session at 3:02 p.m.
- The Board adjourned from closed session at 4:08 p.m.
- The Board reconvened to open session at 4:11 p.m.

President Lehtonen stated that the Board conducted the closed session for Item 10. A and there was no reportable action.

11. Adjournment: President Lehtonen adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Draft – Subject to Board Approval

Lance Eckhart, Secretary of the Board

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