

SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY
1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223
Minutes of the Board of Directors
January 24, 2022

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: Larry Smith, President
All participants attended by video conferencing/teleconferencing: Mickey Valdivia, Vice President
Chander Letulle, Treasurer
Blair M Ball, Director
Ron Duncan, Director
Stephen Lehtonen, Director
Robert Ybarra, Director

Staff Present: Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Tom Todd, Jr., Chief Financial Officer
Cheryle Stiff, Executive Assistant

Consultants Present: Jeff Ferre, Legal Counsel

1. Call to Order, Flag Salute, Invocation, and Roll Call

The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Board President Larry Smith at 1:30 p.m., January 24, 2022, by video/teleconference. Director Lehtonen led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Director Lehtonen gave the invocation. President Smith requested a roll call.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Present	Absent
Director Ball	☒	☐
Director Duncan	☒	☐
Director Lehtonen	☒	☐
Treasurer Letulle	☒	☐
Vice President Valdivia	☒	☐
Director Ybarra	☒	☐
President Smith	☒	☐

A quorum was present.

2. Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as published.

3. Public Comment

President Smith asked for public comment on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Agency. Jeff Davis (SGPWA former General Manager) noted that he has a conflict during this meeting, and he wished to speak on an item that is on the agenda. Mr. Davis spoke on Director Lehtonen resigning from the Board. Mr. Davis stated that he appreciated Director Lehtonen's many years of service to the San Gorgonio Pass region. He always brought a great deal of common-sense

during board discussion and actions. He had the best interest of the ratepayers in mind, at the same time he recognized that the Agency needed to be financially sound for the long-term. Director Lehtonen thanked Mr. Davis for his comments. There were no further public comments.

4. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, January 10, 2022

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Finance and Engineering Workshop, January 18, 2022

Vice President Valdivia requested that item 4. C be removed from the consent calendar for comment and moved to accept the balance of the consent calendar. Director Duncan seconded the motion. President Smith requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
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"/>
Treasurer Letulle	<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"/>
Vice President 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 Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The motion passed, 7 – 0.

C. Adopt Resolution 2022-01 of the Board of Directors of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference/Virtual Meetings of Pass Water Agency Legislative Bodies for the Period of January 10, 2022 to February 8, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions.

Vice President Valdivia requested that future resolutions included the title of the resolution signers. He then made a motion to accept item 4.C. Director Duncan seconded the motion. President Smith requested a roll call.

Roll Call	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
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"/>
Treasurer Letulle	<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"/>
Vice President 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 Smith	<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 announced that the Department of Water Resources increased the Table A water delivery allocation from 0% to 15%. He noted that the Agency will be moving some water this year, due to the allocation increase.

B. Legal Counsel's Report: None.

6. Election of Board Officers

A. Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Program (Mark Norton)

President Smith introduced Mark Norton. Mr. Norton is the Water Resources and Planning Manager for the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA). SAWPA is a Joint Powers Authority with five member agencies. He reviewed SAWPA's purpose. He stated that SAWPA oversees the Inland Empire Brine Line, which is an effective and economical way to dispose of salty wastewater. Salt removal is important for protecting water quality and meeting regulatory requirements. The Brine Line removes 500,000 pounds of salt per day from the watershed by transporting salty wastewater to a wastewater treatment plant operated by the Orange County Sanitation District. SAWPA is also involved in multi-agency task forces. SAWPA is the main administrator of grant funding from the state that falls within the integrated regional water management program. He introduced today's topic, a pilot program for cloud seeding. Mr. Norton spoke on the history of cloud seeding and described locations where cloud seeding is currently taking place. He explained various methods, including ground-based seeding methods, and which methods seem to be most effective. He also described potential liability issues, potential environmental impacts, and potential health impacts. Studies on the results of cloud seeding have shown favorable results. The Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot Program proposal includes a Feasibility Study (2020), CWQA and Ground Seeding Siting (2021-2022), Outreach and Public Engagement (2021-2025), Prop 1 Round 2 Grant Application (2022), and a 4-year Pilot Study (2022-2025). Mr. Norton stated that the purpose of today's presentation is to reach out to public agencies within the Santa Ana Watershed to see if they would be willing to contribute funding to this program. He noted that a Prop 1 Grant may cover around fifty percent of the cost. He suggested a \$10,000 contribution from the Agency. Mr. Norton concluded his presentation and answered questions from the Board and members of the public. President Smith requested that this item be brought back to the Board at a future meeting. Mr. Eckhart stated that he will bring this item to the Board as part of the budget process for FY 2022-23.

B. Redistricting (Stephanie Smith – BB&K)

President Smith introduced Stephanie Smith to speak on this topic. Ms. Smith reminded the Board that every ten years, agencies that elect representatives by district must redraw the boundary lines following the Census; the deadline to adopt and submit the map to the Registrar of Voters is April 17, 2022. Ms. Smith reviewed the redistricting process, status of current divisions, and the timeline required to meet deadlines. Ms. Smith answered questions from the Board and members of the public. President Smith requested public comment. There was

none. President Smith requested comments from the Board. The current schedule of meetings starts with the first Public Hearing on February 14th and continues with the seconded Public Hearing on February 28th. Ms. Smith confirmed with the Board that she will prepare for Board review, a population balanced map that respects the known communities of interest.

C. Decision to Fill Division 3 Director Vacancy

President Smith called upon Legal Counsel Ferre to discuss this item. Mr. Ferre stated that Director Lehtonen has submitted a letter of resignation letter effective at the end of today’s meeting. The Division 3 seat is up for election November 2022. Under Government Code the Board has the option to fill the vacancy by appointment or to call an election. The Board may make an appointment within 60 days after the date of the vacancy; therefore, the Board has until March 25, 2022, to fill the board seat by appointment. The Notice of Vacancy must be posted in three places at least fifteen days prior to making an appointment. Mr. Ferre also provided information on an election process, and on a County Supervisor appointment. President Smith asked for public comment. Joyce McIntyre spoke on Director Lehtonen’s retirement. There was no other public comment. President Smith asked for Board comment. Vice President Valdivia made a motion to move on staff’s recommendation. Director Duncan thanked Director Lehtonen for his leadership. After Board discussion, Director Duncan seconded the motion. President Smith requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
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"/>
Treasurer Letulle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Lehtonen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President 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 Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The motion passed, 6 – 0, with Director Lehtonen abstaining.

D. 2022 Board Calendar

Mr. Eckhart noted that the calendar represents board meeting times and holidays. President Smith asked for Board comment. There was none. The 2022 Board meeting calendar was received and filed.

E. Committee Appointments

President Smith noted that this is a first draft and asked that the Board members review it at their leisure. If a Board member has a question about the assignments, they are to contact him. A copy of the committee list will be sent to board members after today’s meeting.

F. Adoption and Presentation of Resolution No. 2022-04 Honoring Steve Lehtonen

Mr. Eckhart spoke on the notable accomplishments that took place while Director Lehtonen was Board President. President Smith read the Resolution. He thanked Director Lehtonen for his leadership during 2021. Directors Ybarra, Valdivia, and Ball also thanked Director Lehtonen for his leadership, and commented on his attributes. Members of the public, Dan Jagers, John Covington, and Kevin Walton also complimented Director Lehtonen on his leadership. Director Lehtonen thanked everyone for their kind remarks. He confirmed that he was on the board for five years. He noted that he is most proud of a concerted effort to encourage a positive working relationship with the Agency’s water retailers. President Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-04, with the noted change from four years of service to five years. Director Duncan seconded the motion. President Smith requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
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"/>
Treasurer Letulle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Lehtonen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President 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 Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The motion passed, 6 – 0, with Director Lehtonen abstaining.

7. Reports

A. Directors and Committee Reports

Director Duncan reported that he attended the Beaumont Basin Water Master meeting on January 5th. He attended the GSA meeting on January 11th & 12th. He attended the Calimesa Installation dinner, Good Morning Beaumont on January 14th, Finance and Engineering meeting on the 18th, and today’s Board meeting. **Director Ball** reported on the BCVWD Board meeting that he attended. **Director Valdivia** noted that he called Lenity I.T., he was impressed with their level of service. He attended the GSA meeting on January 12th, the Southern California Water Coalition on January 21st, and the Calimesa Installation dinner. **President Smith** reported that he attended both GSA meetings, the Beaumont Basin Watermaster meeting, and the YVWD Board meeting. **Director Ybarra** reported that he attended the GSA meeting on January 12th, and the Calimesa Installation dinner. He announced there will be a Banning Chamber Breakfast on Wednesday morning.

8. Topics for Future Agendas

Mr. Eckhart informed the Board that he removed the request for a discussion about the Reserve Allocation report from the Pending Items list. The discussion on this item will be included in the budget process for FY 2022-23.

9. Announcements

Director Letulle reviewed the announcements:

- A. Water Conservation and Education Workshop, February 8, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
– Teleconference/Zoom
- B. Regular Board Meeting, February 14, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
– Teleconference/Zoom
- C. Office closed February 21, 2022 in observance of Presidents' Day
- D. Finance and Engineering Workshop, February 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
– Teleconference/Zoom

10. Adjournment

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.



Lance Eckhart, Secretary of the Board

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