

**SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY**  
**1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors**  
**February 14, 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 (arrived: 1:34 pm)  
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:** Maya Mouawad, 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., February 14, 2022, by video/teleconference. President Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Director Letulle gave the invocation. President Smith requested a roll call.

<b><i>Roll Call</i></b>	<b><i>Ayes</i></b>	<b><i>Absent</i></b>
Director Ball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Director Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer Letulle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President Valdivia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Ybarra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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. There was no public comment.

**4. Consent Calendar**

**A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, January 24, 2022

- B. Adopt Resolution No. 2022-05 of the Board of Directors of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference/Virtual Meetings of Pass Water Agency Legislative Bodies for the Period of February 14, 2022 to March 16, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions
- C. Approval of Change Order with Inland Empire Resource Conservation District for FY 2021-22

Director Letulle made a motion to accept the consent calendar. Director Duncan seconded the motion. President Smith requested a roll call vote.

<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Noes</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</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"/>
Treasurer Letulle	<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, 5 – 0, with Director Ball not yet present.

**5. Reports**

**A. General Manager's Report:** None.

**B. Legal Counsel's Report:** None.

**6. New Business**

**A. Public Hearing No. 1 – Redistricting (Stephanie Smith, BB&K)**

President Smith introduced Ms. Smith. Ms. Smith reminded the Board that the deadline to adopt and submit the redistricting map to the Registrar of Voters is April 17, 2022. The Board had previously reviewed two map options on January 28, 2022. She discussed the redistricting process, the status of current divisions, redistricting rules and goals, and a chart on existing divisions with 2020 Census data. Ms. Smith noted the findings from the data, stating that the total deviation is above the acceptable range of 10% at 31.26%. She presented the Board with two draft maps. Map option 1 would be within the acceptable range of 10% at 4.11%; Map option 2 would be within the acceptable range of 10% at 1.09%. Ms. Smith stated that the Board may request revisions or ask for new maps be drawn. The Board may also consider selecting one of the two map options presented and adopt the map at the second public hearing, to be held on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Smith concluded her presentation. After clarifying questions from the Board, President Smith opened the Public Hearing at 1:52 p.m. President Smith requested public comment. There was no public comment. President Smith closed the Public Hearing at 1:53 p.m. President Smith asked for Board discussion. After Board discussion, Director Valdivia made a motion for continued discussion on the two map options presented by Ms. Smith with two additional maps that would achieve the majority/minority in either District One or District Two. President Smith requested a roll call vote.

<b><i>Roll Call</i></b>	<b><i>Ayes</i></b>	<b><i>Noes</i></b>	<b><i>Abstain</i></b>	<b><i>Absent</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"/>
Treasurer Letulle	<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, 6 – 0.				

**B. Potential Agreement with Cabazon Water District to Assist with the Utilization of Authorized Grant Funding**

General Manager Eckhart informed the Board that the Cabazon Water District (CWD) has received two grants from the State of California. The two grants will provide funding for a Well Improvements Project (test wells, well refurbishment design, and 1-10 transmission line design) in the amount of \$499,000, and an Isolation Valve Improvement Project (installation of 105 isolation valves) in the amount of \$1,230,000. He noted that the City of Banning acts as the regional administrator of the area's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). City staff informed Agency staff that although CWD had been approved for two separate grants, cash flow to fund the work between reimbursement cycles is a challenge for CWD. Agency staff contacted both the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), administrators of the grants, to discuss options to utilize the grant funding. Both entities expressed the challenges of working with small water districts located in disadvantaged communities. Additionally, both entities indicated that "gap funding" by regional entities has become a common and often necessary component for smaller water systems to utilize state funding and were supportive of a regional entity assisting grant implementation for smaller systems within its service area. Because CWD may not be able to pay for these projects as invoices are presented, a potential solution to a cash flow issue is to allow the Agency to provide gap funding. General Manager Eckhart explained the fiscal impact and repayment process. He noted that this is an informational item only and no binding Board action is being requested at this time. Staff is requesting Board authorization to continue discussions with local stakeholders, which could lead to the consideration of an agreement in the future. President Smith requested public comment. There was no public comment. President Smith requested Board discussion. After discussion, President Smith requested a motion. Director Ball made a motion for staff to proceed with discussions, and to provide more financial information about the two grants. President Smith requested a roll call vote.

<b><i>Roll Call</i></b>	<b><i>Ayes</i></b>	<b><i>Noes</i></b>	<b><i>Abstain</i></b>	<b><i>Absent</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"/>
Treasurer Letulle	<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, 6 – 0.

**C. Cost-Sharing Agreement to Manage the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Mr. Eckhart reviewed background information on this item. There are four members for the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) (SGPWA, City of Banning, Cabazon Water District, and Banning Heights Mutual Water Company). There are two members for the Verbenia GSA (SGPWA and Mission Springs Water District). There is one member of the Desert Water GSA, Desert Water Agency. These six entities participated in the preparation of the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Mr. Eckhart noted that the majority of work associated with the GSP preparation was funded by a \$1,000,000 grant. He reviewed the cost-sharing agreement that would be presented to the various participants, noting that the Agency will be paying 1/3 of the cost and the remainder will be equally shared by the other participants. President Smith requested clarifying questions from the Board. There were none. President Smith requested public comment. There was no public comment. President Smith requested board discussion. After discussion, Director Valdivia made a motion to authorize implementation of a cost-sharing agreement for the management of the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Director Duncan seconded the motion. President Smith requested a roll call vote.

<b><i>Roll Call</i></b>	<b><i>Ayes</i></b>	<b><i>Noes</i></b>	<b><i>Abstain</i></b>	<b><i>Absent</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"/>
Treasurer Letulle	<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, 6 – 0.

**D. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Change Order and Year 1 Annual Report Proposal for the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Mr. Eckhart noted that most of the GSP was paid for by a \$1,000,000 grant from DWR. The cost to develop the GSP so far is about \$1,080,000. Additional invoices are expected from sub-contractors. Estimated costs associated with the completion of the GSP are expected to be no more than \$30,000. The Agency's portion of the cost should not exceed \$10,000. A first annual report is due on April 1, 2022. Provost & Pritchard has submitted a proposal to perform the Annual Report for \$79,000. The Agency's portion for the first annual report would be \$26,334. President Smith requested public comment. There was no public comment. President Smith requested Board discussion. Director Letulle requested more clarity when discussing potential changes to the fiscal year budget in the future. After discussion, Director Duncan made a motion to approve the anticipated change order associated with the GSP finalization and accept the proposal from Provost and Pritchard to prepare the first GSP Annual Report. The

motion was seconded by Director Ybarra. President Smith requested a roll call vote.

<b><i>Roll Call</i></b>	<b><i>Ayes</i></b>	<b><i>Noes</i></b>	<b><i>Abstain</i></b>	<b><i>Absent</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"/>
Treasurer Letulle	<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, 6 – 0.				

## **7. Reports**

### **A. Directors and Committee Reports**

**Director Duncan** reported that he attended YVWD's meeting held on February 1, 2022, the Watermaster meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Calimesa Chamber Breakfast, and Good Morning Beaumont. **President Smith** reported on the City of Calimesa meeting he attended. **Director Valdivia** reported on the Riverside County Zone 5 tour, the I-10 Bypass, and the Banning and Beaumont Chamber breakfast meetings. He congratulated Director Ybarra on the Record Gazette news article. **Director Ball** reported on the YVWD meeting he attended on January 27<sup>th</sup>. **Director Letulle** reported on the February 9<sup>th</sup> BCVWD meeting. **Director Ybarra** reported on the Calimesa Chamber Breakfast and the Banning City Council meeting. He announced that the Banning Chamber of Commerce will be holding its Installation Dinner on March 31. Director Duncan and Suzanne Duncan have been chosen for Volunteers of the Year. Mr. Eckhart noted that Dan Jagers (General Manager, BCVWD) requested that he speak to his Board about the Sites Reservoir. The meeting will take place on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

## **8. Topics for Future Agendas**

Director Valdivia requested that the ACWA redistricting be removed from the pending items list. President Smith requested that discussion on the Finance and Engineering meeting times be addressed soon.

## **9. Announcements**

President Smith reviewed the announcements:

- A. Office will be closed February 21, 2022 in observance of Presidents' Day
- B. Finance and Engineering Workshop, February 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
  - Teleconference/Zoom
- C. Regular Board Meeting, February 28, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
  - Teleconference/Zoom

President Smith announced that the Board will adjourn to Closed Session. The Board recessed at 3:21 p.m.

**10. Closed Session – (1 Item)**

**A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Real Property – Water Rights/Supplies: State Water Project Water  
and Non-State Water Project Water

Agency negotiator – Lance Eckhart, General Manager

Negotiating parties: City of Ventura

Under negotiation: price and terms of payment

The Board convened to closed session at 3:27 p.m.

The Board adjourned from closed session at 4:23 p.m.

The Board reconvened to open session at 4:24 p.m.

Legal Counsel Mouawad stated that there was no action taken during Closed Session that is reportable under the Brown Act.

**11. Adjournment**

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lance Eckhart", written over a horizontal line.

Lance Eckhart, Secretary of the Board

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