

SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY
1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223
Minutes of the Board of Directors
March 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
Ron Duncan, Director
Kevin Walton, 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., March 14, 2022, by video/teleconference. Director Letulle led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Director Letulle gave the invocation. President Smith requested a roll call.

Roll Call	Present	Absent
Director Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (arrived: 1:40 pm)
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 Walton	<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. Staff read an electronic public comment that was submitted by David Castaldo. Mr. Castaldo congratulated Director Walton on his appointment to the Board.

4. Consent Calendar

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, February 28, 2022
- B.** Adopt Resolution No. 2022-06 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 March 14, 2022 to April 12, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions

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

Roll Call	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
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 Walton	<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 Ball not yet present.

5. Reports

A. General Manager’s Report: General Manager Eckhart referenced the letter from Karla Nemeth (Director, SWC) that was included in the agenda packet. He noted that January and February of 2022 were the driest months in more than 100 years. The latest snow pack survey came in at 63% of average.

B. Legal Counsel’s Report: None.

6. New Business

A. 2022 Inland Solar Challenge Sponsorship (Devin Arciniega, Chair)

President Smith introduced item 6A. Mr. Eckhart introduced Devin Arciniega (Chair, 2022 Inland Solar Challenge). Ms. Arciniega noted that the solar challenge is structured for the students to come up with innovative ideas while providing a positive forum to implement their problem-solving and creativity skills, by building solar boats. She gave a presentation that explained their Mission, the Educational Program, Careers, Technical Reports, and Water Conservation. This year the event marks its tenth year. There are seven schools, including Banning High School, participating this year. She reported that the committee has secured a 501(c)3 nonprofit status. One of the benefits of being tax-exempt is the ability to accept contributions and donations that are tax-deductible to the donor. The committee is requesting a \$5,000 sponsorship from the Agency to cover the costs associated with the event. She invited the Board to participate as judges. President Smith asked for Board comment. After discussion, President Smith requested a motion from the Board. Director Duncan made a motion to approve a \$5,000 sponsorship for the 2022 Inland Solar Challenge Sponsorship. Vice-

President Valdivia seconded the motion. President Smith requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
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"/>
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 Walton	<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 – 1, with Director Ball opposed.

B. Discussion of a Potential Agreement with the Cabazon Water District to Assist with the Utilization of Authorized Grant Funding – Discussion Only

Mr. Eckhart reviewed the discussion that took place during the Board meeting that was held on February 14th. At the end of that meeting the Board requested Staff to draft a gap funding agreement, which is included in the agenda packet. Staff is seeking preliminary approval from the Board, as the agreement is about 99% complete. This agreement will be reviewed for any final edits by Cabazon Water District's (CWD) Board at a future meeting. Legal Counsel and Staff will bring this agreement back to the Board for final approval at a future board meeting. Joining today's meeting are CWD's Board and Staff. Calvin Louie (General Manager) spoke on the importance of the agreement. It was suggested that the 15-day repayment should be revised to either 30 or 45 days. President Smith requested Board comment. Discussion ensued from the Board, Staff, and Mr. Louie, included funding, repayment of funds, grant compliance, costs, administration of funds, and also liability.

C. Public Hearing – Redistricting of Director Division Boundaries (Stephanie Smith, BB&K)

President Smith introduced Stephanie Smith (BB&K). Ms. Smith stated that this is Public Hearing No. 3. She reviewed the redistricting process and the election law. She noted that the Board requested an additional map to include a majority/minority Hispanic voting division. She noted that the Board will review five draft maps, and should the Board select a preferred map, the Board would then adopt Resolution No. 2022-07. After conclusion of her, President Smith opened the Public Hearing at 2:48 p.m. President Smith requested public comment. Staff read written public comments that were submitted by Rhea Webber and Diane Franklin; residents of Cherry Valley. There were no other public comments. President Smith closed the Public Hearing at 2:52 p.m. President Smith requested Board comment. After Board discussion, Director Valdivia made a motion to adopt Resolution #2022-07, approving Map #5. President Smith seconded the motion. President Smith requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Director Ball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Duncan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 Walton	<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 – 2, with Directors Ball and Duncan opposed.

D. Draft Term Sheet Potential Property and Facility Exchange Project Between San Geronio Pass Water Agency and South Mesa Water Company Real Estate Purchase – Update Only

Mr. Eckhart announced that on March 8th, 2022 the Agency finalized the purchased of a 7-acre parcel near the center of Calimesa to be used as a future recharge facility (APN NO. 411-150-027). To formalize a property/facility exchange agreement between the Agency and South Mesa Water Company (SMWC), staff worked with their respective counsels to develop a draft Term Sheet (attached) to help with the process. The draft Term Sheet outlines the relationship between the Agency and SMWC and is considered by staff as a foundational milestone in developing a multi-benefit project in the Calimesa area. Portions of the draft Term Sheet will need refinement. President Smith requested Board comment. President Smith requested public comment. David Armstrong (General Manager, SMWC) said that Calimesa is also a disadvantaged community and that there is a real need for this facility. He noted that his Board is in agreement with the Term Sheet. He reported that SMWC will do the maintenance at the facility. Mr. Eckhart stated that there is no action required at this time.

E. Draft Vacation and Sick Pay Leave Buy-Out Policy

CFO Thomas Todd introduced this topic, and stated that this is a management tool and an employee benefit. He said that there will be some change-over in staff in the next couple of years and this policy is considered to be an attractive benefit for recruiting. Mr. Todd reviewed the analysis, and the fiscal impact of the proposed policy. President Smith requested Board discussion. Director Valdivia suggested that staff look into giving employees the choice to purchase additional insurance, such as a cancer policy. He also would like to give employees the opportunity to pool or donate funds, should one of their colleagues have a financial emergency. Director Ybarra asked for a copy of the employee manual. Director Duncan suggested an ad-hoc committee to review and update the employee manual. Mr. Eckhart stated that the upcoming fiscal year 2022-2023 budget will include funds to hire a professional(s) to examine the Agency’s benefits package. President Smith requested public comment. There was none. After discussion, Director Letulle made a motion to approve the Draft Vacation and Sick Leave Buy-Out Policy. 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"/>
Vice President Valdivia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Walton	<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.

7. Reports

A. Directors and Committee Reports

Director Letulle reported on:

- Water Workforce Webinar, hosted by the EPA and Water Environment Federation. The topic was Developing the Digital Water Workforce of the Future. He noted that if anyone is interested, he has the PowerPoint presentation, as well as a link to the recording. (March 8, 2022)
- Valley District. The topic was Veteran’s Intern Program. (March 14, 2022)

Director Valdivia commented on David Castaldo’s public comment.

Director Valdivia reported on:

- Garden Club at Sun Lakes. Mr. Eckhart was the guest speaker.

Director Ybarra announced upcoming community events:

- Special Donation Ceremony for San Geronio Hospital at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday
- Banning Chamber of Commerce Sunrise Breakfast
- Calimesa Chamber Breakfast
- Banning Installation Dinner (March 31, 2022)

Director Ybarra reported that he attended:

- Yucaipa Installation Dinner (March 11, 2022)

Director Duncan reported that he attended:

- Calimesa Chamber Breakfast
- Yucaipa Installation Dinner (March 11, 2022)

Director Duncan announced upcoming community events:

- Banning Installation Dinner (March 31, 2022)

President Smith reported on:

- Collaborative Agencies Committee Meeting (March 2, 2022)
- Chamber Calendars

Director Ball reported on:

- BCVWD Board Meeting (March 9, 2022)

8. Topics for Future Agendas

Director Letulle requested an item for discussion regarding staff cost of living.

9. Announcements

Vice President Valdivia reviewed the announcements:

- A. Finance and Engineering Workshop, March 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
 - Teleconference/Zoom
- B. Regular Board Meeting, March 28, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
 - Teleconference/Zoom
- C. Regular Board Meeting, April 11, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
 - Teleconference/Zoom

10. Adjournment

Vice President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m., in honor of Richard Falls, the father of Operations and Maintenance Manager Kenneth Falls.



Lance Eckhart, Secretary of the Board

cms