



SAN GORGONIO PASS  
WATER AGENCY  
*A California State Water Project Contractor*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Nisha Ajmani  
[nisha@cvstrat.com](mailto:nisha@cvstrat.com), 360-481-0391

**Landmark deal secures additional water for region through 2042**  
***Recent storms allow immediate transfer of water to area***

BEAUMONT, CA (April 26, 2023) – San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) and the City of Ventura finalized a water transfer agreement that significantly increases supplies for Pass-area communities over the next 20 years.

The agreement brings SGPWA’s State Water Project (SWP) allocation to as much as 27,300 acre-feet per year, enough water to supply about 81,900 families for a year. SGPWA imports supplemental water to recharge area groundwater basins and sell to local retail water providers.

SWP allocations vary annually based on state water conditions. This year’s snowpack has resulted in a 100% allocation, a number that rose over the past few months due to unexpected levels of precipitation. The last time this happened was in 2006. This means SGPWA will have access to the full 10,000 acre-feet of Ventura water this year.

“Recent increases in State Water Project allocations are a welcome relief after drought impacts. This partnership gives us the ability to immediately move additional water into the area to replenish groundwater supplies,” Board of Directors President Larry Smith said. “With more severe and frequent droughts expected, storing this water for future use is critical to long-term water sustainability for the communities we serve.”

Under the agreement, SGPWA will receive Ventura’s entire SWP allocation, up to 10,000 acre-feet of water per year, from 2022 until the City completes its own pipeline to receive SWP supplies. After that, Ventura has the option to retain up to 2,000 acre-feet per year, with any remaining water going to SGPWA. The goal was to finalize the agreement in 2022 and it was approved by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on December 29, 2022.

SGPWA has purchased all or part of Ventura’s SWP allocations on a single-year basis since 2018, but this is the first multi-year deal.

In exchange for the water, SGPWA will pay Ventura’s annual fixed costs for the SWP in full until Ventura’s connection to the SWP is built and for 60% of the yearly fixed costs after that through 2042. SGPWA has the option to use the transferred water in its service area, store it, deliver it to a water bank, or sell it.

Several local water providers currently benefit from SGPWA water imports either directly or through arrangements with other local retail suppliers. They are:

President  
Larry Smith

Vice President  
Mickey Valdivia

Treasurer  
Chander Letulle

Secretary  
Robert Ybarra

Directors  
Dr. Blair M Ball  
Ron Duncan  
Kevin Walton

General Manager  
Lance Eckhart,  
PG, CHG

Legal Counsel  
Jeffrey Ferre

Banning Heights Mutual Water Company, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District, City of Banning, City of Beaumont, City of Calimesa, High Valleys Water District, and Yucaipa Valley Water District.

Learn more about SGPWA at [www.sgpwa.com](http://www.sgpwa.com).

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**About San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency**

Formed in 1961, SGPWA is a State Water Contractor that serves a 225-square-mile area of western Riverside County. The service area includes the cities of Calimesa, Beaumont, and Banning, and the communities of Cherry Valley, Cabazon, and the Banning Bench. In addition to importing State Water Project (SWP) water from Northern California to augment local groundwater sources, the Agency builds local system infrastructure, participates in water transfers, partners in statewide water projects and collaborates on regional water reliability and conservation efforts.