

**SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY**  
**1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors**  
**May 22, 2023**

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON,  
 WITH PUBLIC AVAILABILITY PROVIDED VIA ZOOM.

**Board Present:** Larry Smith, President  
 Present in person Mickey Valdivia, Vice President  
 Chander Letulle, Treasurer  
 Robert Ybarra, Secretary  
 Blair M Ball, Director (arrived at 1:36 p.m.)  
 Ron Duncan, Director  
 Kevin Walton, Director

**Staff Present:** Lance Eckhart, General Manager  
 Present in person Tom Todd, Jr., Chief Financial Officer  
 Cheryle Stiff, Executive Assistant  
 Emmett Campbell, Sr. Water Resources Planner  
 Matt Howard, Operations Manager

**Consultants Present:** Jeffry Ferre, Legal Counsel  
 Present in person

**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 President Larry Smith at 1:30 p.m., May 22, 2023. President Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mr. Duncan gave the invocation. President Smith requested a roll call.

<i><b>Roll Call</b></i>	<i><b>Present</b></i>	<i><b>Absent</b></i>
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 Walton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary 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**

None.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. Consent Calendar**

**A. Approval of the Minutes of the Finance and Engineering Workshop, and Regular Board Meeting, May 15, 2023**

Mr. Ferre remarked that the minutes of the May 15, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting also included the Finance and Engineering Workshop, which was not indicated in the heading of the minutes.

Mr. Valdivia moved, seconded by Mr. Walton, to approve the consent calendar with the noted correction. President Smith requested a vote.

The motion passed 6-0, with Mr. Ball not yet arrived.

**5. Reports**

**A. General Manager's Report:** 1) Mr. Eckhart reported on Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-8-23, related to streamlining infrastructure and job creation. 2) Mr. Eckhart reported on the recipients of the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program within our boundaries, including the San Gorgonio Groundwater Sustainability Agency, which received approximately \$2 million for monitoring wells. The County Line Recharge project did not receive grant funding; however, other grant funding possibilities are available.

**B. Legal Counsel's Report:** Mr. Ferre reported on Public Works Contracts and Professional Service Agreements.

**6. Water Conditions Update**

Mr. Howard provided an update on current weather and reservoir conditions and forecasted hydrologic conditions for California; DWR snow surveys; SWP allocation; Local Water Conditions; and SGPWA water portfolio and deliveries. Mr. Howard showed a video describing the snowpack on the Sierra Nevada mountains. He also reported on May maintenance and recharge activities.

**7. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action**

**A. General Budget FY 2023-20**

Mr. Todd informed the Board that the attached Draft General Fund Budget for FY 2023-24 includes revisions as suggested by the Board. He reviewed the changes. After discussion, the Board requested additional information and minor changes. The Board requested that this item be presented at the next Board meeting for further discussion and possible action.

**B. Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for FY 2023-2024**

Mr. Eckhart provided background information on the Agency's COLA for Staff, noting that providing a COLA for Staff encourages employees to remain with the agency and maintains competitive salary levels to attract new employees. He reviewed the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index data for the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Statistical Area. For FY 2023-24, Staff recommends a 4.6% COLA in two phases, 2.3% effective July 1, 2023, and consideration of an additional 2.3% effective January 1, 2024. After discussion, Mr. Ybarra made a motion, seconded by Mr. Duncan, authorizing a 2.3% cost-of-

**B. Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for FY 2023-2024 (cont.)**

living adjustment for Staff, effective July 1, 2023. 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 Walton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary 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. County Line Recharge Basin Project Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District**

Mr. Campbell reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU formalizes the roles and responsibilities of each agency for the project. Mr. Campbell explained the roles of both SBVMWD and SGPWA. After discussion, Mr. Duncan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walton, authorizing the General Manager to execute the MOU between SGPWA and SBVMWD for the County Line Recharge Basin Project. 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 Walton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary 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.

**8. Reports - Directors and Committee Reports**

**Director Duncan** reported on:

- YVWD Board Meeting
- Collaboration Agency Meeting
- ACWA Spring Conference
- Solar Boat Challenge
- Delta Conveyance

**Director Letulle** reported on:

- UCR Water Affordability Symposium

## 8. Reports - Directors and Committee Reports (cont.)

**Director Valdivia** reported on:

- ACWA Spring Conference
- YVWD Board Meeting
- Lower Colorado River Tour

**Director Walton** reported on:

- ACWA Spring Conference
- Riverside County Municipal Advisory Committee
- Cabazon Water District Board Meeting

**Director Ybarra** reported on:

- ACWA Spring Conference

**President Smith** reported on:

- ACWA Spring Conference
- Riverside County Municipal Advisory Committee

## 9. Topics for Future Agendas

Mr. Letulle requested a workshop to discuss Public Works Contracts and Professional Service Agreements.

## 10. Announcements

President Smith reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Office closed in observance of Memorial Day, May 29, 2023
- B. Regular Board Meeting, June 12, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
- C. Water Conservation and Education, June 13, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
- D. Finance and Engineering Workshop, June 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

## 11. Closed Session (One Item)

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to paragraph 1, of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9

Name of case: CV Communities LLC et al. v. AVEK, SGPWA

Case #20STCV10953

The Board recessed from open session at 3:16 p.m.

The Board convened to closed session at 3:18 p.m.

The Board adjourned from closed session at 4:17 p.m.

The Board reconvened to open session at 4:18 p.m.

Mr. Ferre stated that no action was taken that is reportable under the Brown Act.

## 12. Adjournment

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

  
Robert Ybarra, Secretary of the Board cms