

SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY
1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223
Minutes of the Board of Directors
September 11, 2023

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

- Board Present:** Larry Smith, President
Mickey Valdivia, Vice President
Chander Letulle, Treasurer
Robert Ybarra, Secretary
Ron Duncan, Director
Kevin Walton, Director
- Board Absent:** Blair M Ball, Director
(joined remotely as a member of the public at 2:22 p.m.)
- Staff Present:** Lance Eckhart, General Manager
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

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. on September 11, 2023. Mr. Ybarra led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mr. Duncan gave the invocation. President Smith requested a roll call.

<i>Roll Call</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</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"/>
Secretary Ybarra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Walton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A quorum was present.

2. Adjustment and Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as published.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, August 21, 2023.

Mr. Duncan moved, seconded by Mr. Valdivia, to approve the consent calendar. President Smith requested a voice vote. The motion passed 6-0, with Mr. Ball absent.

5. Reports

- A. General Manager's Report:** Mr. Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Banning Stagecoach Days: Mr. Eckhart informed the Board that IERCD was at the event representing the Agency.
2. Cabazon Water District Gap Funding: The Agency received a check from the District today for approximately \$790,000.
3. Strategic Plan: Discussion of the Strategic Plan is scheduled for the October 2nd Board meeting.
4. Brookside Beautification Project: The Agency has been working with the City of Beaumont on this project.
5. Sites Project: Water Rights Permit Applications have been closed; fifteen comments were received.
6. Southern California Special District Conference in Monterey: Mr. Eckhart noted that Tara Bravo was a speaker at the conference. She utilized some pictures from one of the Agency's events.

- B. Legal Counsel's Report:** Mr. Ferre reported on AB 1572 related to potable water.

6. Informational Presentations and Updates

- A. Foothill Pipeline Crossing at City Creek**

Mr. Campbell reviewed a presentation on the Foothill Pipeline, which is part of the East Branch Extension. He provided background and history of the pipeline crossing, and detailed the present problems. SBVMWD is the lead agency for repairs, and commissioned a Feasibility Study in 2021. Mr. Campbell reviewed the recommendations. The anticipated cost for design and permitting is around \$900,000, and the construction cost is projected to be about \$16 million. The Agency's responsibility is about 18%, or roughly \$3 million.

7. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Consider Joint Funding and Cost-Sharing Agreements between the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Cooperative Water Resources Program and Activities in the Yucaipa Basin**

Mr. Howard introduced Allen Christensen, who has been the USGS Lead Hydrologist in the Pass area since 1995. Mr. Howard reviewed the history of the Agency's participation with the USGS, and the USGS Program Letter elements for FY23-24. The cost of the USGS Program for FY23-24 will be \$225,276. Additionally, Staff recommended participation with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District for USGS studies in the Ucaipa Basin related to the County Line Recharge Project. The cost-share to the Agency for this study would be \$46,485. After discussion, Mr. Valdivia moved, seconded by Mr. Duncan, to approve the execution of a Joint

Funding Agreement for the annual extension of the Cooperative Water Resources Program between the Agency and the USGS.

Roll Call	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Director Ball	<input 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"/>
Secretary Ybarra	<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"/>
President Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The motion passed 6-0, with Director Ball present as a member of the public.

Mr. Duncan moved, seconded by Mr. Walton, to enter into a cost-sharing agreement with the SBVMWD for USGS activities in the Yucaipa Basin.

Roll Call	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Director Ball	<input 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"/>
Secretary Ybarra	<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"/>
President Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The motion passed 6-0, with Director Ball present as a member of the public.

B. Annual Adoption of Pay Scale for CalPERS

Mr. Todd noted this is an annual housekeeping item. CalPERS requires a resolution affirming the Agency pay scale every year. After discussion, Mr. Valdivia moved, seconded by Mr. Walton, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-14.

Roll Call	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Director Ball	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President Valdivia	<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"/>
Director Walton	<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 5-1, with Director Ball present as a member of the public.

C. Water Exchange Agreement between Antelope Valley East Kern (AVEK) Water Agency and SGPWA

Mr. Campbell noted that the Agency has a large water portfolio this year. Staff have looked for opportunities to store some of the water outside of our service area and presented this agreement with AVEK as a possible alternative. The Agency will deliver between 2,500 and 4,000 acre-feet to AVEK in 2023. In future years, AVEK will return 80% of the water when the State Water Project delivery allocation is 30% or above. The term of the agreement is ten years, with a five-year extension if any water remains to be returned at the end of the term. After discussion, Mr. Duncan moved, seconded by Mr. Walton, to authorize the General Manager to execute the Agreement for a one-time water exchange between AVEK and SGPWA.

Roll Call	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Director Ball	<input 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"/>
Secretary Ybarra	<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"/>
President Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The motion passed 6-0, with Director Ball present as a member of the public.

8. Reports - Directors and Committee Reports

Director Walton reported on:

- SBVMWD Board Meeting
- YVWD Board Meeting
- Beaumont City Council Meeting
- Collaborative Agencies Meeting
- BCVWD MDP Line 16 Ribbon Cutting
- Banning Stagecoach Days

Director Ybarra reported on:

- Banning Stagecoach Days
- Capital Improvement Committee Meeting

Director Valdivia reported on:

- Beaumont Basin Watermaster Meeting
- City of Banning Council Meeting
- BCVWD MDP Line 16 Ribbon Cutting
- Finance & Budget Committee Meeting
- BCVWD Board Meeting

8. Reports - Directors and Committee Reports (con't)

Director Letulle reported on:

- Urban Water Institute Conference
- CSDA Leadership Conference
- BCVWD MDP Line 16 Ribbon Cutting

Director Duncan reported on:

- YVWD Board Meeting
- CSDA Leadership Conference

President Smith reported on:

- Urban Water Institute Conference
- Southern California Association of Governance

9. Topics for Future Agendas

None.

10. Announcements

President Smith reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Regular Board Meeting, September 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, September 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
- D. Regular Board Meeting, October 2, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
- E. Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting, October 10, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Draft - Subject to Board Approval

Robert Ybarra, Secretary of the Board

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