

**SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY**  
**1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors**  
**September 18, 2023**

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

**Board Present:** Larry Smith, President  
In-person Mickey Valdivia, Vice President  
Chander Letulle, Treasurer  
Robert Ybarra, Secretary  
Blair M Ball, Director  
Ron Duncan, Director  
Kevin Walton, Director

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

**Consultants Present:** Holland Stewart, Legal Counsel  
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 6:00 p.m., September 18, 2023. Dr. Ball led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mr. Letulle gave the invocation. President Smith requested a roll call.

<b><i>Roll Call</i></b>	<b><i>Present</i></b>	<b><i>Absent</i></b>
Director Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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. Adjustment and Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted as published.

**3. Public Comment**

Public comment was provided by Matt Porras, Director of Engineering for the Yucaipa Valley Water District.

#### **4. Consent Calendar**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, September 11, 2023.

Mr. Walton moved, seconded by Mr. Letulle, to approve the consent calendar. President Smith requested a voice vote. The motion passed 7-0.

#### **5. Reports**

##### **A. General Manager's Report**

Mr. Eckhart reported on the following:

1. The Agency was notified of a Final Award from DWR in the amount of \$2 million. The grant funds will be used for nested monitoring wells in the Banning and Cabazon areas.
2. Staff is in the process of completing a WaterSmart Grant Application for the design of the Brookside West recharge facility. The application is due mid-October.
3. SBVMWD met last week with their stakeholders to discuss the Bunker Hill Basin banking program. More modeling work needs to be done.
4. The EBX easement near Danny Thomas Ranch is being reviewed by DWR. The process to complete it could be lengthy.
5. A Flume tour is not feasible at this time due to impassable road conditions caused by hurricane Hilary.

##### **B. Legal Counsel's Report**

Mr. Stewart reported that Best Best & Krieger staff are tracking several water-related bills that Governor Newsome is reviewing.

#### **6. Informational Presentations and Updates**

##### **A. Water Conditions Update**

Mr. Howard reviewed weather and reservoir conditions, SWP allocation, the SGPWA Water Portfolio, and SWP deliveries and recharge. Maintenance will be performed on the recharge ponds during the next two weeks.

##### **B. Small Water Systems Program Update**

Mr. Howard provided an update on the Small Water Systems Program. The Agency has contracted with California Rural Water Association to provide technical consulting to local small water systems within the Agency service area. A potential result of CRWA's efforts could be grant applications for assistance in infrastructure upgrades. A more detailed report will be presented at a future Board meeting.

##### **C. Class 8 Overview and Water Management Analysis**

Mr. Eckhart reviewed a list of State Water Contractors which divide them into general regional areas, called Classes. The Agency is a member of Class 8. The Agency has been involved in Class 8 meetings, with a goal of increasing collaboration and coordination. Under his signing authority, Mr. Eckhart has contracted with Provost & Pritchard to conduct a study for \$25,000 to identify potential banking opportunities and ways to leverage assets of the Class to enhance operational activities. The ten contractors will share the cost equally.

**7. Reports - Directors and Committee Reports**

**Director Ball** reported on:

- BCVWD MDP Line 16 Ribbon Cutting

**Director Duncan** reported on:

- Water Education Foundation – Eastern Sierra Tour

**Director Letulle** reported on:

- Toured the International Treatment Plant

**Vice President Valdivia** reported on:

- BCVWD MDP Line 16 Ribbon Cutting
- City of Banning Council Meeting

**Director Ybarra** reported on:

- Banning City Council Meeting
- Water Education Foundation – Eastern Sierra Tour

**Director Walton** reported on:

- BCVWD MDP Line 16 Ribbon Cutting
- Water Education Foundation – Eastern Sierra Tour
- Banning Stagecoach Days (SGPWA had a booth at this event).

**President Smith** reported on:

- Water Education Foundation – Eastern Sierra Tour

**8. Topics for Future Agendas**

None.

**9. Announcements**

President Smith reviewed the following announcements:

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

**10. Closed Session (one item)**

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: 1216 Beaumont Ave., Beaumont

Agency negotiator: Lance Eckhart, General Manager

Negotiating parties: Sara Santos-Sanchez, Berkshire Hathaway

Under negotiation: price and terms of payment

The Board recessed from open session at 7:07 p.m.

The Board convened to closed session at 7:12 p.m.

The Board adjourned from closed session at 7:36 p.m.

The Board reconvened to open session at 7:38 p.m.

**10. Closed Session (con't)**

There was no reportable action.

**11. Adjournment**

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

***Draft - Subject to Board Approval***

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Robert Ybarra, Secretary of the Board

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