

**SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY**  
**1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors**  
**December 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  
Blair M Ball, Director  
Ron Duncan, Director  
Kevin Walton, Director  
Robert Ybarra, Secretary

**Board Absent:** Chander Letulle, Treasurer

**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:**  
In-person Holland Stewart, Legal Counsel  
By Videoconference Paula Cone, HdL

**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., December 18, 2023. Mr. Duncan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mr. Duncan gave the invocation.

<i><b>Roll Call</b></i>	<i><b>Present</b></i>	<i><b>Absent</b></i>
Director Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer Letulle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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**

None.

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting, December 4, 2023
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Finance and Budget Committee Report, December 14, 2023.

Mr. Valdivia moved, seconded by Mr. Ybarra, to approve the consent calendar.

The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote, with Mr. Letulle absent.

#### **5. Reports**

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

Mr. Eckhart reported on the following:

- 1. Mr. Eckhart was a Panelist at the Public Policy Institute of California held on November 14<sup>th</sup>. President Smith, Mr. Valdivia, and David Armstrong (So. Mesa Water District) attended.
- 2. Deputy Director of the Division of Drinking was also in attendance. He and Mr. Eckhart discussed the Gap Funding Program started by the Agency. We will meet in January to discuss Gap Funding for other regions following the Agency's model.
- 3. The SAWPA Cloud Seeding Program unit located at the agency's Mountain View Turnout will be ignited on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Local authorities have been informed.
- 4. Up to 5,000 acre-feet of carry-over water from the City of Ventura agreement will be stored in San Luis Reservoir. This 3<sup>rd</sup> party agreement is unique to other agreements that DWR is accustomed to.
- 5. The Agency participated (via IERCD) in the city of Banning's Winter Wonderland Event that took place on December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 6. The Vandalism Policy discussion will be on a future agenda.
- 7. Zoom disruption and hacking issues that have taken place at other entities. Staff is taking steps to mitigate any such issues at the Agency.

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

Mr. Stewart said that DWR certified the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Delta Conveyance Project on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

##### **A. Property Tax Review 2023-24 and Forecast for 2024-25 (Paula Cone, HdL President)**

Mr. Eckhart introduced Ms. Cone. Ms. Cone presented the 2023-2024 Property Data for the San Geronio Pass Water Agency and the Preliminary Special District Tax Reports. Ms. Cone answered questions. Mr. David Fenn (Beaumont City Councilman) provided public comment.

##### **B. 2023 Retrospective**

Mr. Eckhart reviewed the accomplishments and highlights of the Agency in 2023. Mr. Ybarra and President Smith thanked Mr. Eckhart for his efforts as the general manager.

**C. Water Conditions Update**

Mr. Howard stated that the Agency is five to six days away from reaching an all-time record of delivering 25,000 acre-feet. This includes storage through AVEK's banking program. The usual information about water conditions was included in the agenda packet. There was a short discussion on carry-over water.

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

**A. Strategic Plan 2023**

Mr. Eckhart stated that the Strategic Plan has been discussed at length. He noted that this Plan is a living document that can be updated at the Board's pleasure, but at least every five years. He recommended that the Board consider adopting the 2023 Strategic Plan. Mr. Ybarra moved, seconded by Mr. Walton, to adopt the Strategic Plan – 2023. President Smith requested a roll call vote.

<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Noes</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 6-0, with Mr. Letulle absent.

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

**Director Ball** reported on:

- BCVWD Board Meeting

**Director Duncan:**

- Riverside County Task Force Tour
- Cabazon Water District Board Meeting
- City of Banning Council Meeting
- Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting
- Public Outreach Committee Meeting

**Director Valdivia:**

- Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting

**Director Ybarra:**

- Capital Improvement Committee Meeting

**Director Walton** reported on:

- Public Outreach Committee Meeting

**President Smith** reported on:

- Spoke on the Board's activities in 2023.

**9. Topics for Future Agendas**

None.

**10. Announcements**

President Smith reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Office closed December 25 2023 through January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.
- B. Regular Board Meeting, January 8, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.
- C. Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 15, 2024.
- D. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, January 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
- E. Regular Board Meeting, January 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**11. Adjournment**

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.



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Robert Ybarra, Secretary of the Board

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