

SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY
1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223
Minutes of the Board of Directors
January 22, 2024

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

Board Present: Mickey Valdivia, President
Kevin Walton, Secretary
Blair M Ball, Director
Ron Duncan, Director
Larry Smith, Director

Board Absent: Chander Letulle, Vice President
Robert Ybarra, Treasurer

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:
In person Tara Bravo Mulally, CV Strategies
Via teleconference Holland Stewart, Legal Counsel
Synthia Gunzel, 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 Mickey Valdivia at 6:00 p.m., January 22, 2024. President Valdivia led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mr. Walton gave the invocation. President Valdivia requested a roll call.

<i>Roll Call</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Director Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary Walton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director Duncan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer Ybarra	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vice President Letulle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Director Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
President Valdivia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A quorum was present.

2. Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

A representative from Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez's office provided public comment.

4. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting for January 8, 2024
- B. Approval of the Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report for January 18, 2024

Mr. Walton and Mr. Todd provided a brief report on item 4.B. Mr. Ball requested that item 7.C of the Board meeting minutes for January 8, 2024 include his questions regarding cloud seeding. President Valdivia requested that item 7.A of the Board meeting minutes for January 8, 2024 reflect that Mr. Timothy Smith provided public comment. Mr. Duncan moved, seconded by President Valdivia, to approve the consent calendar, as amended. President Valdivia requested a voice vote.

The motion passed 5-0, with Directors Letulle and Ybarra absent.

5. Reports

- A. **General Manager's Report:** Mr. Eckhart reported on the following:
 - 1. Small Systems and Gap Funding Program with California Municipal Utilities Association. A workshop has been planned for the future.
 - 2. A Joint Board Meeting is scheduled for February 13th at 2:00 p.m. The subject matter is the Delta Conveyance Program.
 - 3. Sites is at a critical stage regarding the EIR. Direct any questions from the public to Staff.
 - 4. Mr. Howard is working to secure a speaker from SAWPA to speak on the cloud seeding program.
 - 5. Senator Ochoa Bogh is holding an Infrastructure Panel Discussion on Friday, January 26th. Mr. Eckhart has been invited to be on the panel related to water sustainability in the region.

- B. **Legal Counsel's Report:** Mr. Stewart reported that the validation action brought by the Department of Water Resources to confirm the extension of the contract with the State Water Contractors has been definitively upheld, thereby affirming the contract extension to December 31, 2085.

6. Informational Presentations:

A. Appointment of Committees

President Valdivia informed the Board of their new committee assignments. President Valdivia called for a vote. Mr. Duncan moved, seconded by Mr. Walton, to approve the committee assignments. President Valdivia requested a voice vote.

Motion passed 5-0, with Mr. Letulle and Mr. Ybarra absent.

B. Water Conditions Update

Mr. Howard presented an update which included an overview of 2023 water deliveries, weather and reservoir conditions, 2024 SWP Allocation and Water Portfolio, and local SWP deliveries and recharge. President Valdivia requested data on BCVWD's MND Line 16. Mr. Eckhart responded that the data may not be available for a couple of months. He will contact BCVWD for a report.

7. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action
A. Contract with CV Strategies for Public Information Support Services (Tara Bravo Mulally, CV Strategies Senior Vice President)

Mr. Eckhart reviewed the staff report. He stated that the Public Information and Outreach Committee met with Staff three times to develop a strategy and implementable plan to address the Agency’s public information program. The main issues the Committee considered were the following: hire an in-house Public Information Officer or continue to outsource; how to accelerate the program and avoid any gap in public information; consider continuing with the Agency’s current consultant or issue a request for proposals to other potential consultants; and develop a program for Board consideration. The proposed contract totals \$196,960, spread over 18 months. The expenditure recommendations for Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 of FY 2023-24 add up to \$87,760, with the balance to be expended in FY 2024-25. Ms. Mulally provided comments about the relationship between CV Strategies and the Agency. She reviewed the proposed contract. Mr. Walton stated that the committee recognizes that the Agency has exceeded its internal capabilities to keep up with public outreach and information demands. The Committee, CV Strategies, and Mr. Eckhart modified the contract elements into a workable plan spanning 18 months. The committee feels comfortable recommending the proposed contract with certain conditions. Mr. Walton provided a review of the conditions. After discussion, Mr. Walton moved, seconded by Mr. Duncan, to authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with CV Strategies to provide various public information support services. Director Smith proposed that a State of the Water event be held locally. President Valdivia requested a roll call vote.

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

The motion passed 4-1, with Directors Letulle and Ybarra absent.

B. Early Bond Payoff

Mr. Todd stated that Mr. Ball requested information on the possibility of paying selected EBX bonds before their maturity date. He reviewed the staff report provided in the Agenda. He said that once DWR verifies the bond impacts, Staff recommends that the Finance and Budget Committee review the report to consider how such an expenditure would fit into our current budget and any upcoming budgets that might be affected. The Committee could then make a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Eckhart noted that specific questions will need to be asked. He informed the Board that the process would take several months. President Valdivia asked that generational equity be included in the discussion.

7. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action (cont.)

C. Procurement Policy Update Approval

Mr. Todd reviewed the Staff report and the Draft Procurement Policy provided in the agenda. The Procurement Policy involves the purchasing of goods and contracting of various services. Goals included adding inflationary adjustments to the levels and making it easier to administrate. Legal Counsel Gunzel commented on the policy. The Board has reviewed previous drafts of the policy. After discussion, President Valdivia moved, seconded by Mr. Duncan, to approve the revised draft of the updated Procurement Policy. President Valdivia requested a roll call vote.

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

The motion passed 5-0, with Directors Letulle and Ybarra absent.

D. Procurement Policy Notifications

Mr. Todd notified the Board that the General Manager has signed a contract with Ontario Refrigeration to replace an air conditioning unit at Cherry Valley Pump Station. The Agency will be billed for the full amount of \$24,779 through the San Bernardino Valley Water Municipal District. Mr. Eckhart noted that this falls under the Agency’s cooperative purchasing provision of the Procurement Policy. Mr. Todd also notified the Board that the General Manager has signed a contract with Water Resources Economics to provide As Needed Financial and Rate Consulting Services for \$40,000.

8. Reports - Directors and Committee Reports

Director Walton reported on:

- Attended the three committee meetings
- Beaumont Basin Watermaster
- Collaborative Agency meeting
- Beaumont Chamber Installation of Officers

Director Duncan: reported on:

- POI Committee Meeting
- Beaumont Basin Watermaster Meeting
- Beaumont Chamber Breakfast
- Cabazon Water District Board Meeting
- Banning Chamber Breakfast
- JPIA Risk Management Meeting
- Collaborative Agency Meeting
- High Valleys Water District Board Meeting

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

Director Ball reported on:

- Beaumont Chamber Breakfast
- City of Beaumont Council Meeting
- Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District Board Meeting
- Mr. Ball remarked on President Valdivia's question regarding how much water is coming through the MDN Line 16. It was reported by BCVWD to be about one pond's worth, which would be about 600 acre-feet per year.

President Valdivia reported on:

- Questions relating to responding to public comments or questions on social media.

9. Topics for Future Agendas

- Mr. Walton suggested making a Board Handbook and forming an ad-hoc committee to work on it.
- Mr. Walton reported that parts of Cherry Valley Pump Station's electrical connections are exposed, which is a possible fire hazard.

10. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Regular Board Meeting, February 5, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.
- B. Canceled: Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting
February 13, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.
- C. SBVMWD & SGPWA Joint Workshop, February 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
Location: SBVMWD 380 East Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, CA
- D. South Mesa Water Company Groundbreaking Celebration, February 16, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Location: Fourth Street Community Park, Calimesa.
Parking: 960 4th Street, Calimesa
- E. Office closed February 19, 2024, in observance of Presidents' Day
- F. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

11. Adjournment

President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Draft – Subject to Board Approval

Kevin Walton, Secretary of the Board

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