

SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY
1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
March 18, 2024

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

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

Absent: Robert Ybarra, Treasurer

Staff Present: Lance Eckhart, General Manager
In person Maricela Cabral, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board
Emmett Campbell, Sr. Water Resources Planner
Matt Howard, Operations Manager

Consultants Present:
In person Holland Stewart, Legal Counsel

1. Call to Order, Invocation, Flag Salute, and Roll Call

The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Valdivia at 6:01 p.m., Monday, March 18, 2024, at the office of the Agency. Director Duncan gave the invocation; President Valdivia led the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a roll call.

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

The agenda was adopted as published.

3. Public Comment

Joyce McIntire, President of Yucaipa Valley Water District, addressed the board and provided a reminder of the upcoming Recycled Water Reservoirs Groundbreaking event of Thursday, March 21, 2024.

4. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting, March 4, 2024

On a motion by President Mickey Valdivia, second by Director Ron Duncan, the board approved the Consent Calendar as presented.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Letulle, Ball, Duncan, Walton, Smith

Noes: None

Absent: Ybarra

The motion passed 6-0.

5. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Congratulated Executive Assistant Cheryle Stiff on her retirement and thanked her for her dedication and years of service to the Agency.
2. Introduced Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board Maricela Cabral. Ms. Cabral provided the board with a brief introduction of herself.
3. Provided an update on the Steelhead trout issues affecting the Central Valley and State Water Project.
4. Responded to the Boards previous question concerning bodily contact for water in Site's Reservoir. He said once the reservoir is built there will be a recreational element associated with it. There is no direct use, rather water will be released, go through agricultural canals, through the Delta and make its way south, no impact to the immediate water supply. Recreational body contact in the reservoir will be determined as the project develops further.
5. Recapped the long-term agreement with Ventura and the ability to carry over water in the San Luis Reservoir; a first for the Agency and State Water Contract.
6. Briefed the Board on the Heli-Hydrant Project.
7. Briefed the Board on the status of the future 3x2x2 Committee meetings for the Recycled Water Program with Beaumont Cherry Valley.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel, Holland Stewart thanked Cheryle Stiff, Executive Assistant for her dedication and years of service with the Agency. No formal report was given.

6. Informational Presentations

A. Water Conditions Update

Matt Howard, Operations Manager updated the Board on the water conditions for the month of March.

7. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action

A. Establish Pass Water Agency Foundation Ad Hoc Committee and Appointment of Committee Members by Board President (Ad Hoc Committee to review draft formation documents in preparation for first meeting of Foundation Board)

The Board discussed establishing the Pass Water Agency Foundation Ad Hoc Committee. After discussion, President Valdivia appointed Directors Duncan, Walton and himself to serve on the committee. Director Smith requested all action taken by the committee be agendized under new business and not placed on the consent calendar.

On a motion by President Mickey Valdivia, second by Director Ron Duncan, the board approved the establishment of the Pass Water Agency Foundation Ad Hoc Committee and appointed President Valdivia, Directors Duncan and Walton to serve on the committee.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Letulle, Ball, Duncan, Walton, Smith

Noes: None

Absent: Ybarra

The motion passed 6-0.

B. Easements Relocation Agreement with Yucaipa Valley Water District

Emmett Campbell, Senior Water Resources Planner presented the staff report on the Easements Relocation Agreement with Yucaipa Valley Water District. The Board discussed the agreement; Joe Zoba, General Manager of Yucaipa Valley Water District provided background on the reservoir project.

On a motion by Director Blair Ball, second by Vice President Chander Letulle, the board approved the Easements Relocation Agreement with Yucaipa Valley Water District.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Letulle, Ball, Duncan, Walton, Smith

Noes: None

Absent: Ybarra

The motion passed 6-0.

C. Adopt Resolution 2024-02 Honoring George Jorritsma

General Manager Eckhart reported on the March 15, 2024, George Jorritsma dedication ceremony where Resolution No. 2024-02 was presented to the Jorritsma family and South Mesa Water Company recognizing Georges' 20 years of dedicated service as a board member on the San Geronio Pass Water Agency.

On a motion by Director Larry Smith, second by President Mickey Valdivia, the board approved Resolution 2024-02 honoring George Jorritsma.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Letulle, Ball, Duncan, Walton, Smith

Noes: None

Absent: Ybarra

The motion passed 6-0.

D. Proposed Invocation Policy

Counsel Stewart reviewed the proposed Invocation Policy. The board discussed the revisions to the policy and requested language in section 2, be revised to include the word “intentionally” so that the sentence reads, “Clergy, religious leaders, SGPWA Directors, SGPWA Staff, or other persons may open a legislative session of the SGPWA with an invocation so long as it is respectful, neutral, and does not intentionally disparage any other faith or belief”.

On a motion by Director Larry Smith, second by Director Chander Letulle, the board approved the Invocation Policy as amended.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Letulle, Ball, Duncan, Walton, Smith

Noes: None

Absent: Ybarra

The motion passed 6-0.

8. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

Director Ball reported on:

- Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District meeting of March 13, 2024
- George Jorritsma dedication ceremony of March 15, 2024

Vice President Letulle, Directors Duncan, Walton and Smith reported on:

- George Jorritsma dedication ceremony of March 15, 2024. Vice President Letulle thanked General Manager Eckhart for his commitment to ensuring the ceremony was successful.

Director Smith reported on:

- Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District meeting of March 13, 2024
- Yucaipa Valley Water District meeting of March 5, 2024
- San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District meeting of March 5, 2024

President Valdivia reported on:

- 2024 Banning Chamber Installation Dinner of March 21, 2024
- Banning City Council meeting of March 12, 2024

The entire Board thanked Executive Assistant Stiff for her dedication and years of service with the Agency and wished her well in her future endeavors.

9. Topics for Future Agendas

- A. Director Ball requested an update on the I-10 Logistics & Easements and other areas of concern before development.
- B. Director Duncan requested an update on the Backbone Pipeline.

10. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, March 28, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
- B. Regular Board Meeting, April 1, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
- C. Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting, April 9, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

Save the Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
Yucaipa Valley Water District – Groundbreaking Ceremony
R-12.5 Recycled Water Reservoir Complex
Cherry Valley Boulevard, Cherry Valley, CA

11. Adjournment

President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Draft – Subject to Board Approval

Kevin Walton, Secretary of the Board

mvc