

SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY
1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223
Minutes of the Board of Directors
February 26, 2024

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

Teleconference Location:
14 Corniche Dr., Unit A
Dana Point, CA 92629

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

Board Absent: Chander Letulle, Vice President

Staff Present: Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Cheryle Stiff, Executive Assistant
Emmett Campbell, Sr. Water Resources Planner
Matt Howard, Operations Manager

Mr. Holland reviewed the teleconference criteria with Mr. Walton.

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., February 26, 2024. Mr. Duncan gave the invocation. Mr. Ybarra led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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

Dan Jagers (General Manager, BCVWD) provided Mr. Eckhart with a letter that was related to BCVWD's request for a domestic water supply well site one on of two pieces of SGPWA's properties. BCVWD is aiming to manage mound control effectively during wet recharge years. BCVWD proposes use of approximately one acre of SGPWA land, with reimbursement to the SGPWA for provision of a new well for BCVWD. Hopefully, the Board will consider this proposal in the near future.

4. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting for February 5, 2024
- B. Approval of the Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report for February 20, 2024

Mr. Ybarra provided a brief report on item 4.B. Mr. Smith requested that the report on legal services include a cost breakdown. He also asked that the report have justification for over-budgeted travel. Mr. Ybarra moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the consent calendar. President Valdivia requested a voice vote.

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

5. Reports

- A. **General Manager's Report:** Mr. Eckhart reported on the following:
 - 1. Turf replacement pilot grant program
 - 2. Sites Benefits Obligation Contract
 - 3. Delta Conveyance Project
 - 4. Met with Mojave Staff regarding participating in a banking program.
 - 5. South Mesa Ribbon Cutting and Gap Funding
 - 6. New employee announcement

- B. **Legal Counsel's Report:** None.

6. Informational Presentations:

A. Water Conditions Update

Mr. Howard presented a water conditions update that included an overview of weather and reservoir conditions, forecasted hydrologic and snow conditions, 2024 SWP Allocation and Water Portfolio, SWP deliveries and recharge, and turnout valve inspections video.

B. Sites Update (Video)

Mr. Eckhart presented a video that spoke on the location, operations, and benefits of Sites Reservoir. It also includes renderings of a water-filled reservoir with recreation areas. Sites Reservoir will provide California's communities with a more resilient and reliable water supply. Sites Reservoir is an environmentally beneficial, off-river reservoir that will capture excess water from major storms and save it for drier periods. Mr. Eckhart provided scenarios based on whether the Sites Reservoir was built and how much water would have been captured.

C. Heli-Hydrant

Mr. Eckhart noted that the Agency's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee has been in discussions with a number of entities regarding a Heli-Hydrant program. Heli-Hydrants provide helicopter pilots with easily accessible water during a wildland fire, potentially saving crucial minutes. A Heli-hydrant is a water tank that is 12 feet wide and serves as a remote water source for water-dropping helicopter pilots to use and reuse during a wildfire. New Heli-hydrants strategically placed in fire-prone areas will make local aerial firefighting more efficient. Mr. Eckhart provided a map of where there may be potential sites to construct the water tanks. The goal will be to roll the concept into a proposed project involving the agencies identified as suitable sites as hosting agency participants. Once all the participants are committed, the technical, funding, and contracting can commence. The County of Riverside ARPA grant funding program, could potentially fund this program. The County of Riverside Supervisors will be discussing funding this program in the very near future. Mr. Eckhart answered questions from the Board. Ms. Alverette (Riverside County - District 5 Director) spoke on the importance of the project. Mr. Dan Jagers (General Manager, BCVWD) provided public comment.

D. Review of Invocation Policy

Mr. Eckhart reviewed the Invocation Policy with the Board. After discussion, the Board requested that Mr. Stewart check the policy's wording. This item was tabled to a future board meeting.

7. Reports - Directors and Committee Reports

Director Walton reported on:

- South Mesa Water Company Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Joint Meeting with SBVMWD on February 15th
- SBVMWD 70th Celebration on February 22nd
- Urban Water Institute Conference, February 21st-23rd
- Chamber Breakfasts

Director Smith reported on:

- South Mesa Water Company Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Joint Meeting with SBVMWD on February 15th
- SBVMWD 70th Celebration on February 22nd
- Urban Water Institute Conference, February 21st-23rd
- Chamber Breakfasts

Director Duncan reported on:

- Urban Water Institute Conference, February 21st-23rd
- Cabazon Water District Board Meeting
- Chamber Breakfasts

Director Ybarra reported on:

- South Mesa Water Company Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Joint Meeting with SBVMWD on February 15th
- SBVMWD 70th Celebration on February 22nd
- Urban Water Institute Conference, February 21st-23rd

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

- Chamber Breakfasts

Director Ball reported on:

- BCVWD Board Meeting
- SBVMWD Joint Board Meeting
- South Mesa Water Company Groundbreaking Ceremony

President Valdivia reported on:

- Special Districts Leadership Academy, February 5th-7th
- SBVMWD 70th Celebration on February 22nd
- Water Conservation and Education Committee Meeting

8. Topics for Future Agendas

- President Valdivia requested a discussion on the potential well site for BCVWD on Agency's property
- Mr. Ball asked for a discussion on Board COLA

9. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Regular Board Meeting, March 4, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.
- B. Regular Board Meeting, March 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
- C. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, March 28, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

10. Adjournment

President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Draft - Subject to Board Approval

Kevin Walton, Secretary of the Board

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