

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

**Official Minutes**  
**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**  
**April 1, 2024**

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

**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 Vice President Chander Letulle at 1:30 p.m., Monday, April 1, 2024, at the office of the Agency. Director Duncan gave the invocation; Vice President Letulle led the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a roll call.

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

**Absent:** Mickey Valdivia, President

**Staff Present:** Lance Eckhart, General Manager  
Thomas Todd, Jr., Chief Financial Officer  
Maricela Cabral, Executive Assistant / Clerk of the Board  
Emmett Campbell, Sr. Water Resources Planner  
Matt Howard, Operations Manager

**Consultant Present:** Jeffry Ferre, Legal Counsel

**2. Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted as published.

**3. Public Comment**

No public comment received.

**4. Consent Calendar**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the March 18, 2024, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
- B. Approval of the Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report of March 28, 2024

On a motion by Director Ron Duncan, second by Director Larry Smith, the board approved the Consent Calendar as presented.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None  
Absent: Valdivia  
Motion passed 6-0.

## **5. Reports**

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

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Provided an update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding for the County Line Road/Heli-Hydrant projects.
2. Provided an update on the Steelhead trout issues affecting the Delta and Central Valley; recapped letter by the Department of Water Resources explaining the department's actions during the spring and the challenges they face, with a focus on the Delta Conveyance Project and its potential to provide additional water in the future; Healthy Rivers and Landscapes, 8-year program pilot test to do adaptive management.
3. San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency will be sponsoring the August 9, 2024, 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern California Water Conference.

The Board discussed and expressed their desires to support advocacy efforts for state-level contracts, and acknowledged staff's active efforts, contributions, and time spent in moving these projects forward.

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

Counsel, Jeff Ferre provided an update on the Sites Reservoir Project and the pending lawsuits which raise challenges to the Environmental Impact Report which was certified for the Project. Counsel Ferre said a hearing is scheduled for May on these writ of mandate actions.

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

### **A. Policy: Board Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)**

Thomas Todd, Jr., Chief Financial Officer provided an update on the Board Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Vice President Letulle requested an item be added late 2024 that provides a more comprehensive look at the overall benefits board members receive compared to others across the region.

### **B. 2024 Water Portfolio Update**

Emmett Campbell, Senior Water Resources Planner updated the Board on the 2024 Water Portfolio.

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

### **A. LAFCO 2024 Special District Selection Committee Ballot**

Maricela Cabral, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board presented the staff report on the LAFCO 2024 Special District Selection Committee Ballots. Ms. Cabral provided an overview of the candidates for the LAFCO Regular Special District Member for the Eastern Region. After discussion, the Board unanimously ranked Castulo Estrada, from Coachella Valley Water District No. 1, and Bruce Underwood from Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District as No. 2.

On a motion by Director Blair Ball, second by Treasurer Robert Ybarra, the board approved the ranking of the candidates for the LAFCO Regular Special District Selection Committee Ballot for the Eastern Region Member.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Valdivia

Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Cabral reviewed part two of the selection process and provided an overview of the candidates for the Alternate Special District Member of LAFCO (Countywide). After further discussion, the Board unanimously ranked Richard Lawhead No. 1, Harvey Ryan No. 2, Steve Pastor No. 3, Bernard Murphy No. 4, and Angela Little No. 5.

On a motion by Director Blair Ball, second by Treasurer Robert Ybarra, the board approved the ranking of the candidates for the LAFCO Regular Special District Selection Committee Ballot Countywide Member.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Valdivia

Motion passed 6-0.

**B. Approve Resolution No. 2024-03, LAFCO Voting Designee Alternate**

Maricela Cabral, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board presented the staff report for the approval of Resolution No. 2024-03, designating an alternate delegate to vote on behalf of the Agency, if the Board President is unable or has a conflict to participate in the proceedings of the LAFCO Special District Selection Committee election.

On a motion by Director Blair Ball, second by Treasurer Robert Ybarra, the board approved Resolution No. 2024-03, designating Chander Letulle, as the respective successor voting delegate to participate in the proceedings of the LAFCO Special District Selection Committee if the Board President is unable to.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Valdivia

Motion passed 6-0.

**C. Agreement to Provide Gap Funding to the High Valleys Water District Related to Approved Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Funds**

Matt Howard, Operations Manager presented the staff report on the Agreement to provide GAP Funding to the High Valleys Water District related to approved Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Funds. The Board discussed the agreement; Stan Houghton, General Manager of High Valleys Water District provided comment on the Gap Funding Agreement.

On a motion by Director Ron Duncan, second by Director Larry Smith, the board approved the agreement to provide Gap Funding to the High Valleys Water District related to Approved Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Funds.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Valdivia

Motion passed 6-0.

## 8. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

**Director Smith** reported on:

- Western Water Speakers Bureau Forum

**Director Walton** reported on the following meetings:

- San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District meeting of March 19, 2024
- Yucaipa Valley Water District meeting of March 19, 2024
- Beaumont City Council meeting of March 19, 2024
- Yucaipa Valley Water District Groundbreaking Ceremony for Recycled Water Reservoir R-12.5 Facility Complex of March 21, 2024
- 2024 Banning Chamber Installation Dinner of March 21, 2024
- Banning City Council meeting of March 26, 2024
- SGP Regional Water Alliance meeting of March 27, 2024
- Finance & Budget Committee meeting of March 28, 2024
- Riverside County Water Task Force meeting of March 29, 2024

**Directors Duncan and Ybarra** reported attending several of the same meetings as reported by Director Walton.

**Director Ball** reported on the following:

- Yucaipa Water District Groundbreaking Ceremony for Recycled Water Reservoir R-12.5 Facility Complex of March 21, 2024
- Beaumont City Council meeting of March 19, 2024

**Vice President Letulle** reported on the following:

- Attended several meetings as reported by Director Walton
- Encouraged the Board to review the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) report included in the Finance and Budget Committee meeting packet

## 9. Topics for Future Agendas

No topics for future agenda items.

## 10. Announcements

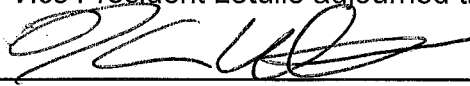
Vice President Letulle reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting, April 9, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
- B. Regular Board Meeting, April 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
- C. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, April 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

D. 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern California Water Conference of August 9, 2024

**11. Adjournment**

Vice President Letulle adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.



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Kevin Walton, Secretary of the Board

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