

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
May 20, 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 President Mickey Valdivia at 6:00 p.m., Monday, May 20, 2024, at the office of the Agency. Vice President Letulle gave the invocation; President Valdivia led the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a roll call.

Board Present:

Mickey Valdivia, President
Chander Letulle, Vice President
Robert Ybarra, Treasurer
Kevin Walton, Secretary
Blair M Ball, Director
Ron Duncan, Director
Larry Smith, Director

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:

Holland Stewart, Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

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 May 13, 2024, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors and First Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Foundation

On a motion by Director Ron Duncan, second by Treasurer Robert Ybarra, the board approved the Consent Calendar as presented.

Approved by the following vote:

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

Noes: None
Absent: None
Motion passed 7-0.

5. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart had no report.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel, Holland Stewart had no report.

6. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Water Conditions Update

Matt Howard, Operations Manager provided an update to the May Water Conditions which included reservoir levels, water allocations, and recharge facility maintenance. He noted that Oroville is at full capacity while San Luis is at 64% due to water flow restrictions. Spring maintenance involved ripping up soil layers for better water absorption. Regarding water delivery, they've completed last year's carryover and are now focusing on current allocations. They're considering selling excess water to maintain a balanced portfolio. Mr. Howard discussed the challenges of maintaining recharge ponds, mentioning difficulties caused by wet conditions and the importance of maintenance cycles for effective water absorption. He anticipates a decline in water recharge due to natural factors but emphasizes the need for consistent maintenance for stability.

Dan Jagers, General Manager of Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District provided comment on the seasonal declines in water levels, and how future improvements in facility operation and water distribution are anticipated to address these challenges effectively.

B. State Water Project Fundamentals

Emmett Campbell, Senior Water Resources Planner provided an introduction to Table A water allocations within the State Water Project. Mr. Cambell said each unit volume equals about 325,000 gallons, sufficient for three households annually. Table A outlines contractual entitlements, initially set at 15,000 acre-feet in 1962, later raised to 17,300 acre-feet. Actual delivery depends on State evaluations of hydrologic conditions. If unable to fulfill full allocations, proportional reductions occur. With a 0.4% share among 29 contractors, our allocation varies based on available water.

C. Water Nexus Study Update

General Manager Eckhart introduced Sanjay Gaur, Principal Consultant with Water-Resources Economics, LLC, who gave a brief presentation on the water nexus study. Mr. Gaur, said the study will focus on analyzing water rate components for predictability and smooth transitions, exploring funding for water purchases and future resource stewardship. We'll benchmark with other agencies, consider past history and future projections, and explore new revenue streams like capacity charges and water trading. Our approach includes financial modeling, market research, historical data analysis, and consultation to inform recommendations.

Mr. Jagers provided comment saying he was looking forward to collaborating with both Sanjay and San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency.

7. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action

A. Procurement Policy Contract Authorization – USGS

Matt Howard, Operations Manager presented the staff report on the Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for the drilling, construction, logging, and installation of multiple groundwater monitoring wells throughout the Agency service area utilizing Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program funding. Allen Christensen with USGS provided background on the project.

On a motion by Director Ron Duncan, second by President Mickey Valdivia, the board authorized the General Manager to enter into an Agreement with the United States Geological Survey to provide drilling, construction, logging and installation of multiple groundwater monitoring wells throughout the Agency service area utilizing Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program funding.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

8. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

Director Smith reported on:

- May 13, 2024, 3x2 Committee meeting with Beaumont Cherry Valley and City of Beaumont
- May 16, 2024, Yucaipa Valley Water District Groundbreaking Event

Directors Walton, Vice President Letulle and Treasurer Ybarra had no report.

Director Duncan reported on the following meetings:

- May 16, 2024, Yucaipa Valley Water District Groundbreaking Event
- May 16, 2024, Beaumont Cherry Valley Board Meeting
- May 18-19, 2024, Inland Empire Solar Challenge

Director Ball reported on the following:

- May 13, 2024, 3x2 Committee meeting with Beaumont Cherry Valley and City of Beaumont
- May 16, 2024, Beaumont Cherry Valley Board Meeting

President Valdivia reported on the following:

- May 16, 2024, San Gorgonio Pass Municipal Advisory Council Meeting
- Encouraged the Board to review the upcoming Finance & Budget Committee Meeting packet, meeting scheduled for May 23, 2024
- Suggested the cancellation of the July 1, 2024 Board meeting

9. Topics for Future Agendas

No topics for future agenda items.

10. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, May 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
- B. Office closed May 27, 2024, in observance of Memorial Day
- C. Regular Board Meeting, June 3, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.
- D. Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting, June 11, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 3, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

Kevin Walton, Secretary of the Board

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