

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
June 3, 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 1:30 p.m., Monday, June 3, 2024, at the office of the Agency. Secretary Walton gave the invocation; Director Duncan led the Pledge of Allegiance and President Valdivia requested a roll call.

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
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

Joyce McIntire, Board President for the Yucaipa Valley Water District invited the board to a Groundbreaking Ceremony on June 20, 2024, for the Wochholz Regional Water Recycling Facility.

4. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of the Minutes of the May 20, 2024, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.

- B. Approval of the Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report of May 23, 2024
- C. Procurement Policy Required Notification of Contract with Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group for Grant Administration for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant, Nested Casing Monitoring Wells in the amount of \$45,000

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

Approved by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle

Motion passed 6-0.

5. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Participated in the Water Executive Coalition Meeting in Northern California
2. Annual Water Supply Demand and Assessment with retail agencies
3. Water Supply Workshop tentatively scheduled for July 8, 2024
4. Inspection Trip of the State Water Project and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta attended by board and staff
5. Beaumont Cherry Festival of May 30 – June 2, 2024
6. Provided excerpt from Governor Newsom's speech at ACWA, highlighting major water initiatives in California, including stormwater capture, water recycling, groundwater replenishment, and regulatory reform. Governor Newsom emphasized that prioritizing the construction of Sites and DCP was imperative.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Holland Stewart provided an update on a potential statewide initiative slated for the November ballot that could significantly influence the adoption of taxes and fees.

6. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. State Water Project Fundamentals

Emmett Campbell, Senior Water Resources Planner provided an introduction on carryover water, explaining how unused Table A water from the previous year can be stored for future use.

7. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Adoption of the General Fund Budget FY 2024-25

Thomas Todd, Jr., Chief Financial Officer provided background on the proposed General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25. The Board discussed the proposed budget. Treasurer Ybarra provided background on the Finance & Budget Committees recommendation to approve the budget as presented. Director Smith suggested the Board stand with the committees' decision and made a motion to

adopt the General Fund Budget for FY 2024-25 as presented. Director Ball requested this item be brought back to the board at a future date for further review.

After further discussion, Director Duncan made a substitute motion to bring the budget back to board in two weeks for further review; Dr. Ball seconded the motion. Motion failed 3-3.

Director Smith restated his motion to approve the adoption of the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 with the addition of a 60-day review period; Treasurer Ybarra seconded the motion.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Smith, Walton, Duncan, Ybarra, Valdivia

Noes: Ball

Absent: Letulle

Motion passed 5-1.

8. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

Director Smith, Secretary Walton and Treasurer Ybarra reported on the following:

- May 29, 2024, Inspection Trip of SWP and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

Director Duncan reported on the following meeting:

- May 29, 2024, IERCD Water Conservation Classroom Program

Director Ball reported on the following meeting:

- May 23, 2024, Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District Engineering Workshop
- May 29, 2024, Southern California Water Portfolio Webinar: Just Got More Drought Resistant

President Valdivia reported on the following:

- Instructed staff to begin the process of future dates for GM evaluation committee meetings
- May 21, 2024, Beaumont City Council Meeting
- May 23, 2024, Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District Engineering Workshop
- May 28, 2024, Banning City Council Meeting
- May 29, 2024, IERCD Water Conservation Classroom Program
- Proposed the cancellation of the July 1, 2024, Regular Board Meeting due to the Independence Day holiday on July 4, 2024, and to allow vacation for staff and board members.

9. Topics for Future Agendas

- President Valdivia instructed staff to explore the addition of a potential Federal Lobbyist.

- Director Ball requested that next year's budget process include two viewings of the proposed fiscal year budget prior to it being agendized for approval.

10. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting, June 11, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
- B. Regular Board Meeting, June 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
- C. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, June 27, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.
- D. Regular Board Meeting, July 1, 2024, has been canceled.
- D. Office closed July 4, 2024, in observance of Independence Day.

11. Closed Session Agenda

- A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8
Property: Water rights/supplies: Table A allocation – water supplies from the State Water Project
Agency negotiator: Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Negotiating parties: Westside water districts – State Water Project Contractors
Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

12. Reconvene

- A. Report out of Closed Session
President Valdivia reconvened the meeting into Open Session; Counsel Holland reported there was no reportable action on Item 11.A., 54956.8.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Kevin Walton, Secretary of the Board

mvc