

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

**Official Minutes**  
**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**  
**June 17, 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, June 17, 2024, at the office of the Agency. Director Ball gave the invocation; President Valdivia led the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a roll call.

**Board Present:** Mickey Valdivia, President  
Robert Ybarra, Treasurer  
Kevin Walton, Secretary  
Blair M Ball, Director  
Ron Duncan, Director (via teleconference)  
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.

Counsel Stewart asked Director Duncan to make certain disclosures to comply with AB 2449 teleconference requirements.

President Valdivia recognized the following guests in attendance:  
Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Nyles O'Harra, Yucaipa Valley Water District

**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 reminded the board of the Groundbreaking Ceremony on June 20, 2024, for the Wochholz Regional Water Recycling Facility.

**4. Consent Calendar**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the June 3, 2024, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.

On a motion by Director Larry Smith, seconded by Treasurer Robert Ybarra, 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. Collaboration with Jeff Crider and Steve Stockton to document the history of the water agency, aiming for completion in time for the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
2. Participated in the H2KnowItAlls Podcast.
3. Enhancement of Agency Security System.

**B. Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel, Holland Stewart provided an update on the following:

1. Recent court ruling which upheld the CEQA approval for Sites Reservoir Project. Additionally, there was a mention of the simplified procedure that challengers must adhere to if they intend to appeal the ruling.

**6. Informational Presentations and Updates:**

**A. Public Outreach Initiative Update – FY 2023-24**

Tara Bravo Mulally, Chief Strategy Officer at CV Strategies provided an update on the public outreach initiatives, including social media engagement, website revisions, and press releases.

**B. Water Conditions Report**

Operations Manager, Matt Howard reviewed current water conditions, including precipitation totals, reservoir conditions, and local deliveries.

**C. Fiscal Year 2023-24 Review and Highlights**

General Manager, Lance Eckhart provided an overview of the accomplishments and initiatives for the past Fiscal Year 2023-24:

- Partnerships with Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, DWR approvals, and collaborations with CLAWA and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District.

- Reviewed water movement and storage operations, including record-breaking water transfers and new agreements with Ventura for long-term water storage.
- Highlighted local support initiatives including gap funding, turf removal programs, and technical support for small water systems.
- Agency initiatives that included strategic plans, gravity surveys, formation of Pass Agency nonprofit organization, and building modifications.

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

**A. Approve Resolution Nos. 2024-04 and 2024-05, calling for an election for up to four (4) seats of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) Board of Directors, requesting consolidation with the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, and notifying the County Clerk that candidates will be responsible to pay costs associated with Publication of the Statement of Qualifications**

Exec. Asst/Clerk of the Board, Maricela Cabral reviewed the actions needed in connection with the November 5, 2024 General Election: Approval of Resolution Nos. 2024-04 and 2024-05, calling for an election for up to four (4) seats of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) Board of Directors, requesting consolidation with the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, and notifying the County Clerk that candidates will be responsible to pay costs associated with publication of the Statement of Qualifications.

On a motion by Treasurer Robert Ybarra, seconded by President Mickey Valdivia, the board approved the following actions related to the November 5, 2024, General Election:

- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-04, calling for an election of up to four (4) seats of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors within the County of Riverside.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-05, calling for an election of up to two (2) seats of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors within the County of San Bernardino.
- Approved necessary expenditures associated with the elections up to the budgeted fiscal year 2024-25 amount of \$150,000.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**B. Approve Proposed Workplace Violence Prevention Policy**

Chief Financial Officer Thomas Todd, Jr., reviewed the proposed workplace violence prevention policy in compliance with Senate Bill 533, outlining management responsibilities, employee involvement, and incident reporting procedures. The Board discussed the proposed workplace violence prevention policy.

On a motion by Treasurer Robert Ybarra, seconded by Secretary Kevin Walton, the board approved the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**C. 2024 Water Transfer Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and the Westside Water Districts**

Sr. Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell reviewed the 2024 Water Transfer Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and the Westside Water Districts. The Board discussed the agreement.

Joyce McIntire, Board President of Yucaipa Valley Water District inquired about the agreement and the need to meet water orders.

Mark Swanson, Director of Engineering for Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District provided comment on the water supply and demand assessments required by July 1, 2024. He mentioned their numbers are lower than previous years but align with regional supply needs.

On a motion by Director Blair Ball, seconded by Treasurer Robert Ybarra, the board approved the 2024 Water Transfer Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and the Westside Water Districts.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**8. Reports - Directors and Committee Report**

**Director Ball** reported on the following:

- June 12, 2024, Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District Board Meeting

**Treasurer Ybarra** had no comment.

**Secretary Walton** reported on the following:

- June 12, 2024, South Mesa Water Company Board Meeting

**Director Smith** discussed a lunch meeting he had with a former agency president, recommending to General Manager Eckhart the continuation of progress with substantial projects.

**President Valdivia** commented on the following:

- Reminder of the Yucaipa Valley Water District Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Wochholz Regional Water Recycling Facility on June 20, 2024.
- Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will convene, if necessary, on July 29, 2024, to review the debt service fund.

**Director Duncan** reported on the following:

- June 17, 2024, Water Conservation and Education Committee Meeting. He indicated that the Solar Challenge would undergo a name change to So Cal Stem Challenge.

**9. Topics for Future Agendas**

- Secretary Walton asked for an update on the East Branch and discussed plans for a future field trip meeting with the Metropolitan Water District representative.

**10. Announcements**

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, June 27, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.
- B. Regular Board Meeting, July 1, 2024, has been canceled.
- C. Office closed July 4, 2024, in observance of Independence Day.
- D. Water Portfolio Workshop, July 8, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

**11. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, July 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

---

Kevin Walton, Secretary of the Board

mvc