

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
August 19, 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 Valdivia at 6:00 p.m., Monday, August 19, 2024, at the office of the Agency. Director Ball gave the invocation and President Valdivia led the Pledge of Allegiance. In the Olympic spirit, President Valdivia showcased a video clip of the Men's golf gold medal ceremony, highlighting Scottie Scheffler's achievement. President Valdivia requested a roll call.

Board Present: Mickey Valdivia, President
Chander Letulle, Vice-President (via teleconference)
Robert Ybarra, Treasurer
Blair M Ball, Director
Ron Duncan, Director
Larry Smith, Director

Board Absent: Kevin Walton, Secretary

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

Consultant Present: Holland Stewart, Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

Counsell Stewart verified with Vice President Letulle that the Brown Act requirements for teleconference meetings were adhered to for Vice President Letulle's participation from the following location: 2768 Ben Lomond Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 92223.

2. Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as published.

3. Public Comment

Sarah Wargo introduced herself announcing her candidacy for the Division One (1) seat currently held by Director Ron Duncan. She provided a brief overview highlighting her experience as a business analyst with eight years of experience at Cabazon Water, including two years as Board Chair, and most recently as Director at United Healthcare. She emphasized the need for representation from the Cabazon basin and looks forward to collaborating with the Board.

4. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve Minutes of the August 5, 2024, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.

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

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Walton

Motion passed 6-0.

5. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

- Participated in the Sites Water Rights Hearing in Sacramento.
- AVEK Letter of Interest for Banking Program signaling their intent to advance a potential long-term partnership with AVEK.
- Nickel Trial delayed by a week, might require testimony; staff will attend the trial on a rotating basis.
- Heli-Hydrant group met and in support of beginning in the Cabazon area, working from east to west.
- Scheduling a meeting with Metropolitan to arrange an upcoming tour of the Cabazon area, aimed at advancing the partnership initiative.

Director Smith expressed gratitude to General Manager Eckhart for identifying the appropriate group to initiate the partnership.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart had no report.

6. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager, Matt Howard discussed California's current reservoir conditions and water allocation for 2024. He noted that while precipitation levels have plateaued in mid-summer and remain below average, we have still achieved 90% of our statewide precipitation average. As we approach the end of the water year, which runs from October 1 to September 30, statewide precipitation trends become increasingly significant in our water resources planning for the upcoming water year.

Regarding reservoir storage conditions, Mr. Howard highlighted that typical summer water demands for municipal, industrial, agricultural, and environmental needs have led to a decline in storage levels in various reservoirs from the 90% to the 70%'s of total capacity. Despite this, most reservoirs are still above 100% of historical averages. Specifically, Oroville Reservoir is at 72% of its total capacity and 113% of its historical average, while San Luis Reservoir is at 44% capacity and 109% of its historical average. Mr. Howard observed that San Luis has recently started refilling, which may be due to changes in export regulations to the pumping operations in the South Delta.

On the topic of allocations, Mr. Howard noted that the State Water Project allocation for 2024 is currently at 40%, providing a total supply of approximately 25,000 acre-feet. He mentioned that earlier this year, the board approved a transfer of 6,000 acre-feet to a Westside group, leaving approximately 20,000 acre-feet available for local recharge.

B. Operations & Maintenance Update

Operations Manager, Matt Howard provided an update on recent operational and maintenance activities. He highlighted that recharge operations were paused on August 1, with pond ripping conducted from August 12 to 14 to enhance infiltration rates by breaking up hard crust at the Brookside Recharge Facility. Meter calibration for Mountain View and Noble Creek turnouts was completed on June 4 to ensure accuracy and regulatory compliance. The same calibration firm that San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District was used for consistency between the two agencies. To address algae growth that affects percolation rates, EarthTec treatment has been implemented at the Brookside East recharge facility. This treatment has effectively reduced visible algae and improved water clarity. DWR's monitoring team tracks harmful algae blooms statewide, allowing timely adjustments to treatment.

Security upgrades included installing 14 high-definition cameras at the headquarters and nine at turnouts. These cameras, equipped with motion detection and remote access, enhance security and monitoring. Additional maintenance efforts include biannual gutter and solar panel cleaning. Staff also completed CPR, AED, and first aid training, supporting local businesses and emergency preparedness.

Lastly, a study on gypsum's effectiveness for improving percolation rates found no benefit, as our water source lacks the clay minerals gypsum would target. Field evaluations confirmed the presence of unconsolidated materials, which are suitable for recharge, and noted minor algae issues. Mr. Howard concluded by acknowledging the ongoing support from Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District and other partners.

7. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Authorize the General Manager to execute a Contract in a not-to-exceed amount of \$60,000 for Professional Services with Inland Empire Resource Conservation District for Fiscal Year 2024-25

General Manager Eckhart outlined the proposed contract with the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) for Fiscal Year 2024-25, with a not-to-exceed amount of \$60,000. Since 2014, IERCD has represented SGPWA at various events and has been actively involved in regional water education, including expanding outreach with additional classroom presentations and bilingual materials. The new proposal aims to broaden their services to include turf program support, leveraging IERCD's extensive experience in these areas. This initiative is designed to improve water savings and tackle drought-related issues.

IERCD District Manager Mandy Parkes, and Education Programs Lead Gabriella Preciado expressed gratitude to SGPWA for supporting their classroom programs and community events. She highlighted the positive turnout, thanked General Manager Eckhart for his flexibility, and appreciated everyone's support in maintaining this valuable partnership.

Conservation & Education Committee Chairman Duncan affirmed the committee's unanimous support for renewing the contract with IERCD for another year at the \$60,000 level.

Director Ball commented he had concerns with how the budget for the new contract was being allocated.

After further discussion, on a motion by Director Duncan seconded by President Valdivia, the board approved the General Manager to execute a Contract in a not-to-exceed amount of \$60,000 for Professional Services with Inland Empire Resource Conservation District for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Smith, Duncan, Ybarra, Letulle, Valdivia

Noes: Ball

Absent: Walton

Motion passed 5-1.

B. Approve Resolution No. 2024-09, Plan of Service, and authorize the General Manager to process necessary paperwork to complete Beaumont Pointe's Riverside LAFCO application to Annex into SGPWA's Service Area

Emmett Campbell, Senior Water Resources Planner provided background on the Beaumont Pointe development annexation into SGPWA's Service Area, Resolution No. 2024-09 and the Plan of Service.

Mark Swanson, Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District, Director of Engineering addressed the board describing the two key documents involved, the Water Supply Assessment (WSA) and the Plan of Service.

Mike Canfield, representing Beaumont Point Partners, LLC, provided an overview of the project's approval process. He detailed their efforts, including multiple Planning Commission and City Council hearings with the City of Beaumont, as well as collaboration with the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District and resource agencies to ensure proper preservation of open space and wildlife habitats.

Dan Jagers, General Manager of Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District commented from a water supply perspective, the project will demand significantly less water than residential developments would, which could alleviate water supply pressures. He also noted such projects bring substantial benefits to the community in terms of job creation and tax revenue and reiterated the project's overall favorable impact.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Vice President Letulle, the board approved Resolution No. 2024-09, Plan of Service, and authorized the General Manager to process the necessary paperwork to complete Beaumont Pointe's Riverside LAFCO application to Annex into SGPWA's Service Area.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Walton

Motion passed 6-0.

8. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

Director Smith expressed gratitude for the update on the Site Reservoir project and noted the growing recognition of water storage projects like Sites at recent conferences like Urban Water Institute.

Director Duncan reported on the following:

- August 13, 2024, City of Banning City Council Meeting
- August 14, 2024, State of the District with Supervisor Gutierrez

Treasurer Ybarra and Vice President Letulle had no report.

Director Ball reported on the following:

- August 9, 2024, BIA Southern California Water Conference

President Valdivia reported on the following:

- August 9, 2024, BIA Southern California Water Conference
- August 12, 2024, Heli-Hydrant Coordination Meeting
- August 13, 2024, Water Education & Conservation Committee Meeting
- Will be attending the upcoming Urban Water Institute Conference

9. Topics for Future Agendas

No topics were discussed.

10. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Office closed in observance of Labor Day, September 2, 2024.
- B. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, September 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
- C. Regular Board Meeting, September 9, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
- D. Regular Board Meeting, September 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
- E. Regular Board Meeting, October 7, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, September 9, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

Kevin Walton, Secretary of the Board

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