

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
September 16, 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, September 16, 2024, at the office of the Agency. Secretary Walton gave the invocation; Vice President Letulle led the Pledge of Allegiance and President Valdivia 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, Exec. Asst. /Clerk of the Board
Emmett Campbell, Sr. Water Resources Planner
Matt Howard, Operations Manager

Consultant Present:

Jeff Ferre, Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

2. Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as published.

3. Public Comment

Al Chavez introduced himself highlighting his background in business and community service.

Joyce McIntire, President of the Yucaipa Valley Water District, shared her experience at the 2024 WaterReuse Conference and the awarded received by her district. She expressed gratitude to Secretary Walton for attending and demonstrating support.

4. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve Minutes of the September 9, 2024, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.

On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by Vice President Letulle, 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 reported on the following:

1. Jeff Crider initiated the research project on the historical background of the agency.
2. Update on the Line Fire and the ongoing response efforts.
3. Highlighted the importance of the Backbone Pipeline Workshop scheduled for September 30, 2024.
4. Inland Empire Resource Conservation District will be at the Cabazon Community Fair scheduled for September 21, 2024.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel, Jeff Ferre provided an update on the Sites Reservoir project, detailing the water rights permit process and the expected timeline for construction.

6. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager, Matt Howard presented the water conditions report for September, discussing precipitation levels and reservoir conditions.

7. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Joint Funding Agreement between San Geronio Pass Water Agency and the United States Geological Survey for the Annual Extension of the Cooperative Water Resources Program

Operations Manager, Matt Howard presented the details of the Joint Funding Agreement between San Geronio Pass Water Agency and the United States Geological Survey for the Annual Extension of the Cooperative Water Resources Program. The Board discussed the importance of the USGS's work and the quality of the data they provide.

On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by Secretary Walton, the board approved the Joint Funding Agreement between San Geronio Pass Water Agency and the United States Geological Survey for the Annual Extension of the Cooperative Water Resources Program.

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

- i. September 9-12, 2024, California Special District 2024 Annual Conference (Directors Smith, Letulle, Walton, Ybarra and Valdivia)
- ii. September 10, 2024, City of Banning City Council Meeting (Directors Duncan and Ybarra)
- iii. September 10, 2024, Calimesa Chamber Breakfast (Director Duncan)
- iv. September 11, 2024, South Mesa Water Company Board Meeting (Director Duncan)
- v. September 12, 2024, Noble Creek Regional Park Incident Command Post Tour (Directors Smith, Letulle, Walton and Valdivia)
- vi. September 13, 2024, Beaumont Chamber Breakfast (Director Duncan)
- vii. September 16, 2024, 2024 WaterReuse California Conference (Secretary Walton)
- viii. September 18, 2024, Special Meeting of the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Board of Directors (President Valdivia)

Director Smith, Secretary Walton and Vice President Letulle commented on the importance of cybersecurity and the First Amendment audits.

Secretary Walton highlighted the need for a board handbook.

Treasurer Ybarra emphasized the significance of zero-emission vehicles and highlighted the necessity for board updates on cybersecurity.

Director Ball had no report.

President Valdivia expressed gratitude to Secretary Walton for representing the agency at the WaterReuse Conference earlier in the day.

9. Topics for Future Agendas

Director Smith requested that a future agenda item be added to discuss board member medical plans, with the aim of ensuring alignment with neighboring agencies. Dr. Ball commented on the Bond payoff with DWR and the Flume tour which appear on the future agenda topic spreadsheet.

10. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, September 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
- B. Backbone Pipeline Workshop, September 30, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.
- C. 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 7:31 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, October 7, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

Kevin Walton, Secretary of the Board

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