



SAN GORGONIO PASS
WATER AGENCY
A California State Water Project Contractor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board Resolution Champions Federal and State Executive Orders

Orders Deliver Much-Needed Water Resources to Pass Area

BEAUMONT, CA (February 19, 2025) – The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) underscored critical water supply needs in California — including fire response, water storage, and groundwater recharge — in a Board resolution adopted on February 3, 2025. The SGPWA Board of Directors supported a water-focused Executive Order from President Donald Trump and one from Governor Gavin Newsom enabling maximized storm flow diversions.

President Trump’s Executive Order, titled “Emergency Measures to Provide Water Resources in California and Improve Disaster Response in Certain Areas” and delivered on January 24, 2025, aids California’s ability to fight and prevent massive wildfires and increases water deliveries to Southern California.

SGPWA is a State Water Contractor located at the end of the line for State Water Project (SWP) deliveries, and the President’s Executive Order bolsters the Agency’s efforts to secure a reliable water supply for a rapidly developing region.

“The Agency is grateful for this swift response to vital water issues in California,” SGPWA Board President Mickey Valdivia said. “We are happy to support the federal, state, and local agencies tasked with implementing both Executive Orders’ directives in any way they may need.”

Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-16-25, delivered on January 31, 2025, directs the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and other state agencies to maximize diversions of excess stormwater from incoming winter storms. These flows will be used to boost water storage in Northern California and replenish above-ground and groundwater storage across the state.

For SGPWA, the Governor’s Executive Order strengthens its ability to preserve regional groundwater resources for current and future generations. This Executive Order enables the Agency to manage groundwater sustainably and move closer to ending local groundwater overdraft.

Through backing these Executive Orders, SGPWA hopes to achieve significant goals for the Pass area, including:

President

Mickey Valdivia

Vice President

Chander Letulle

Treasurer

Robert Ybarra

Secretary

Kevin Walton

Directors

Dr. Blair M Ball

Sarah Wargo

Larry Smith

General Manager

Lance Eckhart,

PG, CHG

Legal Counsel

Jeffrey Ferre

- Addressing the SWP's aging infrastructure and California's lack of water storage relative to its supply
- Ensuring less water is lost to environmental flows to the ocean
- Putting an end to water shortages, largely driven by regulatory constraints that have reduced imported water supplies and exacerbated California's housing crisis
- Support for California farmers that have fallowed hundreds of thousands of acres of fields due to reduced water supply, rising water costs, and increasing regulatory burdens
- Stronger fire response infrastructure due to the Pass area's risk of wildfires in the future

Learn more at www.sgpwa.com.

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About San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Formed in 1961, SGPWA is a State Water Contractor that serves a 225-square-mile area of western Riverside County. The service area includes the cities of Calimesa, Beaumont, and Banning, and the communities of Cherry Valley, Cabazon, and the Banning Bench. In addition to importing State Water Project (SWP) water from Northern California to augment local groundwater sources, the Agency builds local system infrastructure, participates in water transfers, partners in statewide water projects and collaborates on regional water reliability and conservation efforts.