



SAN GORGONIO PASS
WATER AGENCY
A California State Water Project Contractor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fellowship Helps Agency Leaders Tackle Local Water Challenges

Policy-Driven Program Gives Voice to Latino Elected Officials

BEAUMONT, CA (February 25, 2025) – SGPWA Board Vice President Chander Letulle and Treasurer Robert Ybarra deepened their understanding of regional water needs as fellows of the WELL UnTapped program.

Founded in 2012, Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) educates local Latino elected officials on California water policy to develop a robust economy, healthy communities, and a resilient environment for all Californians. A total of 1,600 leaders have graduated from WELL's programs. WELL UnTapped is a selective, six-month fellowship for elected leaders throughout the region. Board member participation is funded by the Agency. Vice President Letulle and Treasurer Ybarra returned from the fellowship equipped to shape local water policy and address the Pass area's water challenges.

"My time in the program has been very enlightening," Treasurer Ybarra said. "It was an eye-opening experience to visit disadvantaged communities in Coachella as local officials work to remove contaminants from their water and sewer. It reinforces the critical importance of the work we do at SGPWA to strengthen water resilience for our region."

"My visit to the border along San Diego and Mexico enabled me to see water challenges from a different perspective than the programs I would typically participate in," Vice President Letulle added. "Observing the conditions of these water issues in person drove home their urgency."

During their fellowship sessions, Vice President Letulle and Treasurer Ybarra took excursions to areas in need, including:

- The Salton Sea
- The United States-Mexico border
- Disadvantaged communities with unstable groundwater in the Coachella Valley

Vice President Letulle represents Division 2, which includes parts of Beaumont and Banning. He will carry his fellowship experience with him to ensure the region secures adequate water resources to support its growth. Treasurer Ybarra is the Board's At-Large 2 representative,

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Vice President

Chander Letulle

Treasurer

Robert Ybarra

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serving the region from Cabazon to Calimesa/Yucaipa. This fellowship will help him support a sustainable water future for all.

Learn more at www.sgpwa.com.

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About San Gorgonio 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.