

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
March 17, 2025

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON,
WITH PUBLIC AVAILABILITY PROVIDED VIA ZOOM.

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Invocation

The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Mickey Valdivia at 6:04 p.m., Monday, March 17, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Director Smith provided the invocation and Secretary Walton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

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
Sarah Wargo, 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.

3. Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as published.

4. Public Comment

No public comment received.

5. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve Minutes of the March 3, 2025, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.

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

Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Smith, Walton, Wargo, Ybarra, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager Eckhart had no report.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Ferre provided an update on the new Public Records Act law, which prevents contracts from including trade secrets and requires disclosure of all parts of the contract.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager, Matt Howard presented the water conditions report for the month of March. He reported that Northern CRS stations received 16.9 inches of precipitation in February and 5.4 inches in March to date, with additional storms expected. Total precipitation now stands at 48.6 inches—120% of average—and is on track to exceed the seasonal norm of 53.2 inches.

Reservoir levels remain strong. Lake Oroville is at 85%, intentionally managed for flood control. San Luis Reservoir is at 102% of its historical average and tracking seasonal expectations. Potential spill risks are expected to be addressed in April.

Snowpack conditions have improved significantly, rising from 73% to 89% of the April 1 average due to March storms. However, recent warm and dry conditions have begun to reduce those gains. Continued storm activity will be important to sustain statewide averages through the end of the accumulation season.

In response to a prior board inquiry, Mr. Howard reported that since October 1, 2024, over 12 million acre-feet of water have flowed out to the ocean, while the Banks and Jones pumping facilities have exported just over 2 million acre-feet. Staff has worked with DWR to access this data and will provide updates as requested.

The current State Water Project allocation is 35%, providing a total supply of just over 15,000 acre-feet, including 3,000 acre-feet purchased from the City of Yuba City. San Luis carryover water (1,217 acre-feet) has been delivered, and delivery of the Yuba City water is underway, expected to finish by April

10. Based on current conditions, an allocation increase is anticipated, potentially up to 50–55%.

In February, the agency delivered 1,034 acre-feet to the region. March deliveries are projected to exceed 2,000 acre-feet, supported by Beaumont-Cherry Valley's completion of maintenance and meter calibration on Phase 1 facilities, which has enabled increased flows and improved recharge performance.

B. State Water Project Fundamentals – Article 21 Water

Senior Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell provided a brief overview of Article 21 water, a surplus supply made available during periods of excess system flows—typically when San Luis Reservoir is full. This water is intermittent, must be used immediately, and cannot be stored in State Water Project facilities, though it can be stored locally.

Article 21 is separate from Table A allocations and not guaranteed. In 2023, the agency received over 5,000 acre-feet of Article 21 water, supplementing a 100% Table A allocation and resulting in a total supply of nearly 40,000 acre-feet.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Consideration of Formal Endorsement for Melody McDonald's Re-Election to the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA JPIA) Executive Committee and Adoption of Resolution 2025-02

Clerk of the Board Maricela Cabral presented draft Resolution 2025-02 for the Board's discussion and consideration. The resolution expresses support for Ms. McDonald as a candidate for the ACWA JPIA Executive Committee. She noted the staff report includes relevant background information and confirmed that, as of today's date, no other candidates have requested support. All nominations must be submitted to ACWA by Friday, April 11.

On a motion by Vice President Letulle seconded by President Valdivia, the board approved Resolution 2025-02, formally endorsing Melody McDonald's re-election to the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority Executive Committee.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Smith, Walton, Wargo, Ybarra, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee

The following meetings were reported on:

- March 3, 2025, Banning City Council - Special Meeting (Wargo)

- March 4, 2025, Beaumont City Council Meeting (Valdivia)
- March 5, 2025, Beaumont Basin Watermaster (Wargo & Valdivia)
- March 6, 2025, IERCD Know Your Water presentation, Palm Innovation School (Wargo)
- March 7, 2025, California State Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh Swearing-In Ceremony (Wargo)
- March 8, 2025, District 2 Town Hall Meeting with Council Member Cindy Barrington (Wargo)
- March 11, 2025, California Water Association 2nd Annual Women in Water Leadership Seminar (Wargo)
- March 12, 2025, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Regular Board Meeting (Ball)
- March 12, 2025, Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez' Pass Area Telephone Town Hall (Wargo)
- March 14, 2025, Beaumont Chamber Breakfast (Smith & Valdivia)
- March 16, 2025, Banning Little League Opening Day (Wargo)
- March 17, 2025, Heli-Hydrant Meeting w/Burk Minor, Wildland Firefighters Foundation (Walton)

Director Smith reported on his attendance at a recent Beaumont Chamber Breakfast, where the featured speaker addressed the growing issue of fentanyl use and the importance of Narcan. He recommended the agency consider offering safety training for board and staff, including the proper use of Narcan, defibrillators, and other emergency response tools.

President Valdivia announced the following:

- Twin Pines Water Supply & Fire Protection Upgrades Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for March 28, 2025, at 9 a.m.
- Water Conservation Workshop: Gardening with Native Plants scheduled for March 27, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Directors Ybarra and Letulle had no report.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

No topics were discussed.

11. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Water Conservation Workshop: Gardening with Native Plants, March 19, 2025, 5:00 p.m. at Noble Creek Community Center
- B. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, March 27, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
- C. Twin Pines Water Supply & Fire Protection Upgrades Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, March 28, 2025 at 9 a.m.
- D. Regular Board Meeting, April 7, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, April 5, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.



Maricela V. Cabral, CMC, CPMC
Deputy Secretary of the Board
San Geronio Pass Water Agency