

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
April 7, 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 Valdivia at 1:30 p.m., Monday, April 7, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Secretary Walton provided the invocation, and Director Wargo 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

President Valdivia announced that Item 8.A was being tabled and will be brought back for consideration at a future meeting. Counsel Ferre announced the need to add a late breaking item for a public employee performance evaluation of the General Manager under Government Code 54954.2, as it was after the agenda was posted, and because of the calendar of meetings coming up for the board and the GM Ad-Hoc Committee meeting.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Treasurer Ybarra, the board approved the adjustment of the agenda with the removal of Item 8.A, and addition of Item 11.B.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

4. Public Comment

No public comment received.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Approve Minutes of the March 17, 2025, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors

B. Approve Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report for February 2025

Director Ball requested Item 5.B be pulled for discussion.

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Treasurer Ybarra, the board approved Item 5.A on the Consent Calendar.

Approved by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

Item pulled from Consent Calendar for Discussion

B. Approve Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report for February 2025

Treasurer Ybarra reported the Budget and Finance Committee met on March 27, 2025, to review February's financial items, including invoices, payroll, bank reconciliation, budget reports, legal invoices, and the grant funding report.

Director Ball requested clarification regarding the invoice from the Community Water Systems Alliance. General Manager Eckhart provided an explanation, detailing the nature of the expense and highlighting the associated benefits for smaller water systems.

On a motion by Secretary Walton, seconded by President Valdivia, the board approved Item 5.B, Approve Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report for February 2025.

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, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Update on allocation status which is at 40%.

2. Brookside West design project is progressing, with a job walk successfully completed last week.
3. County Line Road project is approaching the bidding phase; recent meetings with City of Calimesa have been productive.
4. Meeting with landscape architect has been scheduled to discuss beautification projects for Brookside and Beaumont Avenue.
5. First tranche of funding to Cabazon is completely paid off, total amount of \$1,284,221.36 disbursed and paid back.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Ferre had no report.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. State Water Project Fundamentals – Article 55

Sr. Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell presented an overview of Article 55 of the State Water Project (SWP) contract, which allows agencies to use SWP infrastructure to transport non-SWP water to their service areas. This water can be procured by either DWR or the agency, with the agency responsible for all associated conveyance costs. Use of Article 55 water must not impact SWP operations and requires coordination with DWR. Current sources include Nickel Water (via a lease with AVEK) and Yuba Accord Water (through a DWR agreement with the Yuba region).

B. Heli-Hydrant Update

Sr. Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell provided an update on the heli-hydrant project, funded by \$1.8 million in ARPA funds. Mr. Campbell reported two heli-hydrants are currently being installed.

Michael Pollack, General Manager for Cabazon Water District, reported that the heli-hydrant at the North site is nearly complete.

General Manager Eckhart reported that the heli-hydrant at Jurupa Valley was used in an active operation, performing as expected.

C. Procurement Policy Required Notification: Contract with Land Engineering Consultants Inc., in the amount of \$43,260, for Bid Support for County Line Rd Recharge Basin and Turnout Project

Chief Financial Officer Thomas Todd, Jr. informed the Board of a contract with Land Engineering Consultants to provide bid support services for the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project. The contract totals \$43,260 and remains within the approved project budget of \$1.25 million. This item was presented for informational purposes only, with no Board action required.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Approve and Authorize the General Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Metropolitan Water District of Southern

California (MWDC) for Identifying and Developing Mutually Beneficial Projects

Item was tabled and not discussed.

- B. Consideration of Formal Endorsement of T. Milford Harrison's Election to the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance (ACWA JPIA) Executive Committee and Adoption of Resolution 2025-03**
- Clerk of the Board Maricela Cabral presented a request from San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District seeking the Board's support for their President, T. Milford Harrison, in his candidacy for the ACWA JPIA Executive Committee, along with adoption of Resolution 2025-03.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Director Smith, the board approved Resolution 2025-03, endorsing T. Milford Harrison's election to the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance (ACWA JPIA) 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 Report

The following meetings were reported on:

- March 18, 2025, Cabazon Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- March 19, 2025, Banning Chamber of Commerce Sunrise Breakfast (Wargo)
- March 19, 2025, High Valley Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- March 19, 2025, IERCD Water Conservation Workshop: Gardening with Native Plants (Wargo, Ball, Walton, & Valdivia)
- March 20, 2025, Tour of SGPWA Facilities (Wargo)
- March 25, 2025, City of Banning – City Council Meeting (Walton)
- March 26, 2025, San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance Meeting (Smith)
- March 27, 2025, Banning Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner (Wargo)
- March 28, 2025, High Valleys Water District Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (Walton, Wargo, Valdivia, Ybarra, Letulle, & Ball)
- March 31, 2025, GM Evaluation Committee Meeting (Valdivia)
- April 1, 2025, Beaumont City Council Meeting (Valdivia)
- April 2, 2025, Beaumont Basin Watermaster Meeting (Smith, Letulle & Valdivia)
- April 2, 2025, Cabazon Infrastructure Meeting (Wargo)
- April 3, 2025, Yucaipa Valley Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- April 3 – 5, 2025, WELL UnTapped Session (Ybarra)

10. Board Requests for Future Agenda Items

No topics were discussed.

11. Closed Session Agenda

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9

One potential case

B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Government Code Section 54954.2

Title: General Manager

12. Reconvene

A. Report out of Closed Session

President Valdivia convened the meeting to open session. Counsel Ferre announced there was no reportable action on items 11.A or 11.B.

13. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

A. Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting, April 8, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

B. Regular Board Meeting, April 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

C. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, April 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

D. Regular Board Meeting, May 5, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, April 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.



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