

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
April 21, 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 Vice President Chander Letulle at 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 21, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Director Sarah Wargo provided the invocation and Treasurer Robert Ybarra led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prior to the roll call, Counsel Stewart verified with President Mickey Valdivia that the Brown Act requirements for teleconference meetings were adhered to for President Valdivias' participation from the following location: 50-777 Santa Rosa Plz, La Quinta, CA 92253.

2. Roll Call

Vice President Letulle requested a roll call.

Board Present:

Mickey Valdivia, President – via teleconference
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:

Holland Stewart, Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

3. Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda

General Manager Eckhart announced that Item 8.A, Consideration of New Staff Position – Water Systems Operator I/II was being withdrawn from the agenda.

4. Public Comment

No public comment received.

5. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve Minutes of the April 7, 2025, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Treasurer Ybarra, the board approved the Consent Calendar with adjustments made.

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. Westside visit and tour of April 9, 2025
2. Monitoring Wells and High Valley Ribbon Cutting press releases
3. Sites Reservoir Field Trip of April 17, 2025

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart had no report.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. State Water Project Fundamentals – Water Supply Contract Recap

Senior Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell provided an overview of the Water Supply Contract, outlining the various types of water included in the agreement, such as Table A water, carryover water, and Article 55 water. He noted that the contract has undergone 20 amendments since its inception in 1962. The most recent amendments extend the contract through 2085 and introduce provisions that facilitate increased flexibility in water transfers and exchanges.

B. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager Matt Howard presented the April water conditions report, noting that precipitation levels in the northern Sierra are currently above average. He provided an update on the status of Lake Oroville and San Luis Reservoir, emphasizing the effects of snowpack melt on storage levels. Mr. Howard also offered a detailed analysis of Delta outflow data, illustrating the volume of water exiting the Delta and its implications for overall water management. Additionally, he addressed the anticipated water deliveries and underscored the critical importance of maintaining recharge facilities to support ongoing water supply reliability.

C. USGS Drilling Monitoring Wells Project Update

Operations Manager Matt Howard provided an update on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) monitoring well drilling project, including the current progress

at Site P1. He outlined the project's primary objectives, which involve collecting groundwater level and water quality data to support the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Mr. Howard also discussed the partnership with the City of Banning for the disposal of drilling mud and noted the projected completion timeline for the remaining well sites. He emphasized the project's significance in advancing groundwater management efforts and highlighted cost-saving strategies that have been implemented to enhance overall efficiency.

D. Procurement Policy Required Notification: Contract with K-Vac Environmental Services, Inc., in the amount of \$44,795.11, for Mud Hauling at USGS Well Drilling Site

Chief Financial Officer Thomas Todd Jr. provided background information on the contract with K-Vac Environmental Services, Inc., noting that the company submitted the lowest responsible bid. He confirmed that the contract falls within the budgeted allocation for monitoring well drilling. Mr. Todd acknowledged the limited notice given by the U.S. Geological Survey regarding the drilling schedule and commended the agency's prompt response. He further noted that the project is funded through a grant from the Department of Water Resources (DWR), with financial responsibilities prorated among the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) member agencies.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Consideration of New Staff Position – Water Systems Operator I/II

Item was withdrawn from the agenda.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

The following meetings were reported on:

- April 2, 2025, Beaumont Basin Watermaster meeting (Walton)
- April 3, 2025, Heli-Hydrant Coordination meeting (Walton)
- April 8, 2025, Water Conservation and Education Committee meeting (Wargo)
- April 8, 2025, Banning City Council meeting (Walton, Wargo)
- April 9, 2025, South Mesa Water Company Board meeting (Walton)
- April 9, 2025, Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District Board meeting (Walton)
- April 10, 2025, San Bernardino Valley Foundations Summit (Wargo)
- April 10, 2025, West Desert MAC meeting (Wargo)
- April 11, 2025, San Bernardino Valley Foundations Tour (Walton)
- April 13, 2025, Bogart Trout Fishing Derby 2025 (Wargo)
- April 14, 2025, Banning Heights Mutual Water Company Annual Shareholders meeting (Wargo)
- April 15, 2025, Cabazon Water District Board meeting (Wargo)
- April 16, 2025, High Valleys Water District Board meeting (Wargo)
- April 17-19, 2025, Sites Field Trip (Walton, Smith)

Directors Ball, Ybarra, and Letulle had no report.

President Valdivia announced that he would provide a report on the meetings he attended at the next board meeting when he is present.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

Secretary Walton requested a more formal presentation on the agency's enabling act and contract to better understand the agency's role and responsibilities.

11. Announcements

Vice President Letulle reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, April 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
- B. SoCal STEAM Challenge, May 2-4, 2025
- C. Regular Board Meeting, May 5, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Vice President Letulle adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, May 5, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Maricela V. Cabral, CMC, CPMC
Deputy Secretary of the Board