

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
May 19, 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 6:00 p.m., Monday, May 19, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Treasurer Robert Ybarra provided the invocation and Director Blair Ball led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

President Valdivia requested a roll call.

Board Present:

Mickey Valdivia, President
Robert Ybarra, Treasurer
Kevin Walton, Secretary
Blair M Ball, Director
Larry Smith, Director

Absent:

Chander Letulle, Vice-President
Sarah Wargo, 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 confirmed there were no adjustments to the agenda. The agenda was adopted as published.

4. Public Comment

Mr. Andy Ramirez (Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Director) thanked the Board for holding the meeting.

5. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve Minutes of the May 5, 2025, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.

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

Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Smith, Walton, Ybarra, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle, Wargo

Motion passed 5-0.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Update on Governor Newsom's May revision proposal including a trailer bill to expedite the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). Key highlights covered cost escalations, legal streamlining, revenue bond authority, and community benefits funding.
2. Glenn Farrel, Agency's legislative consultant, has already begun advocacy efforts with Senator Ochoa Bogh and Assemblymember Greg Wallis.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart had no report.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager Matt Howard provided current hydrology updates including 109% of average precipitation in the Northern Sierra, nearly full reservoir conditions, and a 50% SWP allocation. April deliveries were just under 2,000 AF; May deliveries projected at 1,500 AF due to recharge facility maintenance. Collaboration with Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District is improving recharge performance.

B. Small Water Systems Assistance Program Update

Operations Manager Matt Howard reported on the partnership with California Rural Water Association, ongoing technical compliance assistance, and progress on grant applications. Cabazon, High Valleys, Cherry Valley Mutual and others are actively working with the program. Notable grants include \$16 million for Cabazon and \$3.5 million previously awarded to Banning Heights. Legal Counsel affirmed the Agency's authority to support these programs. Director Walton requested further clarification for public understanding, and GM Eckhart committed to tying legal justifications to future Agency Act workshops.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

- A. Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Land Engineering Consultants, Inc. for Construction

Management Services In Connection with the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project for a not-to-exceed amount of \$369,500

Senior Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell presented the proposal for construction management services related to the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project, not to exceed \$369,500. LEC was recommended due to value-added services and cost structure. Public comment from Ms. Joyce McIntyre inquired about intersection closures; staff confirmed no immediate closures.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Secretary Walton, the board approved and authorized the General Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Land Engineering Consultants, Inc., for Construction Management Services in Connection with the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project for a not-to-exceed amount of \$369,500.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Smith, Walton, Ybarra, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle, Wargo

Motion passed 5-0.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

The following meetings were reported on:

- May 13, 2025, Banning City Council Meeting (Valdivia)
- May 13-15, 2025, Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Fall Conference (Smith, Walton)
- May 14, 2025, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Board Meeting (Ball)

Director Smith praised the agency's involvement in supporting small water systems and the educational component of the program.

Director Walton highlighted the importance of the agency's work at the state level and the impact of the Heli-Hydrant project in Cabazon.

President Valdivia expressed his appreciation for the equitable rotation of staff attending conferences, highlighting the importance of inclusive participation. He also requested an update on the Board's healthcare benefits as it is tied to the passage of the budget.

President Valdivia announced that the Board meeting scheduled for August 4, 2025, has been canceled and will not be held.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

No topics were discussed.

BCVWD Director Ramirez expressed appreciation for the positive feedback received from the Board and recognized the collective effort to drive meaningful change. He emphasized the importance of collaboration and acknowledged the significant work undertaken by the Board to support these efforts.

11. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Office closed May 26, 2025 in observance of Memorial Day
- B. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, May 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
- C. Regular Board Meeting, June 2, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.
- D. Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting, June 10, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, June 2, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

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