

Regional Water Security

Planning today for a reliable future

Five-Year Strategic Plan - 2025 Update



Executive Summary

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) is a dynamic and collaborative agency focused on ensuring a sustainable water supply for the region, today and for years to come.



As part of our efforts to secure future reliability, the Agency developed the following Strategic Plan. The plan is designed to serve as a guidepost for SGPWA as we meet our mission and work toward our vision over the next five years.

The plan's creation process included several stages, such as reshaping the Agency's mission, vision and values.

The development process was a collective effort between the Board of Directors and Agency leadership and employees. The resulting plan reflects our dedication to an innovative and forward-thinking organization.

As SGPWA moves toward the future, our emphasis will continue to be serving the region to address water challenges and opportunities through stewardship and collaboration, while engaging the public and stakeholders on the critical value of sustaining water supplies. We are dedicated to diversifying water resources, advancing partnerships, improving infrastructure reliability and maintaining financial stability – all with transparency, team development and responsible governance in mind.

The SGPWA Strategic Plan is a carefully curated pathway that allows SGPWA to embrace the future, empower ourselves and our partners, and craft a trail that continues to foster industry leadership with a transformative impact.

2023 Timeline



Process

















Strategic

Planning Update

Planning Update



Mission

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency supports the region's quality of life through sustainable water management.



Vision

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency aims to provide water security that meets the needs of the region within an evolving landscape, transcending boundaries to work toward common goals, create synergy through collaboration and ensure an adequate water supply today and in the future.



About Us

Formed in 1961, SGPWA is a State Water Contractor that serves a 225-square-mile area of western Riverside County. We import State Water Project (SWP) water from Northern California to the region to replenish local groundwater basins.

Located in Beaumont, California, SGPWA ensures a reliable water supply that supports the health and wellbeing of residents and the growth and prosperity of communities.

In addition to groundwater preservation and supply dependability, SGPWA is a steward in water resource management and diversification, drought mitigation and water-efficiency education. We build local water system facilities and infrastructure, lead water transfers to support storage for later use, provide support to small water suppliers, partner in statewide water projects and collaborate on regional water reliability and conservation efforts.



Collaboration is Key

Partnerships are vital to building long-term water security. SGPWA's member agencies and some of our partners include:

- Banning Heights Mutual Water Company
- Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
- Cabazon Water District
- Cherry Valley Water Company
- City of Banning Public Works
- City of Beaumont

- City of Calimesa
- High Valleys Water District
- Mission Springs Water District
- San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
- South Mesa Water Company
- Yucaipa Valley Water District

By the Numbers

In collaboration with the state and local partners, SGPWA's shared delivery and storage system benefits a population of more than 106,000 people in the Pass Area.



225-square-mile service area



33 miles of pipeline for the East Branch Extension (connection to the SWP)



5 pump stations



2 reservoirs



2 active groundwater recharge facilities in the Pass Area, one owned and operated by SGPWA, and more planned in the future



7 metering stations

Key Themes & Strategic Goals



WATER SUPPLY & STEWARDSHIP

Align with the current and future water landscape, supporting the region's long-term needs by diversifying the local supply portfolio and advancing water sustainability.



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Sustain long-term financial stability by engaging in prudent planning to guide informed decision making.



PERSONNEL

Position the agency for long-term success by continuing to grow a welcoming and collaborative environment that attracts and retains devoted employees.



REGIONAL LEADERSHIP, INDUSTRY RELATIONSHIPS & COLLABORATION

Maintain, foster and expand collaboration with local, regional, state and federal partners to develop strategic solutions to water supply challenges and opportunities.



INFRASTRUCTURE & SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Ensure a reliable delivery system that advances efficiency and resiliency.



GOVERNANCE

Serve the public with dedication, determination, transparency, collaboration and a commitment to expanding knowledge.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Engage and educate the public in a meaningful way that generates a greater understanding of the agency's role in water supply reliability and the importance of sustainability.





Water Supply & Stewardship

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: Align with the current and future water landscape, supporting the region's long-term needs by diversifying the local supply portfolio and advancing water sustainability.



- 1. Continue to participate in and facilitate local and state projects that increases water supply reliability, such as Sites Reservoir, Delta Conveyance, and other State Water Project facilities.
- 2. Establish relationships and expand collaborative opportunities at the local, regional, state, tribal, and federal levels that will enhance the water supply in the region. (See Regional Leadership, Industry Relationships, and Collaboration, page 10.)
- **3.** Seek opportunities in the California water market to maximize the beneficial use of Agency water assets.
- **4.** Lead the local adjudication and Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to manage the region's groundwater basins.
- **5.** Support local small water systems in securing funding and resources.

- **6.** Expand water banking, local and abroad, for future utilization.
- 7. Align with and support local water and land use plans.
- **8.** Explore new tactics to support future supply and mitigate regional droughts, such as desalination, stormwater capture, cloud seeding, recycled water, and other opportunities as they arise.
- **9.** Sustain infrastructure investment to provide a robust regional water distribution and storage system. (See Infrastructure and System Reliability, page 7.)
- **10.** Promote water conservation by partnering with regional stakeholders. (See Regional Leadership, Industry Relationships, and Collaboration, page 10, and Public Engagement, page 11.)



Infrastructure & System Reliability

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: Ensure a reliable delivery system that advances efficiency and resiliency.

- 1. Support the planning, funding, and implementation of the Backbone Pipeline project as a critical infrastructure investment to enhance regional water distribution.
- **2.** Develop additional recharge facilities to support conjunctive use.
- **3.** Strategically acquire property necessary to support the region's long-term resource needs.
- **4.** Support infrastructure improvements for smaller water systems within the region by fostering partnerships, pursuing funding opportunities, and providing technical assistance to enhance their reliability, resilience, and alignment with regional water management goals.
- **5.** Pursue the strategic acquisition of water-related assets including, water, facilities, or water rights, that align with the Agency's mission and provide long-term

- regional benefits by enhancing water supply reliability, operational flexibility, and resource sustainability.
- **6.** Investigate additional opportunities to increase water storage capabilities.
- 7. Partner with other State Water Contractors to advance statewide infrastructure goals to preserve system reliability.
- **8.** Assess existing infrastructure and facilities to create an asset management program.
- **9.** Invest in emergency infrastructure such as helihydrants and backup generators to improve system reliability, support wildfire response efforts, and enhance the region's overall resilience to power outages and natural disasters.
- 10. Maintain resilient telemetry and security systems.



STRATEGIC GOAL 3: Sustain long-term financial stability by engaging in prudent planning to guide informed decision making.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Pursue generational investments equity to ensure future reliability and secure water supplies for years to come.
- **2.** Pursue and participate in infrastructure investments, water sales, transfers, and agreement opportunities to optimize Agency financial resources.
- **3.** Seek relevant grants and funding to address current and future water needs.
- **4.** Continue to implement a comprehensive long-term financial plan.
- **5.** Pursue and secure a recognized government transparency award by enhancing public access to information, improving clarity in financial and operational reporting, and upholding the highest

- standards of accountability and openness in all Agency practices.
- **6.** Actively manage and optimize the Agency's financial reserves to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability, support strategic investments in water infrastructure, and maintain the flexibility to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.
- 7. Commission a rate study to ensure long-term financial sustainability.
- **8.** Assess and update policies and ordinances to align with the Agency's mission, vision, and values.
- **9.** Evaluate the Agency procurement process regularly for opportunities to enhance efficiency.



Governance

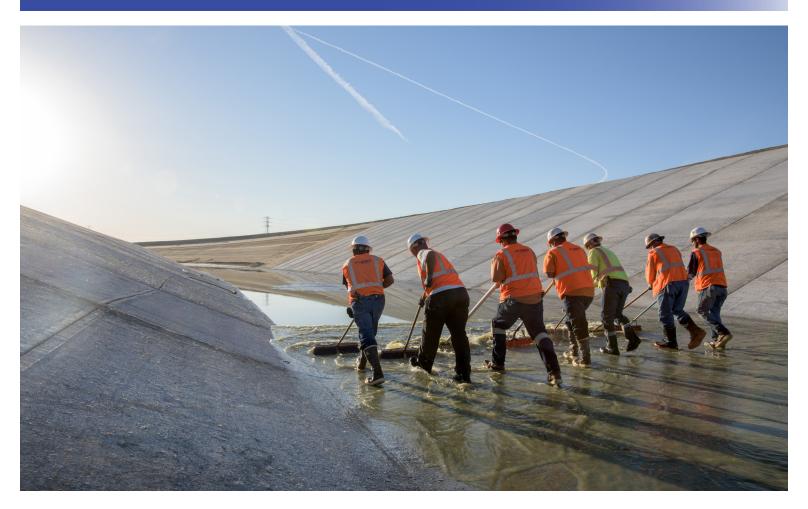
STRATEGIC GOAL 4: Serve the public with dedication, determination, transparency, collaboration, and a commitment to expanding knowledge.

- 1. Evaluate and, where appropriate, support the development of a regional governance structure to strengthen collaboration, streamline implementation of current agreements, and ensure coordinated, equitable management of shared water resources.
- **2.** Conduct ongoing Board and leadership spokesperson training.
- 3. Institute a formal Board orientation program.
- 4. Continue to support Board of Directors in providing Agency reports to area cities and water retailers.

- **5.** Broaden perspectives and gain feedback by attending other agency meetings.
- **6.** Provide ongoing education to the Board of Directors on issues affecting the Agency and the regional water landscape.
- 7. Encourage Agency representation by the Board of Directors and staffleadership is strategic and consistent through ongoing educational opportunities.
- **8.** Periodically consider Board structures, such as committees, to best serve public needs.



STRATEGIC GOAL 5: Position the agency for long-term success by continuing to grow a welcoming and collaborative environment that attracts and retains devoted employees.



- 1. Continue to foster a supportive, collaborative workplace culture where employees want to continue working.
- **2.** Ensure staffing plan addresses succession planning and staffing needs, challenges and opportunities to facilitate long-term organizational success.
- **3.** Annually review and update (as needed) job descriptions, classifications, compensation and benefits to competitively attract and retain top talent.

- **4.** Institute a formal new employee orientation program.
- **5.** Encourage employee career growth by investing in staff training and professional development programs.
- **6.** Enhance standard operating procedures to optimize employee workflows.
- 7. Continue to evolve annual evaluation process to provide opportunities for improvement, supply critical feedback, and reward exceptional employees.

Regional Leadership, Industry Relationships & Collaboration

STRATEGIC GOAL 6: Maintain, foster, and expand collaboration with local, regional, state, tribal and federal partners to develop strategic solutions to water supply challenges and opportunities.

- 1. Coordinate with other agencies and organizations on grants and multi-partner project opportunities.
- **2.** Cultivate local, regional, state, tribal, and federal partnerships and identify opportunities to promote and expand collaboration with new or existing partners.
- **3.** Engage state and federal advocates on behalf of local and California-wide water opportunities and challenges. Explore opportunities for collaboration with partners and stakeholders to communicate messages.
- **4.** Optimize implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to protect and enhance local groundwater resources by collaborating with regional stakeholders, aligning management strategies with basin needs, and leveraging SGMA compliance to maximize long-term water supply reliability and regional benefit.



- 5. Enhance the Agency's legislative influence by proactively engaging with State and federal lawmakers to support policies and funding that advance long-term water reliability and sustainability for the San Gorgonio Pass region.
- **6.** Host an annual/biennial Water Supply Update event for the public, partners, stakeholders, and industry leaders.
- 7. Ensure consistent regional messaging that creates alignment with partner agencies.





Public Engagement

STRATEGIC GOAL 7: Engage and educate the public in a meaningful way that generates a greater understanding of the agency's role in water supply reliability and the importance of sustainability.

- **1.** Advance community presence to ensure alignment with Agency communication priorities.
- **2.** Advance the Agency's public information program, building community trust and knowledge that includes both Agency goals and regional leadership efforts.
- **3.** Generate educational content to increase public engagement, positive perception, and understanding of the Agency/local water landscape.
- **4.** Facilitate community-focused educational workshops and participate in area events.
- 5. Collaborate with regional partners to develop and coordinate consistent, impactful messaging that effectively communicates the value of water reliability and the importance of long-term investment in water infrastructure.









