

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

Official Minutes
Water Conservation and Education Committee Meeting
April 8, 2025

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM.

Committee Members Present:

Sarah Wargo, Chair
Mickey Valdivia, President

Committee Members Absent:

Robert Ybarra, Treasurer

Staff Present:

Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Maricela Cabral, Exec. Asst./Clerk of the Board

Others in Attendance:

Gabriela Preciado, Education Programs Lead, IERCD, via teleconference
Shari Tindall, Conservation Educator, IERCD, via teleconference
Cecilia Griego, Chair, SoCal STEAM Challenge
Janett Robledo, SoCal STEAM Challenge

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

The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Water Conservation and Education Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Wargo at 1:30 p.m., on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. Chair Wargo led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance; and requested a roll call. A quorum was present.

2. Adjustment and Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as published.

3. Public Comment

No public comment received.

4. Approve Minutes of the February 11, 2025, Water Conservation and Education Committee Meeting

On a motion by Director Valdivia, seconded by Director Wargo, the Committee approved the minutes of the February 11, 2025, Water Conservation and Education Committee Meeting. Motion passed 2-0.

5. 2025 SoCal STEAM Challenge Presentation

Cecilia Griego, Chair of the 2025 SoCal STEAM Challenge, and Janett Robledo presented an update on the upcoming SoCal Steam Challenge, including logistics, school participation, and funding contributions. The committee discussed options for supporting the event, including using foundation funds to sponsor materials or student entries. Past

sponsorship amounts ranged from \$4,000 to \$5,000. The committee expressed continued interest in supporting the program and engaging additional local schools.

6. Status Report on IERCD Programs

Gabriella Preciado (IERCD Education Programs Lead) provided a third-quarter update on classroom and community outreach efforts. To date, 78 classroom programs have been delivered across the Agency's service area, reaching more than 1,100 students in grades K–12. In addition, IERCD facilitated two community workshops, exceeding the initial target of two for the fiscal year. The March 19 workshop at Noble Creek Community Center featured Master Gardener presentations and giveaways of native plants, drip kits, and nursery gift cards. Committee members commended the expanded reach of the program and recommended exploring workshop opportunities in Calimesa.

7. Contract for Professional Services with the Inland Services Empire Resource Conservation District for FY2025-26

General Manager Eckhart recommended updating the contract with IERCD to a three-year term beginning FY 2025-26, at \$65,000 annually, with an optional two-year extension and an annual cost escalator tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The committee expressed strong support for transitioning to a multi-year agreement, citing the program's success and the importance of continuity. The updated contract proposal will be brought to the full Board for consideration as part of the FY 2025-26 budget process.

8. Committee Member Reports

Chair Wargo and Director Valdivia commended IERCD's performance and ongoing improvements in student and community engagement.

9. Announcement: Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting scheduled for June 10, 2025

The next Water Conservation and Education Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2025.

10. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, Committee Chair Wargo adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.