

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
June 16, 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 6:02 p.m., Monday, June 16, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Director Smith gave the invocation, and Director Walton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

President Valdivia requested a roll call.

Board Present:

Mickey Valdivia, President
Chander Letulle, Vice-President
Kevin Walton, Secretary
Blair M Ball, Director
Sarah Wargo, Director
Larry Smith, Director

Absent:

Robert Ybarra, Treasurer

Staff Present:

Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Thomas Todd, Jr., Chief Financial Officer
Maricela Cabral, Exec. Asst./Clerk of the Board
Matt Howard, Operations Manager

Consultant Present:

Holland Stewart, Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

3. Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda

President Valdivia announced the following adjustments to the agenda:

- Moved Item 7.A (Update on Delta Conveyance Project) after Public Comment
- Moved Item 8.A, (MOU with Metropolitan Water District) after Delta Conveyance update
- Removed Item 7.C (Update on Golden Mussels) to be deferred to the July 7, 2025, meeting
- Moved Items 7.D, 7.E & 7.F to the Consent Calendar

4. Public Comment

Dave Armstrong, South Mesa Water Company General Manager, expressed gratitude for the Agency's Gap Funding program, which allowed the successful completion of their \$10.2 million grant-funded project.

No additional public comments were received.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

Update on Delta Conveyance Project, presentation by Adán Ortega, Jr., Chair of the Board, Metropolitan Water District

Chairman Adán Ortega of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California delivered a comprehensive update on the Delta Conveyance Project, legislative challenges, litigation, and the importance of the Governor's trailer bills. He called upon all agencies to actively engage their legislators in support of the DCP and emphasized regional unity. Directors thanked Chairman Ortega for his advocacy and presence.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Authorize the General Manager to Execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for Identifying and Developing Mutually Beneficial Projects

General Manager Eckhart provided background on the Memorandum of Understanding with Metropolitan Water District.

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Secretary Walton, the board approved the General Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for Identify and Developing Mutually Beneficial Projects.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Ybarra

Motion passed 6-0.

The Board recessed for a short break at 6:48 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Approve Minutes of the June 2, 2025, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors

7D. Procurement Policy Required Notification: Contract Extension with Albert A. Webb for On-Call Engineering Services, in the amount of \$25,000

7E. Procurement Policy Required Notification: Contract Extension with CV Strategies for Public Relations and Social Media, in the amount of \$19,760

7F. Procurement Policy Required Notification: Contract Extension with Provost & Pritchard for 2024 Annual Report for the San Geronio Pass Subbasin, in the amount of \$2,440

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Director Smith, the board approved the Consent Calendar as presented.

Approved by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Ybarra

Motion passed 6-0.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager Eckhart showcased awards and recognition received from recent events, including the SoCAL STEAM Challenge and the Cabazon Heli-Hydrant ribbon cutting ceremony.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart had no report.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

B. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager Matt Howard reported that Northern Sierra precipitation was at 106% of average, with Lake Oroville near full capacity at 98%. San Luis Reservoir levels were decreasing due to deliveries but remained average. Mr. Howard noted that 2024 carryover, City of Yuba City transfer water, and non-SWP "nickel water" deliveries were completed, with current deliveries being applied to the 5,000 acre-feet Ventura agreement. May deliveries were just over 1,500 acre-feet, impacted by scheduled maintenance at Brookside East. Recharge operations have resumed: Brookside East is recharging at 20 CFS into Pond 4; BCVWD recharge facilities resumed operations and are expected to increase flows by 5 CFS next week.

Cumulative 2025 deliveries are trending similar to 2024. Director Walton inquired about the 50% SWP allocation despite full reservoirs. Mr. Howard explained this was due to low snowpack and the lack of upstream storage. A suggestion was made to invite a State Water Contractors representative to further explain allocation decisions.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

B. Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for the Construction of the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project

General Manager Eckhart presented plans to proceed with advertising for construction bids as a single contract. Representatives from LEC and Webb Engineering answered technical questions from the Board.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Vice President Letulle, the board approved the solicitation of bids for the construction of the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Ybarra

Motion passed 6-0.

C. Authorize the General Manager to Execute an On-Call Engineering Services Contract with Provost and Pritchard for a Not-To-Exceed amount of \$250,000

General Manager Eckhart provided background recommending contracting directly with Provost & Pritchard (Eric Howard) for on-call engineering support due to increasing inefficiencies in pass-through arrangements.

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Secretary Walton, the board approved and authorized the General Manager to execute an On-Call Engineering Services Contract with Provost and Pritchard for a not-to-exceed amount of \$250,000.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Ybarra

Motion passed 6-0.

D. Authorize the General Manager to Execute Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Albert A. Webb Associates, Inc., for On-Call Engineering Services; Authorize the General Manager to Make Non-Substantive Revisions as Needed; and Approve a One-Year Extension Through Fiscal Year 2025-26

General Manager Eckhart presented background on Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Albert A. Webb Associates, Inc., for On-Call Engineering Services. The Board discussed the approval of an increase in the annual on-call engineering contract up to \$500,000, to be shared between selected firms on a task-order basis.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Vice President Letulle, the board approved and authorized the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Albert A. Webb Associates, Inc., for On-Call Engineering Services; authorized the General Manager to make non-substantive revisions as needed; and approved a one-year extension through Fiscal year 2025-26.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Ybarra

Motion passed 6-0.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

The following meetings were reported on:

- June 6-8, 2025, State Water Project Tour with Metropolitan Water District and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Smith, Walton)
- June 11, 2025, Board Handbook Committee Meeting (Ball, Letulle, Walton)
- June 11, 2025, Beaumont Basin Watermaster Meeting (Ball)
- June 11, 2025, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Board Meeting (Ball)
- June 12, 2025, Cabazon Heli-Hydrant Ribbon Cutting Event (Smith, Walton, Wargo, Valdivia)

Director Smith shared insights from the recent State Water Project tour and emphasized the importance of continued advocacy and involvement at the source.

Directors Walton and Wargo praised the success of the heli-hydrant project, noting its visibility and contribution to regional fire preparedness and water infrastructure efforts.

Director Letulle had no report.

President Valdivia reflected on the success of the heli-hydrant event and the growing regional importance of the Agency's leadership.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

Director Smith requested formation of an ad hoc legislative committee to monitor state activity and coordinate rapid response. President Valdivia appointed an ad-hoc committee consisting of Directors Smith (chair), Valdivia and Wargo.

Director Walton requested the Board consider dedicating a heli-hydrant site in memory of fallen Cal Fire Captain Mark Miller.

11. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Waterwise Planting Workshop, June 17, 2025, 5-7pm at Noble Creek Community Center
- B. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, June 19, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.
- C. Office closed July 4, 2025 in observance of Independence Day
- D. Regular Board Meeting, July 7, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.
- E. Regular Board Meeting, July 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, July 7, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.