

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
July 7, 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 1:30 p.m., Monday, July 7, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Director Walton provided the invocation and Vice President Letulle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prior to roll call, Counsel Stewart confirmed with President Mickey Valdivia that the Brown Act requirements for teleconference meetings were adhered to for President Valdivia's participation from the following location: Carivan Outpost, 317 Bryant St., Ojai, CA 93023.

2. Roll Call

Vice President Letulle requested a roll call.

Board Present: Mickey Valdivia, President (via teleconference)
Chander Letulle, Vice-President
Kevin Walton, Secretary
Blair M Ball, Director
Larry Smith, Director

Board Absent: Robert Ybarra, Treasurer
Sarah Wargo, Director

Staff Present: Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Thomas Todd, Jr., Chief Financial Officer
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

The agenda was adopted as published.

4. Public Comment

No public comment received.

5. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve Minutes of the June 16, 2025, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors
- B. Approve Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report for June 2025
- C. Approve Resolution No. 2025-04, Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2025-26

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

Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Smith, Walton, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: Wargo, Ybarra

Motion passed 5-0.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Heli-Hydrant project was featured on the front page of ACWA News following successful deployment in recent fires
2. State discussions on Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) are intensifying, including meetings with DWR leadership
3. Bid openings for County Line Road are scheduled for August 4, 2025. Due to ARPA funding timelines, the August 4, 2025, board meeting will be held as scheduled

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart reported on two recently signed bills by Governor Newsom, AB 130 and SB 131, that amend CEQA to facilitate housing and infrastructure development. Water infrastructure and wildfire mitigation projects will now see increased CEQA exemptions, streamlining future efforts by the agency.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Update on Golden Mussels

Operations Manager, Matt Howard presented a detailed update on the Golden Mussel infestation discovered in October 2024 in the Delta. Highlights included:

- Biology and rapid reproductive capacity of golden mussels
- Spread across 30 State Water Project locations, including near San Luis Reservoir
- Potential infrastructure impacts and biofouling risks
- Current monitoring efforts by DWR and local sampling by Valley District
- Copper-based treatment trials and emerging mitigation strategies coordinated by statewide task force

The Board discussed the need for local vigilance, potential source control regulations, and coordination with regional partners on sampling and inspection protocols.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Consideration of Approval for the Purchase of One (1) 2025 Ford Explorer through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program in an amount not to exceed \$60,000, including all applicable taxes and fees

General Manager Eckhart presented a recommendation to purchase one 2025 Ford Explorer through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program for a total amount not to exceed \$60,000. The need arises from increased operational demands and CARB regulations mandating zero-emission fleet transitions by 2027.

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Secretary Walton, the board approved the purchase of One (1) 2025 Ford Explorer through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program in an amount not to exceed \$60,000, including all applicable taxes and fees.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Smith, Walton, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: Wargo, Ybarra

Motion passed 5-0.

B. Consideration of Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2025-26

Chief Financial Officer Thomas Todd, Jr., presented a recommendation of a 2.53% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) based on CPI data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Board members confirmed this increase is separate from merit-based raises.

On a motion by Secretary Walton, seconded by Vice President Letulle, the board approved a 2.53% COLA for staff for fiscal year 2025-26.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Smith, Walton, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: Wargo, Ybarra

Motion passed 5-0.

C. Approve Proposed Debt Service Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26

Chief Financial Officer Thomas Todd, Jr., presented the proposed budget totaling approximately \$37.7 million. Key components include DWR bond payment, water delivery costs, and transfer agreements. Upcoming major liabilities include the DCP and Sites Reservoir project costs, and potential future expenditures for subsidence remediation.

On a motion by Director Ball, seconded by Director Smith, the Board approved the Debt Service Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 totaling approximately \$37.7 million.

Approved by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Smith, Walton, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia
Noes: None
Absent: Wargo, Ybarra
Motion passed 5-0.

D. Approve Resolution No. 2025-05, Setting Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2025-26

Chief Financial Officer Thomas Todd, Jr., presented the item with the recommendation of maintaining the tax rate at 17.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Following discussion, the board acknowledged competing viewpoints but affirmed maintaining current levels to support future large-scale project commitments and water security goals.

On a motion by Vice President Letulle, seconded by President Valdivia, the board adopted Resolution No. 2025-05, setting the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2025-26 at 17.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Approved by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Smith, Walton, Letulle, Valdivia
Noes: Ball
Absent: Wargo, Ybarra
Motion passed 4-1.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

The following meetings were reported on:

- June 25, 2025, Advocacy Trip to meet with state legislators (Smith & Valdivia)
- June 17, 2025, Beaumont City Council meeting (Ball & Valdivia)
- June 26, 2025, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Engineering Workshop (Ball)
- June 23, 2025, Tribal Council Presentation Pre-Meeting (Smith & Valdivia)
- June 24, 2025, Tribal Council Presentation (Smith & Valdivia)

Director Letulle had no report.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

President Valdivia requested to add a closed session item for discussion related to the Morongo Tribal Council meeting.

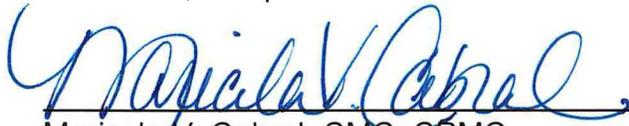
11. Announcements

Vice President Letulle reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Regular Board Meeting, July 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, July 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
- C. Regular Board Meeting, August 4, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.
- D. Southern California Water Conference, August 8, 2025

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Vice President Lutulle adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, July 21, 2025, at 6 p.m.



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