

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
August 18, 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 6:00 p.m., Monday, August 18, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Director Ball provided the invocation, and Director Wargo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prior to roll call, Counsel Stewart confirmed the Brown Act requirements for teleconference meetings were adhered to for Secretary Kevin Walton's participation from the following location: 150 W Center St., Kanab, Ut 84741.

2. Roll Call

Vice President Letulle requested a roll call.

Board Present:

Chander Letulle, Vice-President
Robert Ybarra, Treasurer
Kevin Walton, Secretary (via teleconference)
Blair M Ball, Director
Sarah Wargo, Director
Larry Smith, Director

Absent:

Mickey Valdivia, President

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

The agenda was adopted as published.

4. Public Comment

No public comment received.

5. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve Minutes of the August 4, 2025, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors
- B. Authorize the General Manager to Pre-Fund Heli-Hydrant Installations

Director Smith requested Item 5.B. be pulled for further discussion.

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Director Ball, the board approved Item 5.A on the Consent Calendar.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Valdivia

Motion passed 6-0.

Item removed from Consent Calendar

B. Authorize the General Manager to Pre-Fund Heli-Hydrant Installations

Chief Financial Officer Thomas Todd, Jr. clarified concerns regarding the Heli-Hydrant Agreement and said the request seeks authority to pre-fund deposits before the reimbursement cycle begins when small systems cannot front the deposit. He emphasized that individual deposits can exceed the GM's signing authority, and waiting for Board action each time could delay ordering tanks and jeopardize schedules.

Director Smith recommended adding a safeguard requiring Board approval for any pre-funding that exceeds the General Manager's spending authority. Director Ball questioned whether the "any and all necessary actions" clause was overly broad, while Counsel Stewart confirmed the activity complied with ARPA funding requirements and the County agreement. Directors Wargo and Walton inquired about overlap with the Gap Funding Program; staff clarified the Heli-Hydrant program involves a distinct reimbursement flow, with funds passing through the Agency before repayment by the County. Following discussion, the language was narrowed to remove "any and all necessary actions," focusing specifically on prefunding under the Heli-Hydrant Program and tying expenditures to the General Manager's authority cap.

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Director Ball, the Board authorized the General Manager to facilitate the installation of Heli-Hydrant facilities, including pre-funding of contractor requirements for the Heli-Hydrant Program, up to the General Manager's signing authority; any amount exceeding the GM's authority requires prior Board approval.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Valdivia

Motion passed 6-0.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Progress of boundary study with Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District.
2. Ongoing drilling program, including USGS wells, boundary conditions, and updates on well installations at the Banning Bench and Beaumont Basin.
3. Data to support regional hydrogeologic understanding and groundwater flow modeling.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart provided an update on State Water Resources Control Board hearings regarding the Delta Conveyance Project CEQA challenge. He noted General Manager Eckhart testified successfully, with proceedings expected to continue through the fall.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager, Matt Howard presented the Water Conditions Report, noting that Northern Sierra precipitation remained at 105 percent of average, Oroville Reservoir was at 73 percent capacity, and San Luis Reservoir was tracking near its historical average. He reported that the State Water Project allocation held at 50 percent, providing the Agency with 19,500 acre-feet of supply. Deliveries totaled 1,789 acre-feet in July, with 2,100 acre-feet projected for August. Mr. Howard also highlighted the success of a recent gravity flow study conducted during a DWR outage, which confirmed the Agency's ability to move water from Crafton Hills Reservoir to recharge facilities without using the Cherry Valley Pump Station, offering both cost savings and added operational flexibility during lower allocation years.

Dan Jagers, General Manager of Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District provided comment, commending the study, noting operational and energy benefits.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Authorize the General Manager to Execute Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Feasibility of Expanding an Existing Water Bank within the Area Overlying the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin Between the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency

Sr. Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell presented the proposed MOU for a joint feasibility study on expanding water banking opportunities in the Antelope Valley Basin. AVEK General Manager Matt Knutson joined remotely to express AVEK's support.

On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by Director Smith, the board approved and authorized the General Manager to execute the Memorandum of

Understanding Concerning the Feasibility of Expanding an Existing Water Bank within the Area Overlying the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin Between the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Valdivia

Motion passed 6-0.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

The following meetings were reported on:

- August 5, 2025, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- August 6, 2025, Public Information and Outreach Committee Meeting (Wargo)
- August 8, 2025, Southern California Water Conference (Wargo)
- August 11, 2025, Banning Heights Mutual Water Company Meeting (Wargo)
- August 12, 2025, Delta Conveyance Project Public Hearing (Smith)
- August 13, 2025, IERCD Retirement Luncheon and Program Update (Wargo)
- August 13, 2025, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Board Meeting (Ball)
- August 14, 2025, West Desert San Gorgonio Municipal Advisory Council (Wargo)

Directors Walton, Ybarra and Letulle had no report.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

- Director Wargo requested an update on City Creek vulnerabilities.
- Director Ball requested an overview of water mounding and monitoring wells relative to Backbone Pipeline needs.
- Secretary Walton requested prioritization of reviewing the Agency Act.

11. Closed Session Agenda

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1))

CV Communities, LLC v. Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCB10953

B. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code § 54956.8)

Property: Water Rights/Supplies

Agency Negotiator: Lance Eckhart, General Manager

Negotiating Parties: San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

12. Reconvene

Vice President Letulle reconvened the meeting back into Open Session. Counsel Stewart announced on Item 11.A, on a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Treasurer Ybarra, the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote, to approve the following motion to the extent that the Pass Agency is a necessary signatory to the settlement agreement resolving the case between CV Communities and our partner AVEK for the sole purpose of waiving costs. The Board has authorized the General Manager to execute such settlement agreement and will report back to the board.

Counsel Stewart announced no action was taken on Item 11.B.

13. Announcements

Vice President Letulle reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Urban Water Institute Annual Conference, August 20, 2025
- B. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, August 28, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
- C. Office closed September 1, 2025, in observance of Labor Day
- D. Regular Board Meeting, September 8, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.
- E. Regular Board Meeting, September 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Vice President Letulle adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, September 8, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

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