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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
September 8, 2025

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON,
WITH PUBLIC AVAILABILITY PROVIDED VIA ZOOM.

DRAFT

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 Mickey Valdivia at 1:30 p.m., Monday, September 8, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Secretary Walton provided the invocation, and President Valdivia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call
President Valdivia requested a roll call.

Board Present: Mickey Valdivia, President
Robert Ybarra, Treasurer
Kevin Walton, Secretary
Sarah Wargo, Director

Absent: Chander Letulle, Vice-President
Blair M Ball, Director
Larry Smith, Director

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
President Valdivia announced an adjustment to the agenda moving Item 8.B, after Item 8.C. Items 8.D, and 8.E were pulled from the agenda. Agenda was adopted without objection.

4. Public Comment
No public comment received.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Approve Minutes of the August 18, 2025, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors
B. Approve Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report for August 2025

On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by President Valdivia, the board approved the Consent Calendar as presented.
Approved by the following vote:
Ayes: Walton, Wargo, Ybarra, Valdivia
Noes: None
Absent: Smith, Letulle, Ball
Motion passed 4-0.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager Eckhart had no report.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart provided an update regarding preparation of a legal workshop on the Agency Act and incorporation of 2025 Brown Act updates.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Community Water Systems Alliance Introduction; presentation by Tim Worley, Managing Director

Dr. Worley, representing the Community Water Systems Alliance, presented on the organization's mission to provide a unified voice for small water systems, citing issues such as Chrome-6 compliance, affordability, and legislative challenges including the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act. He emphasized the role of larger agencies supporting smaller systems, noting SGPWA's recent membership.

Dave Armstrong, South Mesa Water Company General Manager commended SGPWA for its gap funding program, which enabled consolidation of small systems.

Directors Wargo and Walton raised questions about cost participation and opportunities for small agencies under the regional umbrella.

Dan Jaggers, Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District General Manager, provided comment and expressed concerns about chromium-6 impacts on the Beaumont Basin and stressed collaboration on recharge planning.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Zanjero to Prepare the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan, for a total not-to-exceed amount of $152,820

General Manager Eckhart presented the proposal to retain Zanjero to prepare the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan for a not-to-exceed amount of $152,820. Sr. Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell added the plan

DRAFT

will take a regional approach in coordination with Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District. Staff highlighted Zanjero's expertise, including legal defensibility.

Dan Jaggers provided comments expressing his support for regional planning and collaboration.

Secretary Walton and President Valdivia confirmed justification for sole-source selection based on prior work and unique qualifications.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Director Wargo, the board approved and authorized the General Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Zanjero to prepare the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan for a total not-to-exceed amount of $152,820.
Approved by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Walton, Wargo, Ybarra, Valdivia
Noes: None
Absent: Smith, Letulle, Ball
Motion passed 4-0.

C. Consider and Approve Proposal from Provost & Pritchard/Intera to complete Five-Year Periodic Evaluation of the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and Authorize SGPWA to serve as the Contracting Agency on behalf of the GSA Member Agencies

Matt Howard, Operations Manager presented a proposal for the Agency, acting as contracting entity for the GSA, to engage Provost & Pritchard with INTERA to complete the five-year periodic evaluation of the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Plan, due January 25, 2027. Cost is $337,527, with SGPWA's share at $112,509 (33.3%) spread over two fiscal years. All other GSA member agencies have approved the cost-share arrangement.

On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by President Valdivia, the board approved the Proposal from Provost & Pritchard/Intera to complete a Five-Year Periodic Evaluation of the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and authorized SGPWA to serve as the Contracting Agency on behalf of the GSA Member Agencies.
Approved by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Walton, Wargo, Ybarra, Valdivia
Noes: None
Absent: Smith, Letulle, Ball
Motion passed 4-0.

D. Authorize the General Manager to Enter into a Contract with CV Strategies, in the amount of $139,815, for Public Information Support Services

Item pulled from agenda.

DRAFT

E. Approve the Property Purchase of 1216 Beaumont Avenue, and Authorize the General Manager to Organize Inspections and Execute all Necessary Documentation

Item pulled from agenda.

B. Discuss and Consider Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) 2026-2027 Election Ballot: Vote for President, Vice President and Region 9 Board

Maricela Cabral, Exec. Asst/Clerk of the Board presented background on the candidates and ACWA's recommended slate for the Region 9 Board. Following discussion, the board elected to cast their vote for the following candidates:

- ACWA President: Ernesto Avila
- ACWA Vice President: Carol Lee Gonzalez Brady
- Region 9 Chair: Joseph Grinstaff
- Region 9 Vice Chair: Paul Ortega
- Region 9 Board Members: Brenda Dennstedt, Russ Martin, James Morales, Jr., Harvey R. Ryan, Lona M. Williams

On a motion by Director Wargo, seconded by Treasurer Ybarra, the board approved the above selections, and authorized the agency's representative to sign off on the ballot.
Approved by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Walton, Wargo, Ybarra, Valdivia
Noes: None
Absent: Smith, Letulle, Ball
Motion passed 4-0.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

The following meetings were reported on:

- August 19, 2025, Cabazon Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- August 19, 2025, Beaumont City Council Meeting (Valdivia)
- August 20, 2025, Urban Water Institute Annual Conference (Ybarra, Walton, Valdivia)
- August 20, 2025, Banning Chamber Breakfast
- August 20, 2025, High Valleys Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- August 25, 2025, Capital Improvement Committee Meeting (Valdivia)
- August 26, 2025, Cabazon Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFD) Meeting (Wargo)
- August 26, 2025, Cabazon Community Plan Meeting (Wargo)
- August 26, 2025, Riverside County Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting (Valdivia)
- August 26, 2025, Banning City Council Meeting (Valdivia)
- August 27, 2025, Yucaipa GSA Meeting (Walton)
- September 2, 2025, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- September 3, 2025, Collaborative Agencies Meeting (Walton, Valdivia)

DRAFT

- September 3, 2025, Beaumont Chamber Breakfast (Wargo)
- September 5-6, 2025, Banning Stagecoach Days Event (Walton)

Secretary Walton presented an update on Heli-Hydrant progress. Six sites are active and seventh forthcoming. At the request of CAL FIRE, we have begun evaluating potential future sites on a non-binding basis. Working collaboratively with staff and CAL FIRE aviation, areas identified for consideration include Cherry Valley near the I-10 interchange, San Timoteo Canyon, central Banning, and the Jackrabbit Trail area.

While no sites have been finalized, these locations represent potential system gaps that may warrant attention in the future. Additionally, CAL FIRE aviation requested we relay their interest in Snow Canyon, which is outside our service area. They suggested our ongoing work could serve as a template for regional partners who may pursue that site.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

Secretary Walton requested that staff explore the feasibility of acquiring an EV charging station for the Agency.

11. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

A. Regular Board Meeting, September 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
B. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, September 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
C. Regular Board Meeting, October 6, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, September 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

_____

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

DRAFT