

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

**Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
October 20, 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 Treasurer Ybarra at 6:00 p.m., Monday, October 20, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Director Ball provided the invocation and Treasurer Ybarra led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Treasurer Ybarra requested a roll call.

Board Present: Robert Ybarra, Treasurer
Blair M Ball, Director
Sarah Wargo, Director
Larry Smith, Director

Absent: Mickey Valdivia, President
Chander Letulle, Vice-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: Albert Maldonado, 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 October 6, 2025, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors

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

Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Smith, Wargo, Ybarra, Ball

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle, Valdivia

Motion passed 4-0.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Announced the promotion of Emmett Campbell as Director of Water Resources
2. Discussions with Desert Water Agency on potential Heli-Hydrant in Whitewater area
3. Recapped Metropolitan visit – Sites Reservoir participation, water banking/trading, and backbone pipeline interconnections
4. Update on the Chief Financial Officer recruitment process
5. Will participate as a panelist at the United Water Conservation District on October 16, 2025
6. Update on Board candidate process and provided key calendar dates
7. Highlighted letter from Jennifer Pierre to Governor Newsom on behalf of SWC

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Maldonado had no report.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Water Education Foundation's Klamath River Tour Recap, presentation by Director Smith

Director Smith provided a report on the recent Water Education Foundation Klamath River Tour, which highlighted multi-dam removals, ecological restoration efforts, and agricultural impacts. He described the region's historical connection to California's early water supply planning and noted policy lessons for modern hydropower operations.

B. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager, Matt Howard reviewed current water conditions reporting that Northern Sierra precipitation stood at 1.7 inches, with Lake Oroville and San Luis Reservoir both above average storage. The Agency's 2025 portfolio totaled 19,500 acre-feet at a 50 percent allocation. Deliveries for October were projected at approximately 2,100 acre-feet, and recharge ponds were expected to close before Thanksgiving for maintenance and 2026 preparation. Retailer storage remained strong after three productive years.

C. Golden Mussel Update

Mr. Howard provided an update on the golden mussel (*Limnoperna fortunei*), an invasive species recently detected within the State Water Project. He

outlined DWR mitigation efforts such as ultraviolet treatment, EarthTec/QZ copper dosing, and enhanced monitoring. He reported that SGPWA and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District are collaborating on preventive measures including chemical dosing and monitoring plates to protect local facilities.

Given the floor by Treasurer Ybarra, the following individuals provided comment:

Dan Jaggers, General Manager of Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District recommended evaluating basin dry-out intervals to inactivate mussels and assessing filtration thresholds for veligers. He encouraged data sharing among regional retailers.

Anthony Mendoza suggested examining targeted chlorination based on previous zebra and quagga mussel experience. Staff acknowledged both comments and confirmed that evaluation of safe treatment methods is ongoing.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Approve the Heli-Hydrant Installation and Maintenance Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and South Mesa Water Company and Authorize the General Manager to effectuate non-substantive changes as needed

Director of Water Resources Emmett Campbell provided background on the Installation and Maintenance Agreement.

Given the floor by Treasurer Ybarra, Kevin Walton expressed support for the project, citing firefighter safety concerns and the benefit to aerial firefighting resources in the Calimesa area.

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Director Wargo, the board approved the Heli-Hydrant Installation and Maintenance Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and South Mesa Water Company and authorized the General Manager to effectuate non-substantive changes as needed.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Smith, Wargo, Ybarra, Ball

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle, Valdivia

Motion passed 4-0.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

The following meetings were reported on:

- October 7, 2025, Cabazon EIFD Meeting (Wargo)
- October 8, 2025, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Board Meeting (Ball)

- October 9, 2025, IERCD Gardening with Native Plants Workshop (Wargo)
- October 13, 2025, Banning Heights Mutual Water Company Board Meeting (Wargo)
- October 14, 2025, County Line Road Groundbreaking (Ball, Wargo, Smith)
- October 15, 2025, High Valleys Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- October 16, 2025, SGPWA Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting (Wargo)
- October 17, 2025, Meeting with State legislators in Sacramento (Smith)
- October 18, 2025, Blue Zones Community Day Event (Wargo)

Director Wargo announced the agency will be participating in the HCN bank Trunk or Treat on October 23, 2025.

Director Ybarra had no report.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

No topics were discussed.

11. Closed Session Agenda

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
(Paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Gov. Code § 54956.9)
One (1) Case

12. Reconvene

A. Report out of Closed Session

Treasurer Ybarra reconvened the meeting into open session. Counsel Maldonado reported there was no reportable action.

13. Announcements

Treasurer Ybarra reviewed the following announcements:

A. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, October 23, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.
B. Regular Board Meeting, November 3, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.
C. City of Banning State of the City, November 5, 2025, at 11 a.m.
D. Office closed November 11, 2025, in observance of Veterans Day

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Treasurer Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, November 3, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.