

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

**Official Minutes**  
**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**  
**September 15, 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 Mickey Valdivia at 6:00 p.m., Monday, September 15, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Director Smith asked for a moment of silence in memory of Charlie Kirk, followed by a statement on the importance of unity in times of national tragedy. Director Smith then 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  
Chander Letulle, Vice-President  
Robert Ybarra, Treasurer  
Kevin Walton, Secretary  
Blair M Ball, Director  
Sarah Wargo, 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**

The agenda was adopted as published.

**4. Public Comment**

Ron Duncan addressed the Board expressing appreciation for the Agency's work and leadership.

**5. Consent Calendar**

- A. Approve Minutes of the September 8, 2025, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.

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

Approved by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 7-0.**

## 6. Reports

### A. General Manager's Report

General Manager Eckhart summarized a letter from Karla Nemeth, Director of the Department of Water Resources, regarding the Delta Conveyance Project. Director Smith emphasized the political challenges of advancing such a large scale project and suggested federal collaboration will be necessary. Director Ball asked about next steps; staff confirmed project permitting continues on schedule despite loss of legislative streamlining.

### B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel, Holland Stewart provided an update on the following:

1. AB 259, would extend current teleconferencing provisions.
2. SB 707 (recently passed the Assembly) proposes substantial changes, including redefining "legislative body" to include ad hoc committees, expanded accessibility requirements, and adjustments to teleconferencing. Counsel will continue to monitor and provide updates.

## 7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

### A. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager Matt Howard presented the September 2025 Water Conditions Report, noting that the Northern Sierra Precipitation Index closed the water year at 107% of average. Reservoir storage levels remained favorable, with Lake Oroville at 64% of capacity and San Luis Reservoir trending above average. The State Water Project allocation remains at 50%, providing approximately 19,500 acre-feet of supply. Deliveries in August totaled 2,132 acre-feet, and September deliveries are projected at roughly 2,100 acre-feet to the Brookside East and Beaumont-Cherry Valley recharge facilities. Ponds will continue operating into December through coordination with SGPWA and BCVWD, allowing the Agency to meet all annual demands while also replenishing storage accounts, positioning the region well for future transfers.

## 8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

### A. Adopt Resolution 2025-06, Awarding a Construction Contract to WEKA, Inc., as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in the amount of \$4,676,332, for the County Line Road Recharge Basin Project

Sr. Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell reported on the bid results for the project, noting that eight bids were received against the engineer's estimate of \$4.9

million. The lowest responsive and responsible bid was submitted by Weka, Inc. at \$4,676,332, with no protests filed. The project will be partially funded with \$3.1 million in ARPA funds secured through Riverside County, and coordination with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District is ongoing regarding the turnout facilities.

On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by Vice President Letulle, the board Adopted Resolution 2025-06, Awarding a Construction Contract to WEKA, Inc., as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in the amount of \$4,676,332, for the County Line Road Recharge Basin Project.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**B. Adopt Resolution 2025-07, Approving the Property and Facility Exchange Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and South Mesa Water Company to Facilitate the Exchange of Property for Mutual Benefit and Consideration of the Parties**

Mr. Campbell explained that South Mesa will transfer a one-mile, 14-inch pipeline to SGPWA, which will be relined for long-term use. In return, SGPWA will convey one acre at the Fourth Street recharge basin for a future reservoir, while South Mesa grants permanent easements along County Line Road and Fourth Street.

General Manager Eckhart read a letter submitted by South Mesa Water Company General Manager Dave Armstrong and the Board. They expressed appreciation for the strong partnership with SGPWA and their shared commitment to advancing water sustainability. SGPWA directors emphasized the collaborative nature of the project, the benefit of avoiding eminent domain, and the importance of recharge in Calimesa.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Treasurer Ybarra, the board Adopted Resolution 2025-07, Approving the Property and Facility Exchange Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and South Mesa Water Company to Facilitate the Exchange of Property for Mutual Benefit and Consideration of the Parties.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**C. Authorize the General Manager to Enter into a Funding Agreement with Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District to Develop the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Urban Water Management Plan**

Mr. Campbell provided background on the proposed funding agreement with Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD). He reported that BCVWD's

Board approved a cost-share agreement on September 11, 2025, with costs divided two-thirds to SGPWA and one-third to BCVWD.

On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by Director Wargo, the board approved and authorized the General Manager to Enter into a Funding Agreement with Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District to develop the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Urban Water Management Plan.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**D. Adopt Resolution 2025-08, Authorizing the Purchase of Property located at 1216 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, CA and Authorize the General Manager to Organize Inspections and Sign All Necessary Documentation**

General Manager Eckhart reported that an adjacent parcel had been offered for sale, with an appraisal supporting the purchase price of \$462,000. Escrow was opened with a 1% deposit and a 60-day period for due diligence and inspections. He noted that acquiring the property would provide valuable opportunities for future Agency expansion and confirmed that funding is available from Agency reserves.

The Board discussed and expressed strong support, citing prudent long-term planning and comparisons with other public agencies acquiring adjacent property for future growth.

On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by Secretary Walton, the board Adopted Resolution 2025-08, Authorizing the Purchase of Property located at 1216 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, CA and Authorized the General Manager to Organize Inspections and Sign All Necessary Documentation.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report**

The following meetings were reported on:

- September 3, 2025, Beaumont Chamber of Commerce Morning Breakfast with Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez (Ball)
- September 8-12, 2025, Water Education Foundation Klamath River Tour (Smith)
- September 10, 2025, City of Beaumont State of the City (Wargo, Ybarra, Ball, Valdivia)
- September 11, 2025, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Special Board Meeting (Wargo, Ball, Walton)

Vice President Letulle had no report.

Director Wargo reported she observed helicopters utilizing the Heli-hydrants in Cabazon.

Secretary Walton provided an update on the Heli-hydrants, including dust abatement, aviation safety, and new site considerations. He announced with regret that he will resign from the Board effective October 2025 due to family health matters requiring relocation.

#### **10. Topics for Future Agendas**

- Director Smith requested a future agenda item where he can provide a formal presentation on his recent statewide water tour.
- Director Ball requested a future discussion regarding the Agency's use of local vendors, particularly for maintenance and related services. He emphasized the importance of prioritizing businesses located within the region, from Calimesa through Cabazon, noting that these entities contribute tax revenue to the local community.

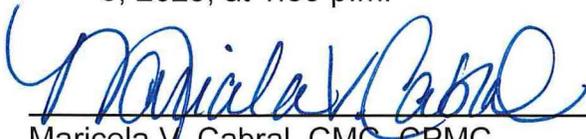
#### **11. Announcements**

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Public Information & Outreach Committee Meeting, September 22, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.
- B. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, September 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
- C. SBVMWD State Water Project Tour, September 24-26, 2025
- D. 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 7:10 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, October 6, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.



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