

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

**Official Minutes**

**Joint Meeting**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors of the**  
**Pass Water Agency Foundation**  
**and**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the**  
**San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency**

**November 3, 2025**

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

**A. SGPWA BOARD AND PASS WATER AGENCY FOUNDATION BOARD**

**1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Invocation**

The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors and Pass Water Agency Foundation Board meeting was called to order by President Mickey Valdivia at 1:30 p.m., Monday, November 3, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Director Smith provided the invocation, and Director Wargo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

President Valdivia requested a roll call.

**Board Present:** Mickey Valdivia, President  
Robert Ybarra, Treasurer  
Blair M Ball, Director  
Sarah Wargo, Director  
Larry Smith, Director

**Absent:** 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, Director of Water Resources  
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.

**B. PASS WATER AGENCY FOUNDATION BOARD**

**1. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:**

A. Accept and file the Pass Water Agency Foundation report of activities for Fiscal Year 2024-25

Chief Financial Officer Thomas Todd Jr., provided background on the report of activities for the Foundation noting income from cell tower lease revenue, the establishment of an EIN, completion of exemption filings, and opening of a checking account at HCN Bank.

President Valdivia reaffirmed the Foundation's long-term purpose of fostering community partnerships, utilizing non-property tax revenue for public benefit, and facilitating potential developer contributions for recharge and water infrastructure projects.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Director Ball, the board approved to accept and file the Pass Water Agency Foundation report of activities for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Smith, Wargo, Ybarra, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle

**Motion passed 5-0.**

**C. SGPWA BOARD**

**1. Consent Calendar**

A. Approve Minutes of the October 20, 2025, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors

B. Approve Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report of October 23, 2025

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

Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Smith, Wargo, Ybarra, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle

**Motion passed 5-0.**

**2. Reports**

**A. General Manager's Report**

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Agency completed the purchase of the property adjacent to headquarters for potential office expansion.

2. Kickoff meeting was held for Urban Water Management Plan in collaboration with Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District.
3. Zanjero and other regional agencies are coordinating on consistent population and supply projections for submittal to the Department of Water Resources.
4. Video update from Sites Reservoir Project Authority was presented, highlighting infrastructure and environmental benefits.
5. Provided a Gap Funding update; Cabazon Water District successfully repaid nearly all of its loan balance

Board members Wargo, Smith, Ball and Ybarra commended the success of the Gap Funding Program and its regional impact. President Valdivia and General Manager Eckhart thanked Cabazon Water District for their partnership and leadership in completing the program.

**B. Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel Stewart had no report.

**3. Informational Presentations and Updates:**

**A. TFG Grant and Advocacy Report**

General Manager Eckhart introduced Jeremiah Raglin and Nicole Sabilsky from the Ferguson Group (TFG), who presented an overview of federal advocacy and grant initiatives on behalf of the Agency. Highlights included:

- Successful award of \$400,000 from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Program for the Brookside West Recharge Project design phase.
- Pending rewrites for drought resiliency and efficiency grant applications.
- Ongoing coordination with congressional offices to advocate for inclusion of regional projects in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
- Exploration of new corporate partnerships, including Google's Water Efficiency and Quality Program, for potential investment in local water projects.
- Preparation for FY 2027 federal earmark submissions and meetings with California senators and congressional representatives in early 2026.

The Board expressed appreciation for TFG's efforts and discussed timing and coordination for potential meetings in Washington D.C. during the next advocacy cycle.

President Valdivia announced that a board director needed to depart early and requested that the Board consider adjusting the agenda to enter Closed Session, then proceed with Item C.8.A before returning to Item C.3.B. The Board concurred and entered Closed Session.

**6. Closed Session Agenda**

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9  
One potential case

- B. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS  
(Gov. Code § 54956.8)  
Property: Water Rights/Supplies  
Agency Negotiator: Lance Eckhart, General Manager

**7. Reconvene**

A. Report out of Closed Session Action

President Valdivia reconvened the meeting into open session. Counsel Stewart announced there was no reportable action.

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

**A. Authorize the General Manager to Execute the Memorandum of Understanding for the Purchase of 2025 Surplus Water and the Development of a Multi-Year Water Transfer Package Between the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, and Authorize a Budget Adjustment to accommodate the transfer**

General Manager Eckhart presented the MOU outlining a cooperative water transfer agreement with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD). The MOU authorizes up to 5,000 acre-feet of surplus water for recharge at a cost of \$200 per acre-foot, plus variable transportation costs. The MOU serves as an interim agreement while both agencies develop a long-term transfer and exchange package by the end of 2026.

SBVMWD General Manager Heather Dyer addressed the Board, emphasizing the importance of interagency collaboration to maximize statewide water reliability and prevent loss of available supply through reservoir spill.

On a motion by Director Ball, seconded by President Valdivia, the board approved and authorized the General Manager to Execute the Memorandum of Understanding for the Purchase of 2025 Surplus Water and the Development of a Multi-Year Water Transfer Package Between the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, and authorized a Budget Adjustment to accommodate the transfer.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Smith, Wargo, Ybarra, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle

**Motion passed 5-0.**

**3. Informational Presentations and Updates, Continued:**

**B. Overview of Groundwater Mounding/Monitoring Wells**

Operations Manager Matt Howard presented an overview of groundwater conditions and recharge activity within the Beaumont Basin, reporting rising water

levels in the central basin from sustained recharge at the Brookside facilities and stable long-term conditions overall. He noted minor declines in peripheral areas and localized variations near Noble Creek Park influenced by fault lines. Mr. Howard concluded that the basin remains healthy, with recharge water remaining within target zones. The Board commended the report and requested inclusion of data from adjacent basins in future updates.

#### **4. Reports - Directors and Committee Reports**

The following meetings were reported on:

- October 23, 2025, HCN Bank Trunk or Treat Community Event (Wargo)
- October 28, 2025, Banning City Council Meeting (Wargo)
- October 30, 2025, Public Information and Outreach Committee Meeting (Wargo)

Director Smith noted upcoming participation on a statewide water policy panel highlighting SGPWA's collaborative programs.

Director Ball and Treasurer Ybarra had no reports.

President Valdivia thanked SBVMWD for their partnership and emphasized continued coordination between both agencies.

#### **5. Board Requests for Future Agenda Items**

No topics were discussed.

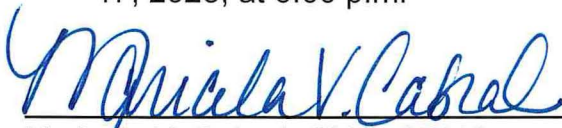
#### **9. Announcements**

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Office closed November 11, 2025, in observance of Veterans Day
- B. Regular Board Meeting, November 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
- C. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, November 20, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

#### **10. Adjournment of SGPWA Board and Foundation Board Meeting**

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, November 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.



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