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New Director Champions Regional Water Progress

BEAUMONT, CA (November 19, 2025) – Deepening the partnership with the communities we serve, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) appointed James Tickemyer as the new Division 3 Director at its November 17 Board meeting. Director Tickemyer will represent portions of Banning and Beaumont, communities central to the Pass area’s long-term water sustainability.

“We are delighted to welcome Director Tickemyer to the Board. His genuine care for our communities and thoughtful approach to the challenges we face will strengthen our efforts to protect and enhance water reliability across the Pass area,” Board President Mickey Valdivia said.

Director Tickemyer brings a background in public works procurement, project delivery, and more than 20 years as a licensed General Contractor. He is deeply committed to transparency, equitable water access, fiscal responsibility, and strengthening the collaborative planning needed to support the region's growth. His early priorities include advancing local water reliability projects and supporting SGPWA’s long-range planning efforts.

“It is a privilege to represent Division 3 and to serve the families, businesses, and neighborhoods that I grew up in and call home,” Director Tickemyer said. “I look forward to working closely with residents and partners to advance our shared water vision.”

Previously, Director Tickemyer served as Director of Parks for the City of San Bernardino Recreation and Community Services, where he worked alongside the San Bernardino Municipal Water Department and the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. Through these roles, he developed strong experience navigating regulatory, environmental, and operational challenges. This perspective will propel SGPWA’s water management efforts.

The Division 3 seat opened after former Secretary Kevin Walton resigned on October 7, 2025. Director Tickemyer will serve the remaining year of Walton’s term. During his service, Walton helped strengthen regional water reliability through the Sites Reservoir Project, expanded partnerships with small water systems, and championed the installation of seven Heli-Hydrants to support faster wildfire response across the Pass area. His contributions leave a strong foundation of public service that Director Tickemyer will continue building upon.

In keeping with state requirements, SGPWA posted a Notice of Vacancy, invited letters of interest, and conducted public interviews of all eligible candidates. After deliberation in open

session, the Board selected and appointed a new Director by majority vote, consistent with the process outlined in Government Code section 1780.

SGPWA remains dedicated to delivering a resilient water supply for the region. The addition of Director Tickemyer reinforces this commitment through deeper community engagement, strategic planning, and a clear focus on sustainability.

To learn more about SGPWA's mission and leadership, visit sgpwa.com.

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About San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Formed in 1961, SGPWA is a State Water Contractor that serves a 225-square-mile area of western Riverside County. The service area includes the cities of Calimesa, Beaumont, and Banning, and the communities of Cherry Valley, Cabazon, and the Banning Bench. In addition to importing State Water Project (SWP) water from Northern California to augment local groundwater sources, the Agency builds local system infrastructure, participates in water transfers, partners in statewide water projects and collaborates on regional water reliability and conservation efforts.