

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

**Official Minutes**  
**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**  
**February 23, 2026**

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

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

The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Robert Ybarra at 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 23, 2026, at the office of the Agency. Treasurer Tickemyer provided the invocation and Vice President Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

President Ybarra requested a roll call.

**Board Present:**

Robert Ybarra, President  
Larry Smith, Vice-President  
James Tickemyer, Treasurer  
Sarah Wargo, Secretary – Arrived at 6:31 p.m.  
Blair M Ball, Director  
Mickey Valdivia, Director

**Absent:**

Chander Letulle, Director

**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  
Jennifer Ustation, Chief Financial Officer

**Consultant Present:**

Albert Maldonado, Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

**3. Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda**

General Manager Eckhart recommended Item 7.D be continued to a future meeting to allow additional input from the Finance and Budget Committee.

Item 9.A was pulled from the agenda due to the absence of Director Letulle. The Board previously expressed its preference to consider the matter with a full Board present.

Following discussion regarding the appropriate timing for reconsideration of Item 9.A, the Board directed staff to coordinate with all Directors to identify a future meeting date at which all members can be present.

The agenda was adopted as adjusted.

#### **4. Public Comment**

President Ybarra opened the floor for public comment.

Several members of the public addressed the Board regarding the proposed change to Board meeting times. Speakers expressed appreciation for the Agency's transparency and engagement and urged the Board to retain at least one 6:00 p.m. meeting per month to ensure accessibility for working residents and community stakeholders.

Speakers included:

- Dr. Delia Condon
- Mary Daniel
- Pablo Hernandez
- Anita Rhodes

The Board thanked the speakers for their comments and community engagement. No additional public comment was received in person or via Zoom.

#### **5. Consent Calendar**

A. Approve Minutes of the February 2, 2026, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors

Director Ball requested discussion regarding the minutes, also seeking clarification that the removal of certain pending agenda items reflected Board action and discussion.

Following board discussion, Director Valdivia moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice President Smith.

Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Smith, Tickemyer, Ybarra

Noes: Ball

Absent: Letulle, Wargo

**Motion passed 4-1**

Director Ball made a request that the Brown Act Refresher and Local Vendors Usage item be added for future consideration. The Board acknowledged that request.

#### **6. Reports**

##### **A. General Manager's Report**

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Greenspot Pump Station - Agreements with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Southern California Edison have been executed. A FERC relicensing request has been submitted, and staff is awaiting feedback.
2. Regional Collaboration - The Agency participated in a regional panel discussion regarding collaboration among large and small water systems. The County Line Road Project is anticipated to receive positive exposure through a professional publication.
3. Procurement Change Order - Change order No. 3 for the County Line Road Recharge Facility project in the amount of approximately \$5,100 was executed for additional erosion control measures. Total change orders to date represent less than 1% of the original contract.
4. State Water Project update
5. Introduction of new Chief Financial Officer, Jennifer Ustation

**B. Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel Maldonado had no report.

**7. Informational Presentations and Updates:**

**A. Water Conditions Report**

Operations Manager Matthew Howard reviewed current water conditions reporting that Northern Sierra precipitation remains above average, with Lake Oroville at 80% capacity and San Luis Reservoir at 83%. The State Water Project allocation is currently 30%, with potential increases anticipated. He also summarized recent snow survey results and noted January recharge deliveries of 1,327 acre-feet, with 1,700 acre-feet projected for February, and provided an update on recharge operations at Brookside and Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District facilities.

**B. State Water Project Fundamentals**

Director of Water Resources Emmett Campbell provided an overview of the Agency's Table A allocation under its State Water Project contract, noting the Agency's maximum entitlement of 17,300 acre-feet annually, or approximately 0.4% of the statewide total. He explained that annual allocations are set by DWR based on hydrologic conditions, with a 50% allocation equating to 8,650 acre-feet. The Board also discussed the 2023 Table A increase secured through a long-term agreement and its benefit to the Agency's overall water supply portfolio.

**C. Beaumont Basin Watermaster Overview**

Director of Water Resources Emmett Campbell presented an overview of the Beaumont Basin adjudication, outlining basin boundaries, key geologic features, and the updated safe yield, which was reduced from 8,650 acre-feet to 7,100 acre-feet in 2023. He reviewed overlying and appropriate water rights, temporary surplus provisions, and the role of the Watermaster as the court-appointed administrator. The Board discussed basin management, regional coordination, and long-term sustainability.

**D. Local Vendors Information Update**

Item removed from the agenda.

**E. County Line Road Construction Update**

Director of Water Resources Emmett Campbell provided a brief update on the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project, reporting that construction remains on schedule and within budget. He noted continued coordination with the City of Calimesa and regional stakeholders, and the Board discussed the project's importance to maintaining long-term groundwater recharge capacity.

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

**A. Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Change Order for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street fence as part of the County Line Road Recharge Basin Project, in a not-to-exceed amount of \$151,000, and authorize staff to finalize and implement the fencing configuration**

General Manager Eckhart introduced the item presenting a proposed hybrid fencing configuration for the County Line Road Recharge Basin project. The recommendation included welded steel fencing along high-visibility frontages (including adjacent park areas) and chain-link fencing in less visible areas. The not-to-exceed cost increase for the fencing modification was \$151,000.

On a motion by Vice President Smith, seconded by Director Ball, the board approved and authorized the General Manager to execute a Change Order for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street fence as part of the County Line Road Recharge Basin Project, in a not-to-exceed amount of \$151,000, and authorized staff to finalize and implement the fencing configuration.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Smith, Tickemyer, Ball, Ybarra

Noes: Wargo

Absent: Letulle

**Motion passed 5-1.**

**B. Approve and Ratify the issuance of a Letter of Support endorsing Vice President Lawrence Smith for the position of LAFCO Regular Special District Member – Western Riverside County, and provide direction to the Board President regarding completion of the Special District Selection Committee (SDSC) ballot**

Clerk of the Board Maricela Cabral provided background on the LAFCO Regular Special District Member – Western Riverside County ballot, and the letter of support endorsing Vice President Smith.

After discussion regarding regional coordination and candidate consolidation, the Board agreed to continue the item to allow outreach among regional agencies to determine whether a unified candidate could be identified prior to ballot submission. Item tabled.

**9. Ordinance for Adoption**

**A. Adopt Ordinance No. 19 Establishing New Times for Board Meetings and Affirming the Location of Board Meetings, and Rescind Ordinance No. 18**

Item removed from the agenda.

## **10. Reports - Directors and Committee Report**

The following meetings were reported on:

- February 3, 2026, Legislative Committee Meeting (Ybarra, Valdivia, Smith)
- February 4, 2026, Beaumont Basin Watermaster Meeting (Smith, Wargo, Ybarra)
- February 5, 2026, USGS Well Visit (Wargo, Smith)
- February 5, 2026, West Desert MAC Meeting (Wargo)
- February 9, 2026, Banning Heights Mutual Water Company Meeting (Wargo)
- February 9, 2026, 3x2 Recycled Water Meeting (Smith)
- February 10, 2026, Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting (Wargo)
- February 11, 2026, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Board Meeting (Ball, Tickemyer)
- February 12, 2026, Public Information & Outreach Committee Meeting (Valdivia, Wargo)
- February 12, 2026, Capital Improvement Committee Meeting (Ybarra)
- February 12, 2026, IERCD Community Tree Workshop (Tickemyer, Wargo)
- February 17, 2026, Cabazon Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- February 17, 2026, Beaumont City Council Meeting (Tickemyer, Valdivia)
- February 18, 2026, Banning Chamber of Commerce Sunrise Breakfast (Ybarra)
- February 19, 2026, Finance & Budget Committee Meeting (Tickemyer, Valdivia, Ybarra)

Director Valdivia said he was looking forward to the upcoming Urban Water Institute Conference.

## **11. Topics for Future Agendas**

Director Ball requested the following items be placed on a future agenda:

- Brown Act Refresher provided by Counsel
- Local vendor utilization policy discussion

Prior to closed session, President Ybarra thanked those in attendance, expressed appreciation for the public presence, and encouraged community members to continue participating in future meetings.

## **12. Closed Session Agenda**

### **A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code § 54956.8)**

Property: Whitewater Flume and related properties/ROWs

Agency Negotiator: Lance Eckhart, GM

Negotiating Parties: SGPWA, U.S. Forest Service, City of Banning, Banning Heights Mutual Water Company, Southern California Edison

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

**13. Reconvene**

A. Report out of Closed Session

President Ybarra reconvened the meeting into open session. Counsel Maldonado announced there was no reportable action.

**14. Announcements**

President Ybarra reviewed the following announcements:

A. Urban Water Institute Spring Conference, February 25-27, 2026, Indian Wells

B. Regular Board Meeting, March 2, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

C. Regular Board Meeting, March 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

D. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, March 26, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

**15. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, President Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, March 2, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

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