

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
March 2, 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 1:30 p.m., Monday, March 2, 2026, at the office of the Agency. Director Ball provided the invocation and Secretary Wargo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

President Ybarra requested a roll call.

Board Present: Robert Ybarra, President
Larry Smith, Vice-President
Sarah Wargo, Secretary
Blair M Ball, Director
Mickey Valdivia, Director

Absent: Chander Letulle, Director
James Tickemyer, Treasurer

Staff Present: Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Thomas Todd, Jr., Chief Financial Officer
Jennifer Ustation, Chief Financial Officer
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.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Approve Minutes of the February 23, 2026, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors

- B. Approve Finance and Budget Committee Meeting report for February 19, 2026

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

Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Wargo, Smith, Ball, Ybarra

Noes: None

Absent: Tickemyer, Letulle

Motion passed 5-0.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Department of Water Resources asked State Water Contractors to participate in Article 21 dry runs.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart had no report.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Status updates on USGS Geophysical Surveys

Operations Manager, Matt Howard introduced Megan Dick of the United States Geological Survey (USGS), who presented two scientific studies performed for the Agency: the Cherry Valley gravity survey and the Brookside West electrical resistivity tomography survey. Ms. Dick reported that the studies generally confirmed previously mapped faults, identified a possible additional structural feature, and provided useful information regarding how faults may influence groundwater movement and recharge opportunities. Staff noted the studies will help guide future capital improvements and recharge planning.

Ms. Dick also reviewed subsurface conditions near Brookside West and Noble Creek, explaining that the survey findings will assist the Agency in understanding groundwater movement and coordinating future recharge and extraction activities. General Manager Eckhart emphasized that the basin remains usable for recharge and that the studies provide valuable information for future engineering and operational decisions.

Dan Jagers, General Manager of Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District, commented that the findings were consistent with observed groundwater conditions and expressed support for continued regional coordination.

B. Update on USGS Monitoring Well Drillings

Mr. Howard and Ms. Dick provided an update on the Agency's monitoring well drilling program funded through a Sustainable Groundwater Management Act grant. Staff reported that the Agency received more than \$2 million to address basin data gaps and contracted with the USGS to site, design, and drill nested monitoring wells in key areas of the basin. The program is intended to improve

understanding of groundwater underflow, basin boundaries, and geologic conditions.

Ms. Dick summarized the drilling and development process for the four well sites and noted that preliminary data show differences in groundwater levels between screened zones, providing useful information about basin conditions and nearby pumping influences. Staff also reported on the status of sampling, development, and transducer installation at the sites. General Manager Eckhart commended USGS and staff for the successful completion of the technically challenging project and noted the wells will provide long-term scientific value to the Agency.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Approve and Authorize the Purchase of a 2026 Dodge Ram 2500 Pickup through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program in an amount not to exceed \$86,000

Operations Manager Matt Howard presented the staff report regarding the purchase of a 2026 Ram 2500 Power Wagon for Agency field operations. He explained the vehicle would support the addition of a Water Systems Operator II position and be used throughout the Agency's service area. Mr. Howard reported that, at the request of the Finance and Budget Committee, staff compared similar Ford and Chevrolet models and found the Ram Power Wagon remained the lowest-cost option. He also noted the vehicle would be purchased through the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing program at a total cost not to exceed \$86,000, including taxes, license, and registration, with sufficient budget authority available in line item 111.

On a motion by Director Valdivia, seconded by President Ybarra, the board approved and authorized the purchase of a 2026 Dodge Ram 2500 Pickup through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program in an amount not-to-exceed \$86,000.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Wargo, Smith, Ball, Ybarra

Noes: None

Absent: Tickemyer, Letulle

Motion passed 5-0.

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

General Manager Eckhart presented the staff report regarding formal support for Vice President Larry Smith's candidacy for the LAFCO Regular Special District Member seat for Western Riverside County. Staff recommended the Board ratify the previously issued letter of support and provide direction on completion of the ballot.

Vice President Smith reported that discussions had occurred with other local candidates to consolidate regional support, and Director Valdivia advised that John Flores had withdrawn and endorsed Vice President Smith. Vice President Smith also stated that Daniel Slawson had indicated support for his candidacy.

On a motion by Director Ball, seconded by Director Valdivia, the board approved and ratified 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 provided direction to the Board President to cast the agency vote for Vice President Lawrence Smith on the Special District Selection Committee ballot.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Wargo, Smith, Ball, Ybarra

Noes: None

Absent: Tickemyer, Letulle

Motion passed 5-0.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

The following meetings were reported on:

- February 19, 2026, Finance and Budget Committee Meeting (Ybarra)
- February 24, 2026, Banning City Council Meeting (Ybarra)
- February 24, 2026, Board Handbook Committee Meeting (Ball, Smith, Wargo)
- February 24, 2026, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Special Board Meeting (Ball)
- February 25 – 27, 2026, Urban Water Institute Conference (Smith, Wargo, Valdivia, Ybarra)

10. Topics for Future Agendas

No topics were discussed.

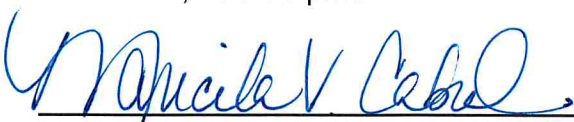
11. Announcements

President Ybarra reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Regular Board Meeting, March 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Board of Directors Workshop, March 25, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
- C. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, March 26, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
- D. Board of Directors Workshop, March 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, March 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.



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