

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
And
Pass Water Agency Foundation
March 16, 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 and Pass Water Agency Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Robert Ybarra at 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 16, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Vice President Larry Smith gave the invocation and Treasurer James Tickemyer 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
Blair M Ball, Director
Mickey Valdivia, Director

Absent:

Chander Letulle, Director

Staff Present:

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

Dr. Della Condon addressed the Board during general public comment and shared favorable feedback she had heard from members of the public who attended a previous Agency meeting. She appreciated the Board's professionalism, long-range planning, and focus on protecting the region's water supply.

No other general public comments were received.

5. **PASS WATER AGENCY FOUNDATION BOARD**

A. Receive and File Pass Water Agency Foundation Financial Report Year-To-Date for Fiscal Year 2025-26

Chief Financial Officer Tom Todd reviewed the Foundation's year-to-date financial activity. He reported that the Foundation began the fiscal year with a balance of \$25,843.83, made one disbursement in the amount of \$250.00 to the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park Improvement Corporation, and received a transfer of \$33,221.62 in cell tower revenue from the Agency. The current balance was reported at \$58,815.45. The report was received and filed.

B. Approve Conflict of Interest Policy for the Pass Water Agency Foundation

Mr. Todd presented the proposed Conflict of Interest Policy for the Pass Water Agency Foundation and explained that the policy is required as part of the Foundation's federal exemption process. He noted the policy will be reviewed annually and that annual disclosure statements will be prepared for board members and staff.

On a motion by Director Valdivia, seconded by Vice President Smith, the board approved the Conflict of Interest Policy for the Pass Water Agency Foundation.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Wargo, Smith, Tickemyer, Ball, Ybarra

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle

Motion passed 6-0.

With no further business to discuss, President Ybarra adjourned the Pass Water Agency Foundation and continued as the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.

6. **Reports**

A. **General Manager's Report**

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Funding Agreement executed for installation of the Heli-Hydrant Connection along Brookside Avenue
2. Legislative Update on SB72
3. Sacramento Visit with State Lobbyist Glenn Farrell

B. **Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel Stewart had no report.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager Matt Howard presented the monthly water conditions report. He reviewed Northern Sierra precipitation, reservoir conditions at Lake Oroville and San Luis Reservoir, forecasted hydrologic conditions, and statewide snowpack conditions. Mr. Howard reported that precipitation in the Northern Sierra was slightly above average for the date, but snowpack levels had declined and remained below both average conditions and the prior year. He stated that the State Water Project allocation remained at 30 percent and reviewed the Agency's 2026 water portfolio, including recently acquired transfer water from Napa County. Mr. Howard also reviewed local deliveries and recharge activity, reporting that the Agency had recharged more than 5,000 acre-feet through March.

B. State Water Project Fundamentals – Carryover

Director of Water Resources Emmett Campbell provided an educational presentation regarding State Water Project carryover. He explained that carryover consists of unused Table A water from the prior year that may be stored in San Luis Reservoir and become part of the following year's water supply. Mr. Campbell reviewed how the amount of carryover that can be stored is dependent upon the final annual allocation and emphasized that unused Table A water is not lost if it is properly carried over.

C. County Line Rd Construction Update

Mr. Campbell presented a construction update for the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project. He reviewed the project location and described ongoing construction activities, including South Mesa Water Company pipe relocation, pipeline rehabilitation, basin excavation, flow structure forming, and monitoring activities. He reported that excavation was expected to be completed by the end of the week, weather permitting, and that San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District would soon begin work on its turnout component.

Public comment was received by Joyce McIntire who inquired about possible road closures associated with turnout work. Staff advised that turnout-specific traffic impacts would be best addressed by San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Adopt Resolution No. 2026-01, Granting a Public Utility Easement to the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District for Heli-Hydrant Water Service, and Authorize the General Manager to Execute Easement upon Completion of Final Legal Descriptions and Plat Exhibits

Mr. Campbell presented the proposed easement associated with the Brookside heli-hydrant project and explained that the easement would allow Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District to construct, operate, and maintain the pipeline facilities necessary to serve the Agency's heli-hydrant site.

Mark Swanson, Director of Engineering for Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District, addressed the Board and responded to questions regarding the water connection, easement area, fill operations, and system pressure. Dan Jagers, General Manager of BCVWD, also provided clarification regarding emergency water use cost recovery and stated the site would be adequately served by the district's system. The Board expressed appreciation for the regional cooperation involved in the project and recognized the public safety benefit of the heli-hydrant system.

On a motion by Treasurer Tickemyer, seconded by Director Valdivia, the board adopted Resolution No. 2026-01, Granting a Public Utility Easement to the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District for Heli-Hydrant Water Service, and Authorized the General Manager to Execute Easement upon Completion of Final Legal Descriptions and Plat Exhibits.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Wargo, Smith, Tickemyer, Ball, Ybarra

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

9. Ordinance for Adoption

A. Discuss and Consider Action to Adopt Ordinance No. 19 establishing revised Board Meeting Times and Affirming the Location of Board meetings, and Rescind Ordinance No. 18

General Manager Eckhart introduced the item and reviewed prior Board consideration of the proposed ordinance. He stated that the Board could consider changing the regular meeting schedule to two daytime meetings, two evening meetings, or leave the current schedule unchanged.

Several members of the public addressed the Board regarding the proposed change to Board meeting times.

Speakers included:

- Dr. Delia Condon
- Anita Rhodes
- Mary Daniel
- Judy Crowley
- Andy Ramirez

The Board engaged in extensive discussion regarding public access, history of the Agency's meeting schedule, director's availability, and the practices of other public agencies.

First Motion:

Director Ball made a motion to go with Option B, change both Board meeting times to 6:00 p.m. Motion failed due to no second.

Second Motion:

Director Wargo made a motion to establish both regular Board meetings at 1:30 p.m., with the annual tax-rate hearing to be held at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice President Smith.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Smith, Wargo

Noes: Valdivia, Tickemyer, Ball, Ybarra

Absent: Letulle

Motion failed 2-4.

No further action was taken on Ordinance No. 19, and the Board left the current meeting schedule unchanged.

10. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

The following meetings and activities were reported on:

- March 3, 2026, Sacramento State Legislative Day (Ybarra, Smith, Valdivia)
- March 3, 2026, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- March 9, 2026, Banning Heights Mutual Water Company Board Meeting (Wargo)
- March 11, 2026, Banning City Council Meeting (Tickemyer, Valdivia, Ybarra)
- March 11, 2026, San Geronio Pass Water Agency Special Board Meeting (Wargo)
- March 12, 2026, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's Foundation Summit (Wargo)

Director Ball discussed outreach efforts in support of regional representation on LAFCO.

Vice President Smith reported on the State Legislative Trip meeting with various representatives and Senate Bill 878. Mr. Smith also announced a press conference will be held the morning of March 17, 2026, regarding SB 872.

President Ybarra recognized Andy Ramirez for brief remarks. Mr. Ramirez thanked the Board for its report and expressed appreciation for what he described as the common sense, courtesy, and professionalism demonstrated during the discussion. Mr. Ramirez also stated his support for Vice President Smith's candidacy for LAFCO and thanked him for his continued service.

11. Topics for Future Agendas

Director Ball requested a future agenda item on public surveying and polling processes, including costs, procedures, and value, as a possible tool for understanding community input on future Board matters.

12. Announcements

President Ybarra reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Banning 2026 Installation Dinner, Casino Morongo, March 19, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- B. Board Workshop – Agency Law, March 25, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
- C. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, March 26, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
- D. Board Workshop – Media Training, March 30, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, April 6, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

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

DRAFT