

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
July 20, 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, July 20, 2026, at the office of the Agency. Treasurer Tickemyer provided the invocation and Director Ball 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
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

Joyce McIntire, Board of Director for Yucaipa Valley Water District provided an invitation to the Board for their Dedication Ceremony of the Yucaipa Valley Regional Water Filtration Facility on August 30, 2026.

5. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve Minutes of the July 13, 2026, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors

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

Approved by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle

Motion passed 6-0.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Change Orders for County Line Road Project

- No. 13 – Additional time and materials to install geogrid fabric where street subgrade soils were yielding in Buena Vista Court and Fourth Street – approximately \$37,000
- No. 14 – Reduction for Copperhead Cobra locator stations not installed under Change Order No. 8 – approximately \$1,700
- No. 15 – Reconciliation credit for unused time and materials - approximately \$31,000

Mr. Eckhart reported the new contract total is approximately \$5.2 million, and combined change orders represent approximately 8.9% of the original contract.

2. He and Vice President Smith attended Potter Valley Project decommissioning discussions.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart had nothing to report.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates

A. Senate Bill 707 Presentation

Counsel Stewart provided an overview of SB 707 and related Brown Act updates, including teleconferencing, remote participation, reasonable accommodations, just cause participation, social media limitations, public comment requirements, and meeting disruption policies. He noted the Agency is not an eligible legislative body under the law and recommended the Agency consider a policy addressing public meeting disruptions.

B. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager Howard presented the July water conditions report. He reported that Northern Sierra precipitation was approximately 51 inches, or 97 percent of average. Lake Oroville was approximately 80 percent full and above historical average, and San Luis Reservoir was approximately 56 percent full and also above historical average.

Mr. Howard reported the Agency's State Water Project allocation remains at 45 percent, with a total portfolio of just over 17,000 acre-feet. He stated that 2,424 acre-feet were delivered in June and July deliveries were anticipated to be lower due to the East Branch Extension shutdown needed to connect the County Line Road valve. He reported deliveries are expected to continue and may be completed in September.

C. SGMA 101 Presentation

Operations Manager Howard provided an introductory SGMA presentation, reviewing locally managed groundwater sustainability, basin prioritization, groundwater sustainability agencies, groundwater sustainability plans, and state oversight. He also reviewed the Agency's participation in the Yucaipa and San Geronio Pass GSAs, including member agencies, stakeholder involvement, five-year plan updates, cost sharing, and potential state intervention for noncompliance.

The following members of the public provided comments:

1. Diego Rose
2. Colleen Wallace

D. Overview of Data Center Development in the Pass Area

General Manager Eckhart introduced the data center presentation and stated the item was intended as a technical, informational discussion regarding data centers, water, electricity, and related considerations. He stated the report was not connected to any specific project, developer, or land use proposal, and explained the City of Banning was used as a data example because local electricity and water data were available for analysis.

Agency intern Jagger Maddox presented an overview of data center development explaining basic data center operations, the shift from traditional data storage and cloud services to artificial intelligence-related computing, and the difference between central processing units and graphics processing units. He reviewed hypothetical data center sizes based on information technology load and compared estimated electricity and direct water use with local usage data.

Mr. Maddox reported that electricity demand is the larger constraint, with a hypothetical 100-megawatt data center using significantly more electricity than the City of Banning's annual usage. He reported that estimated direct water use for a 100-megawatt facility would be approximately 419 acre-feet annually, depending on cooling methods, and noted that indirect water use associated with chip manufacturing and electricity generation was outside the local scope of the report. He also discussed tax structures, economic considerations, job creation, public benefits, noise, emissions, land use, and the importance of avoiding cost shifts to existing ratepayers.

Board discussion included questions regarding groundwater pollution, water and electricity impacts, the Agency's role as a State Water Project contractor, regional land use considerations, the value of technical information, and the importance of

clarifying that the Agency does not make land use decisions or approve development projects. The Board thanked Mr. Maddox for the presentation and discussed sharing the information with regional partners.

The following members of the public provided comments:

1. Diego Rose
2. Cathy Aranda
3. Kathleen Dale
4. Rich Royce
5. Jeffrey Platt
6. Oscar Gracia

Counsel Stewart stated the item was informational only and did not establish an official Agency position. Staff stated the report would be revised to clarify its purpose, the use of example data, and tone, while preserving the technical analysis.

E. Central Valley Project 101 Presentation

Mr. Maddox provided an overview of the Central Valley Project, explaining it is federally operated, primarily serves agricultural users, and shares reliance on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta with the State Water Project. He also contrasted the Central Valley Project with the State Water Project, which is state-operated and serves a larger urban and regional customer base, including Southern California.

8. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

The following meetings were reported by the Board members identified beside each item:

- July 8, 2026, South Mesa Water Company Board Meeting (Valdivia)
- July 14, 2026, Pass Water Agency Foundation Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting (Ball, Wargo, Valdivia)
- July 14, 2026, Meeting with Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez (Valdivia, Ybarra)
- July 14, 2026, Banning City Council Meeting (Tickemyer, Wargo, Ybarra)
- July 15, 2026, High Valleys Water District Board Meeting (Wargo, Valdivia)
- July 18, 2026, Blue Zones Community Fair (Wargo)

Vice President Smith had no report.

9. Board Requests for Future Agenda Items

No topics were discussed.

10. Closed Session Agenda

- A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
(Gov. Code § 54956.8)
Property: APN: 3046-023-022
Agency negotiator: Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Negotiating parties: SGPWA, AVEK, and Property Owner
Under negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

11. Reconvene

A. Report out of Closed Session

President Ybarra reconvened the meeting into open session. Counsel Stewart reported the Board met in closed session and there was no reportable action.

12. Announcements

President Ybarra reviewed the following announcements:

A. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, July 23, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

B. Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting, August 11, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

C. Regular Board Meeting, August 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, August 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

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