

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
September 14, 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, September 14, 2026, at the office of the Agency. Director Valdivia 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
James Tickemyer, Treasurer
Sarah Wargo, Secretary
Blair M Ball, Director (arrived at 1:41 p.m.)
Chander Letulle, Director
Mickey Valdivia, Director

Staff Present:

Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Jennifer Ustation, Chief Financial Officer
Maricela Cabral, Executive Assistant/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

No public comment received.

5. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve Minutes of the August 17, 2026, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors
- B. Approve the Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report for August 2026

On a motion by Treasurer Tickemyer, seconded by Secretary Wargo, the board approved the Consent Calendar as presented.

Approved by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Ball

Motion passed 6-0.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Procurement Task Order Report:
 - Task Order 27-6 - \$229,100 Engineering Services, Brookside
 - Task Order 27-7 - \$95,826 Right-of-Way, Backbone Pipeline
2. November 10, 2026, Colorado River Water Quality Control Board meeting to be held at SPGWA Headquarters
3. Heli-Hydrant Program – High Valley Water District placing vinyl decals on the heli-hydrants honoring those who lost their lives during the Esperanza fire
4. September 4, 2026, letter from Bureau of Reclamation regarding Healthy Rivers and Landscapes/voluntary agreements, and potential impacts to the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart had no report.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Quarterly Update by CV Strategies

Beatrice Eslamboly provided an update on outreach and communications activities. The report included preparation for the October 6, 2026, State of the Pass event, review of the agencies participation at the Boots, Barbecue and Brews event, Stagecoach Days Parade, joint-op ed with BIA, and the upcoming County Line Road Project ribbon cutting.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Authorize the General Manager to execute a Gap Funding Agreement with South Mesa Water Company to provide additional GAP Funding assistance associated with Amendment No. 1 to the Proposition 68 Drinking Water Construction Grant for completion of the County Line Pipeline Replacement Project

Operations Manager, Matthew Howard provided background on the Gap Funding Agreement with South Mesa Water Company for additional gap funding assistance associated with Amendment No. 1 to the State Water Resources Control Board Proposition 68 Drinking Water Construction Grant for completion of the County Line Pipeline Replacement Project, including construction of a new groundwater production well.

Dave Armstrong, General Manager of South Mesa Water Company, thanked the Board for its support and stated the gap funding program has helped bring significant grant funding back into the local community.

On a motion by Director Valdivia, seconded by Treasurer Tickemyer, the board approved and authorized the General Manager to execute a Gap Funding Agreement with South Mesa Water Company to provide additional GAP Funding assistance associated with Amendment No. 1 to the Proposition 68 Drinking Water Construction Grant for completion of the County Line Pipeline Replacement Project.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

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

- August 14, 2026, BIA Southern California Water Conference (Tickemyer)
- August 18, 2026, Cabazon Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- August 19, 2026, High Valleys Water District Board Meeting (Valdivia, Wargo)
- August 19 – 21, 2026 Urban Water Institute Annual Conference (Smith, Tickemyer)
- August 24 – 27, 2026, California Special District Association Annual Conference (Valdivia)
- August 25, 2026, CV Strategies Dinner (Wargo)
- August 31, 2026, Pass Water Agency Foundation Committee Meeting (Ball, Valdivia, Wargo)
- September 1, 2026, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- September 1, 2026, Beaumont City Council Meeting (Valdivia)
- September 2, 2026, Beaumont Chamber Breakfast (Wargo)
- September 3, 2026, San Geronio Pass Rotary (Wargo)
- September 3, 2026, Legislative Committee Meeting (Valdivia)
- September 8, 2026, Banning City Council Meeting (Valdivia, Wargo)
- September 9, 2026, Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District Board Meeting (Ball, Wargo)
- September 9, 2026, South Mesa Water Company Board Meeting (Valdivia)
- September 10, 2026, IERCD Gardening with Native Plants Workshop (Wargo)
- September 12, 2026, Banning Stagecoach Parade (Wargo)

Director Letulle had no report.

Director Valdivia reported he attended the City of Banning's Public Budget Workshop.

President Ybarra reported he attended several meetings which were previously reported on by board members.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

Director Smith requested future discussion regarding the role of the Foundation and potential community-focused opportunities, including consideration of small localized projects such as the High-Valleys heli-hydrant decals. Staff stated the item would be discussed at a future Foundation Committee meeting.

11. Closed Session Agenda

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9:

One potential case

12. Reconvene

A. Report out of Closed Session

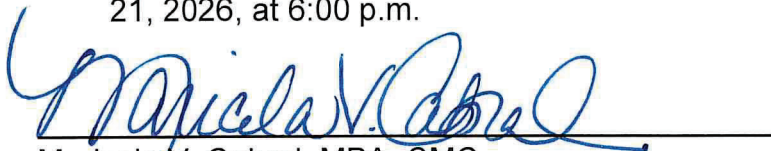
Vice President Smith reconvened the meeting into open session. Counsel Stewart stated no reportable action was taken in closed session.

13. Announcements

Meeting announcements not read.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Vice President Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, September 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.



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