

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
August 17, 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, August 17, 2026, at the office of the Agency. Director Ball provided the invocation, and Director Valdivia 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 – via teleconference

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 regarding her candidacy for the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.

5. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve Minutes of the July 20, 2026, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors
- B. Approval of the Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report for July 2026

Director Valdivia asked to read a report out of the July 23, 2026, Finance and Budget Committee meeting.

On a motion by Vice President Smith, seconded by Director Valdivia, the board approved item 5.A on the Consent Calendar.

Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Wargo, Smith, Tickemyer, Ybarra

Noes: Ball

Absent: Letulle

Motion passed 5-1.

Item pulled for discussion

- 5.B Approval of the Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report for July 2026

Director Valdivia, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, reported the Committee met on July 23, 2026, and reviewed the June financial reports, including invoices, payroll, bank reconciliation, budget reports, legal invoices, and the Gap Funding and Heli-Hydrant reports.

Director Ball requested clarification regarding the June 15, 2026 Foundation meeting materials on the Agency website and stated he would vote no on both consent items.

On a motion by Vice President Smith, seconded by Secretary Wargo, the board approved item 5.B on the Consent Calendar.

Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Valdivia, Wargo, Smith, Tickemyer, Ybarra

Noes: Ball

Absent: Letulle

Motion passed 5-1.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

- 1. Brookside and Beaumont Avenue heli-hydrant undergoing final checks
- 2. Update on United Water Conservation District's petition to revise critical habitat designation for Southern California steelhead

Director Valdivia requested future reports include updates from the Collaborative Agencies Committee meetings when applicable.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart had no report.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. El Niño 2026 Update

Edwin Quiñonez, Assistant Chief Engineer, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, provided an El Niño outlook and flood preparedness update, noting the potential for above-average precipitation in Southern California. He reviewed the District's storm preparedness efforts and local flood protection improvements. Board discussion emphasized post-fire debris flow protection, regional coordination, and appreciation for the District's partnership.

Dan Jagers, General Manager of Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District, commented in support of Flood Control's work and highlighted additional improvements near Noble Street and Noble Creek.

B. Investment Performance Report for Quarter ending June 30, 2026

Robert Montoya, representing PFM, presented the quarterly investment performance report.

C. Water Conditions Report

Matthew Howard, Operations Manager provided the water conditions report, noting the State Water Project allocation remained at 45 percent, with approximately 17,035 acre-feet of available supply. He reported July deliveries of 1,745 acre-feet, projected August deliveries of 2,300 acre-feet, and noted deliveries are ahead of the 2023 pace.

D. Delta Conveyance Project Update

General Manager Eckhart provided an update on the Delta Conveyance Project, including recent permitting, geotechnical, design, water rights, and cost update milestones. He stated the project is intended to modernize State Water Project conveyance, improve reliability, and capture high winter flows during changing hydrologic conditions.

E. County Line Road Update

Emmett Campbell, Director of Water Resources reported the County Line Road Recharge Facility is complete, with final closeout items underway and a notice of completion anticipated. He also noted that San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's remaining turnout work is nearing completion before the facility can receive water.

8. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

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

- July 21, 2026, Beaumont City Council Meeting (Ball, Tickemyer, Valdivia)
- July 30, 2026, Yucaipa Valley Regional Water Filtration Facility Groundbreaking (Wargo, Tickemyer)
- August 4, 2026, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- August 5, 2026, Beaumont Watermaster Meeting (Valdivia, Wargo)
- August 5, 2026, Collaborative Agencies Committee Meeting (Valdivia)

- August 6, 2026, Interview with CV Strategies (Wargo)
- August 10, 2026, Banning Heights Mutual Water Company Board Meeting (Wargo)
- August 11, 2026, Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting (Valdivia, Wargo)
- August 12, 2026, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Board of Directors Meeting (Wargo, Ball, Tickemyer)
- August 12, 2026, South Mesa Water Company Board Meeting (Valdivia)
- August 13, 2026, West Desert MAC Meeting (Wargo)
- August 14, 2026, BIA Southern California Water Conference (Smith, Tickemyer)
- August 15, 2026, Blue Zones Ribbon Cutting Event (Ybarra)
- August 17, 2026, Meeting with Congressman Ruiz' Office (Ybarra)

9. Topics for Future Agendas

No topics were discussed.

10. Announcements

President Ybarra reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Urban Water Institute Annual Conference, August 19-21, 2026
- B. California Special District Association Annual Conference, August 24-27, 2026
- C. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, August 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
- D. Office closed September 7, 2026, in observance of the Labor Day Holiday
- E. Regular Board Meeting, September 7, 2026, rescheduled to September 14, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The next regularly has been rescheduled to Monday, September 14, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

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