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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
September 21, 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, September 21, 2026, at the office of the Agency. Secretary Wargo provided the invocation, and Vice President Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prior to roll call, Counsel Stewart confirmed the applicable teleconference requirements for Director Valdivia's remote participation.

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 6:02 p.m.) Chander Letulle, Director Mickey Valdivia, Director (via teleconference)
Staff Present:	Lance Eckhart, General Manager Jennifer Ustation, Chief Financial Officer Maricela Cabral, Executive Assistant /Clerk of the Board 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 September 14, 2026, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors

On a motion by Treasurer Tickemyer, seconded by Secretary Wargo, the board approved the Consent Calendar as presented.
Approved by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Valdivia, Wargo, Smith, Tickemyer, Letulle, Ball, Ybarra
Noes: None
Absent: None
Motion passed 7-0.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Director of Water Resources Campbell was absent following the birth of his daughter.
2. Sites Reservoir Committee and Joint Powers Authority accepted the water right in principle. Agency participated in the action and additional Water Board review and comments are expected.
3. Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) update – House passed WRDA 2026 with a $67.5 million environmental infrastructure assistance authorization for San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.
4. South Mesa Water Company received an additional $500,000 reimbursement related to its Gap Funding project.
5. Agency-owned property to the north will be brought back for discussion
6. Acquired the services of Jeff Duncan for federal advocacy services
7. State of the Pass event is scheduled for October 6, 2026.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart provided an update on SB 1187, signed by the Governor and repeals portion of SB 707, primarily related to translation requirements and assistance for persons using translators. Changes do not specifically apply to the Agency but may apply to local cities, Best Best & Krieger, to provide a legal alert.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager Howard provided the water conditions report, noting Northern Sierra precipitation remained at approximately 97 percent of average and total available supply remained just over 17,000 acre-feet. He reported the Agency was completing final Table A deliveries, preparing recharge facilities for potential Article 21 water, and coordinating with Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District on pond maintenance.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Approve and Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Joint Funding Agreement between the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for the annual extension of the Cooperative Water Resources Program for Fiscal Year 2026-27

Operations Manager Howard presented the FY 2026-27 USGS Joint Funding Agreement, reviewing groundwater monitoring, water quality monitoring, reporting, and Burnt Canyon stream gage monitoring. He reported the total program cost is $433,964, with the Agency contributing $339,582 and USGS providing $94,382 in cooperative matching funds.

On a motion by Treasurer Tickemyer, seconded by Director Letulle, the board approved and authorized the General Manager to execute the Joint Funding Agreement between the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for the annual extension of the Cooperative Water Resources Program for Fiscal Year 2026-27.
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 on:

- September 14, 2026, Banning Heights Mutual Water Company Board Meeting (Wargo)
- September 14, 2026, City of Banning Town Hall (Ball)
- September 15, 2026, Cabazon Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- September 15, 2026, Beaumont City Council Meeting (Ball, Tickemyer)
- September 15, 2026, Capital Improvement Committee Meeting (Valdivia)
- September 16, 2026, Banning Chamber Breakfast (Wargo)
- September 16 – 18, 2026, State Water Project Tour (Smith, Ybarra)
- September 18, 2026, Sites Reservoir Committee Meeting (Smith, Ybarra)
- September 16, 2026, High Valleys Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- September 19, 2026, IERCD Gardening with Native Plants Workshop (Wargo)

Director Letulle had no report.

Secretary Wargo thanked staff for their quick turnaround in preparing the Board agenda.

10. Board Requests for Future Agenda Items

No topics were discussed.

11. Closed Session Agenda

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
(Gov. Code § 54956.9 (d)(2))
Significant Exposure to Litigation: One Case

12. Reconvene

A. Report out of Closed Session

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

13. Announcements

President Ybarra reviewed the following announcements:

A. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, September 24, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
B. Regular Board Meeting, October 5, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.
C. State of the Pass, October 6, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.
D. Office closed October 12, 2026, in observance of Columbus Day ***correction, office will be open*
E. Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting, October 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.
F. County Line Road Ribbon Cutting Event, October 14, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, October 5, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

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