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

**Official Minutes**
**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**
**November 2, 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, November 2, 2026, at the office of the Agency. Director Mickey Valdivia provided the invocation and Treasurer James Tickemyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

President Ybarra requested a roll call.

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| **Board Present:** | Robert Ybarra, President<br>Larry Smith, Vice-President<br>James Tickemyer, Treasurer<br>Sarah Wargo, Secretary<br>Blair M Ball, Director<br>Mickey Valdivia, Director |
| **Absent:** | Chander Letulle, Director |
| **Staff Present:** | Lance Eckhart, General Manager<br>Maricela Cabral, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board<br>Emmett Campbell, Director of Water Resources<br>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 October 19, 2026, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors

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B. Approve Amendment No. 1 to the 2016 Water Exchange Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency

On a motion by Director Valdivia, 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. Highlighted a publication by Public Policy Institute of California entitled, "Priorities for California's Water"
2. Agency Operator Jose Romero passed his Distribution 4 and Treatment 2 certifications through the State Water Resources Control Board.
3. Agency will host the California Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting on November 10, 2026.
4. Agency recognition at the October 2026 Cal LAFCO Conference. Ms. Eslamboly with CV Strategies, highlighted a published article featuring the Agency's GAP Funding Program and its partnership with Riverside County Supervisor Gutierrez. Supervisor Gutierrez received the Mike Gotch Excellence in Public Service Sward for his involvement in the Agency's Heli-Hydrant Program.

Vice President Smith requested the Agency remain actively involved in discussions surrounding statewide water policy priorities and ensure its interests, including the Sites Reservoir Project, are represented.

### B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart had no report.

## 7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

### A. Sites Reservoir Overview

General Manager Eckhart provided an update on the Sites Reservoir Project, including upcoming water rights proceedings and a tentative Special Board Meeting scheduled for December 14, 2026, to consider the Agency's continued participation.

Emmett Campbell, Director of Water Resources, presented an overview of the project's operations, infrastructure, and integration with the State Water Project. He highlighted the use of approximately 200 miles of existing canal infrastructure and the participation of 30 entities.

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Board discussion included the project's history, existing infrastructure, coordination with the Delta Conveyance Project, water delivery operations, and environmental considerations.

**8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:**

**A. Authorize the General Manager to Purchase 1,500 Acre-feet of water at a rate of $150 per acre-foot from Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency, and complete all necessary documentation**

General Manager Eckhart presented a proposed agreement to purchase up to 1,500 acre-feet of carryover water from Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency (CLAWA) at $150 per acre-foot, for a maximum cost of $225,000.

On a motion by Vice President Smith, seconded by Treasurer Tickemyer, the board approved and authorized the General Manager to purchase 1,500 Acre-feet of water at a rate of $150 per acre-foot from Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency, and complete all necessary documentation.
Approved by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Valdivia, Wargo, Smith, Tickemyer, Ball, Ybarra
Noes: None
Absent: Letulle
**Motion passed 6-0.**

**B. Authorize the General Manager to File the Notice of Completion for the Brookside East Heli-Hydrant Facility Project**

Emmett Campbell, Director of Water Resources, reported that construction of the Brookside East Heli-Hydrant Facility Project, located near Brookside Avenue and Beaumont Avenue, has been completed and the facility is operational. He noted the project is among six Heli-Hydrant facilities completed using approximately $1.8 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

On a motion by Director Valdivia, seconded by Secretary Wargo, the board approved and authorized the General Manager to File the Notice of Completion for the Brookside East Heli-Hydrant Facility Project.
Approved by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Valdivia, Wargo, Smith, Tickemyer, Ball, Ybarra
Noes: None
Absent: Letulle
**Motion passed 6-0.**

**9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report**

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

- October 14, 2026, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Board Meeting (Ball)
- October 20, 2026, Cabazon Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- October 20, 2026, Beaumont City Council Meeting (Valdivia)
- October 21, 2026, Onsite Well Visit with General Manager (Ybarra)

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- October 22, 2026, Banning State of the City (Ball, Wargo, Ybarra)
- October 22, 2026, High Valley Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- October 22, 2026, HCN Trunk or Treat (Wargo, Ybarra)
- October 27, 2026, Banning City Council Meeting (Valdivia, Wargo)
- October 29, 2026, Special Meeting of the Finance & Budget Committee (Valdivia, Ybarra)

Director Smith had nothing to report.

Director Ball reported he recently met with staff to discuss concerns and proposed recommendations relating to Board procedures and the Pass Water Agency Foundation. He indicated the matters would be referred to the appropriate committees for further review and encouraged timely committee meetings.

**10. Topics for Future Agendas**

Director Ball requested legal clarification regarding the Pass Water Agency Foundation's governing documents, its authority to accept property for infrastructure purposes, and its relationship to the Agency's enabling Act.

Director Valdivia expressed concern regarding additional legal expenses for matters previously discussed. Treasurer Tickemyer stated that authorization for legal work should come from the Board collectively rather than individual directors.

General Manager Eckhart noted that the matter had been considered during the Foundation's formation. General Counsel Stewart indicated that he would coordinate with Agency leadership before proceeding with any additional legal review. He will also research and bring the information back to the foundation board.

**11. Announcements**

President Ybarra reviewed the following announcements:

A. Office closed November 11, 2026 in observance of Veterans Day.
B. Pass Water Agency Foundation & Regular Board Meeting, November 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
C. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, November 19, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
D. ACWA Fall Conference, December 1-3, 2026

**12. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, President Ybarra adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, November 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

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

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