



SAN GORGONIO PASS
WATER AGENCY
A California State Water Project Contractor

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Agency Ends Fiscal Year Focused on Regional Collaboration and Progress

Highpoints include \$15 million in water retailer support and unprecedented water deliveries

BEAUMONT, CA (July 16, 2024) – As the fiscal year wrapped up in June, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) celebrated a full, productive year of successful agency initiatives, partnerships, local support and operations. Highlights from the year include a water security-focused workshop on the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP), the certification of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Sites Reservoir, an educational partnership with the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD), awarding \$15 million in gap funding for small water systems, a workshop on the Backbone Pipeline Feasibility Study, and a record-breaking water portfolio.

“The fiscal year 2023 to 2024 exemplified SGPWA’s mission to support the region’s quality of life through sustainable water management,” SGPWA Board President Mickey Valdivia said. “Our diverse, collaborative efforts this year advanced dependable water supplies in an ever-evolving landscape. We are excited to keep up the forward-focused work next year.”

SGPWA and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) have a longstanding partnership to advance water sustainability. In February of this year, they held a joint workshop where they became the first two agencies in California to approve ongoing investment in the DCP. The DCP creates water supply reliability statewide, conveying water from the Bay Area to Southern California. During the workshop, California Natural Resources Agency’s Wade Crowfoot highlighted the importance of protecting the backbone of the State Water Project’s (SWP) infrastructure. A recent independent benefit-cost analysis of the DCP underscores its role in securing California’s water supplies and the SWP’s delivery capabilities.

In November 2023, SGPWA and SBVMWD celebrated the EIR certification for the Sites Reservoir project. As the project’s second and third largest investors, SGPWA and SBVMWD highlight the project’s promise of water resilience and sustainable water storage. The Sites Reservoir is an off-stream surface water reservoir that adapts to California’s changing climate, capturing and storing water during storm events to be used during dry spells. The project includes 24 storage partners which serve more than 24.5 million people and 500,000 acres of farmland.

SGPWA expanded its water conservation programming partnership with IERCD this year, which offers enriching learning programs teaching young people to conserve natural resources for

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future generations. During the fiscal year, the partners oversaw 66 classroom programs at 19 regional schools and three HOA events with residents. IERCD hosted booths for SGPWA at four local events, including the Bogart Fishing Derby.

As part of SGPWA's goal to support the region through collaboration, the Agency approved \$15 million in gap funding for local water retailers, including Cabazon Water District, Hi-Valleys Water District, South Mesa Water District, and Banning Heights Water District. SGPWA's gap funding program acts as a bridge, enabling small water systems to use state funds when they lack financial reserves to handle the up-front costs of accepting grants. It promotes the steady progress of essential infrastructure projects with region-wide benefits and ensures the delivery of designated grant funds to Disadvantaged Communities. Without gap funding, water retailers may turn down grants for necessary water supply upgrades such as pipeline replacements and new reservoirs.

In August 2023, SGPWA hosted a workshop on the Backbone Pipeline Feasibility Study, a project in concept since the 2000s to address projected growth and distribute imported water throughout the region. SGPWA contracted Albert A. Webb Associates to complete a Feasibility Study in October 2023, which laid out suggested guidelines for pipelines that would convey the Agency's allocated SWP water from the existing East Branch Extension pipeline in Beaumont to the Banning and Cabazon groundwater basins for recharge and use by the local communities. The study positioned the project for future federal and state funding.

The wet year bolstered SGPWA's water portfolio; the Agency closed out 2023 with a record-breaking 24,733 acre-feet. This included 4,350 acre-feet in Table A allocations, 5,822 acre-feet from a water exchange with the City of Ventura, 2,231 acre-feet of carryover water, 1,700 acre-feet of Nickel Water, 5,075 acre-feet of Article 21 water, 495 acre-feet from the Yuba Accord, 4,000 acre-feet banked for later use in a water exchange with Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK), and 300 acre-feet returned from Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency (CLAWA).

Learn more about the vital work SGPWA accomplishes year-round at www.sgpwa.com.

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About San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Formed in 1961, SGPWA is a State Water Contractor that serves a 225-square-mile area of western Riverside County. The service area includes the cities of Calimesa, Beaumont, and Banning, and the communities of Cherry Valley, Cabazon, and the Banning Bench. In addition to importing State Water Project (SWP) water from Northern California to augment local groundwater sources, the Agency builds local system infrastructure, participates in water transfers, partners in statewide water projects and collaborates on regional water reliability and conservation efforts.