

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
October 7, 2024

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON,
WITH PUBLIC AVAILABILITY PROVIDED VIA ZOOM.

1. Call to Order, Flag Salute, Invocation, and Roll Call

The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Valdivia at 6:00 p.m., Monday, October 7, 2024, at the office of the Agency. Vice President Letulle gave the invocation; Secretary Walton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Counsel Ferre verified with Director Ball that the Brown Act requirements for teleconference meetings were adhered to for Director Balls' participation from the following location: 11401 N 45th E, Idaho Falls, ID 83401.

President Valdivia requested a roll call.

Board Present: Mickey Valdivia, President
Chander Letulle, Vice-President
Robert Ybarra, Treasurer
Kevin Walton, Secretary
Blair M Ball, Director (via teleconference, exited at 2:40 p.m.)
Ron Duncan, Director

Board Absent: Larry Smith, Director

Staff Present: Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Thomas Todd, Jr., Chief Financial Officer
Maricela Cabral, Exec. Asst. / Clerk of the Board
Emmett Campbell, Sr. Water Resources Planner
Matt Howard, Operations Manager

Consultant Present: Jeff Ferre, Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

2. Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as published.

3. Public Comment

Dave Armstrong, General Manager of South Mesa Water Company highlighted the recent annual meeting of the 2024 California Association of Mutual Water

Companies (CalMutuals) where San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency received the Jim Byram Small Systems Champion Award for Gap Funding efforts.

4. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve Minutes of the September 16, 2024, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.
- B. Approval of the Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report, for September 27, 2024.

Director Ball requested Item 4.B. be pulled for discussion.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Treasurer Ybarra, the board approved Item 4.A. on the Consent Calendar.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Walton, Duncan, Ybarra, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: Smith

Motion passed 6-0.

Item pulled from Consent Calendar for Discussion

4.B Approval of the Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report for September 27, 2024

Director Ball asked for clarification of the new vendor, the Museum of Latin American Art. General Manager Eckhart elaborated on the sponsorship, explaining the networking opportunity for the event and the valuable partnership with Metropolitan Water District. Director Walton emphasized the sponsorship is a way to recognize and support the local community and its cultural history.

On a motion by Vice President Letulle, seconded by Director Ball, the board approved Item 4.B, Approval of the Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report for September 27, 2024.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Walton, Duncan, Ybarra, Letulle, Valdivia

Noes: Ball

Absent: Smith

Motion passed 5-1.

5. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. IERCD represented SGPWA at the Cabazon Community Fair on September 21, 2024
2. Regional Manager's meeting of September 23, 2024, was cancelled; meeting to be rescheduled to later date
3. September 23, 2024, Delta Conveyance Project, General Manager Meeting
4. October 1, 2024, Delta Conveyance Project Roundtable Discussion with California Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth

5. September 24, 2024, Panelist at the Geological Society of America's Connect 2024
6. September 25, 2024, Yucaipa GSA Private Well Owner Workshop
7. September 29, 2024, Jim Byram Small Systems Champion Award presented to San Geronio Pass Water Agency by California Association of Mutual Water Companies (CalMutuals)
8. SGPWA is a finalist for the ACWA Excellence in Innovation Award that will be presented at the ACWA Fall Conference in December
9. September 30, 2024, Backbone Pipeline Workshop
10. October 3, 2024, Metropolitan Water District visit and tour of Cabazon area
11. Resubmitting Turf Replacement Grant with Solera Homeowners Association

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Ferre provided an update on the following:

1. Two new bills signed by the Governor that do not go into effect until the first of the year, including the Levine Act and changes to the Public Records Act.

6. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Consideration and Possible Action on Development of a Board Member Handbook and a possible Ad-Hoc Committee to Initiate that Process

Counsel Ferre presented background information and introduced the idea of updating the board member policy handbook. Counsel Ferre suggested the formation of an Ad-Hoc Committee to help narrow down the content. President Valdivia recommended appointing Director Ball, Secretary Walton, and Vice President Letulle to the committee with Director Ball as Chair.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Director Duncan, the board approved the formation of an Ad-Hoc Committee to focus on Development of a Board Member Handbook. Committee members to consist of Director Ball, Secretary Walton, and Vice President Letulle with Director Ball as Chair.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Walton, Duncan, Ybarra, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: Smith

Motion passed 6-0.

B. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-11, Approving and Adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project, and Authorize Staff to file any additional documents related to said project

Senior Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell presented background on proposed Resolution No. 2024-11, approving and adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project.

On a motion by Director Duncan, seconded by Secretary Walton, the board adopted Resolution No. 2024-11, approving and adopting the mitigated negative declaration and mitigation monitoring and reporting program for the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project, and authorized staff to file any additional documents related to said project.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Walton, Duncan, Ybarra, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: Smith

Motion passed 6-0.

C. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-12, Authorizing Funding for the Next Phase of the Delta Conveyance Project Pre-Construction Costs and Making CEQA Responsible Agency Findings Based on the California Department of Water Resources' Previously-Certified Environmental Impact Report

Senior Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell presented background on proposed Resolution No. 2024-12, authorizing funding for the next phase of the Delta Conveyance Project Pre-Construction Costs and Making CEQA Responsible Agency Findings Based on the California Department of Water Resources' Previously-Certified Environmental Impact Report. The board discussed the importance of the project and the cost reduction.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Treasurer Ybarra, the board adopted Resolution No. 2024-12, Authorizing Funding for the Next Phase of the Delta Conveyance Project Pre-Construction Costs and Making CEQA Responsible Agency Findings Based on the California Department of Water Resources' Previously-Certified Environmental Impact Report.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Walton, Duncan, Ybarra, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: Smith

Motion passed 6-0.

D. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-13, Authorizing the Execution of the American Rescue Plan Act Funding Agreement between San Geronio Pass Water Agency and The County of Riverside for the Construction of Heli-Hydrant systems, and find the Agreement is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act under State CEQA Guidelines

Senior Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell presented background on proposed Resolution No. 2024-13, authorizing the execution of the American Rescue Plan Act Funding Agreement between San Geronio Pass Water Agency and The County of Riverside for the construction of Heli-Hydrant systems, and finding the Agreement is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act under State CEQA Guidelines. Mr. Campbell explained the resolution is part of

the agency's efforts to improve wildfire response capabilities. Secretary Walton acknowledged the efforts of staff and board members in advancing the heli hydrants project, highlighting the collaborative and nuanced nature of the project.

Joyce McIntire, President of Yucaipa Valley Water District questioned the water source for the heli-hydrants. General Manager Eckhart explained the use of existing water infrastructure and the mechanism for filling the heli-hydrants systems.

On a motion by Vice President Letulle, seconded by Secretary Walton, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2024-13, authorizing the execution of the American Rescue Plan Act Funding Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and The County of Riverside for the construction of Heli-Hydrant systems, and finding the Agreement is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act under State CEQA Guidelines.

Approved by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Walton, Duncan, Ybarra, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia
Noes: None
Absent: Smith
Motion passed 6-0.

7. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

Vice President Letulle and Director Ybarra had no report.

General Manager Eckhart reported he received a message from Director Ball indicating he needed to exit the meeting.

Secretary Walton reported at the Beaumont Basin Watermaster Meeting there was discussion over increased elected participation and suggestion was made to form an advisory committee of elected officials to collaborate with the existing structure, addressing the current lack of public engagement, and enhance representation and decision-making. Another topic discussed was Noble Creek Park and its role as base camp for firefighting efforts. He suggested the possibility of collaborating with other agencies to enhance its capabilities.

President Valdivia thanked General Manager Armstrong for his previous comments regarding the Jim Byram Small Systems Champion Award for Gap Funding efforts.

The following meetings were reported on by the board:

- September 21, 2024, Cabazon Community Fair (Duncan)
- September 29, 2024, Cal Mutual Dinner & Award Presentation (Valdivia)
- September 30, 2024, Backbone Pipeline Workshop (Duncan, Walton)
- October 1, 2024, Beaumont City Council Meeting (Valdivia)
- October 2, 2024, Beaumont Basin Watermaster Meeting (Duncan, Walton)

8. Board Requests for Future Agenda Items

President Valdivia requested an update on the Pass Water Agency Foundation.

Vice President Letulle requested a review of SGPWA insurance, including coverage limit and cost. He suggested the following: Cal Mutuals JPRIMA, Joint Powers Risk and Insurance Management, CSDA Special District Risk Management Authority, and our current ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Authority. After discussion, it was decided that staff would report the findings to the Finance Committee Meeting first, and then to the board if needed.

Secretary Walton requested an update on the Beautification Project at the corner of Beaumont Avenue and Brookside.

9. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting, October 8, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
- B. Regular Board Meeting, October 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
- C. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, October 23, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

Kevin Walton, Secretary of the Board

mvc