

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
November 18, 2024

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 Valdivia at 6:00 p.m., Monday, November 18, 2024, at the office of the Agency. Director Ball gave the invocation and Vice President Letulle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

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
Ron Duncan, Director
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:

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 21, 2024, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.
- B. Approve the Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report for October 2024.

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Director Duncan, the board approved the Consent Calendar as presented.

Approved by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

- i. Pass Water Agency Foundation - establishment of a checking account and filing of incorporation papers.
- ii. Pass Agency Insurance - Staff are reviewing insurance coverage as previously requested. Findings will be presented in February.
- iii. Golden Mussel Detection CDFW.
- iv. Lost Hills Subsidence CEQA.
- v. White Sturgeon and response from State Water Contractors.
- vi. Agency's participation as facility for future emergency response center in Riverside County.
- vii. Contracted with CPS HR Consulting for the recruitment of future positions.
- viii. Review of Injection Wells vs. Percolation Basin Memo.
- ix. The turf grant for the HOA Solera went out last week.
- x. ACWA Fall Conference – SGPWA is up for an excellence in innovation award for grant funding program; Lance will be part of the panel discussion.
- xi. ARPA funds were approved by Riverside County on October 29, 2024, moving forward with Cabazon Heli-hydrant.
- xii. SGPWA featured in Municipal Water Leader for grant funding programs, Sites, and general supply issues in the San Gorgonio Pass area.

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel, Holland Stewart had no report.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Water Conditions Report

Matt Howard, Operations Manager delivered the November water conditions report, providing an overview of current precipitation levels and reservoir status. He discussed the forecasted atmospheric river and its possible effects on water supply. Howard also introduced the golden mussel, a newly discovered invasive species in the Delta, outlining its potential risks to water infrastructure. The board expressed concerns regarding the spread of the golden mussel and emphasized the need for prompt action to address the threat.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Authorize the General Manager to execute the Heli-Hydrant Installation and Maintenance Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and Cabazon Water District

General Manager Lance Eckhart provided background information on the Heli-Hydrant Installation and Maintenance Agreement between the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and Cabazon Water District. Eckhart, along with Emmett Campbell, Sr. Water Resources Planner, presented the agreement, which outlines the installation of heli-hydrants at strategic locations. The agreement includes a \$600,000 allocation for the construction of two heli-hydrants in the Cabazon area. The board engaged in a discussion about maintenance responsibilities and highlighted the critical role of the heli-hydrants in wildfire response efforts.

Sarah Wargo, President of Cabazon Water District expressed support for the project and its benefits for the community.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Treasurer Ybarra, the board approved the General Manager to execute the Heli-Hydrant Installation and Maintenance Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and Cabazon Water District.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

B. Authorize the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and Albert A. Webb Associates, Inc., for On-Call Services

Emmett Campbell, Sr. Water Resources Planner provided background information on Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and Albert A. Webb Associates, Inc., for On-Call Services. The Board discussed the potential drawbacks of relying exclusively on one firm and recommended considering multiple firms in the future, based on their qualifications and the specific requirements of each project.

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Director Walton, the board approved the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement between San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and Albert A. Webb Associates, Inc., for On-Call Services.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

Board members reported attending the following:

- October 13, 2024, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Board Meeting (Director Ball)
- October 24, 2024, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Board Meeting - Engineering Workshop (Director Ball)

- October 29, 2024, Capital Improvement Committee Meeting (President Valdivia)
- November 5, 2024, Beaumont City Council Meeting (President Valdivia)
- November 8, 2024, June Hayes Memorial Service (Directors Duncan and Walton)
- November 12, 2024, City of Banning Council Meeting (Directors Duncan, Walton and Valdivia)
- November 16, 2024, Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) Webinar (Director Letulle)
- November 13, 2024, South Mesa Water Company Board Meeting (President Valdivia)

Director Smith and Treasurer Ybarra had no report.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

No topics were discussed.

11. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting, November 19, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
- B. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, November 21, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
- C. Office closed November 27-29, 2024, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- D. Regular Board Meeting, December 2, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
- E. Regular Board Meeting, December 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

President Valdivia turned the meeting over to Secretary Walton who concluded by honoring San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Board Director June Hayes for her dedicated service to both the community and the State Water Project. A moment of silence was observed in tribute to Director Hayes. President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, December 2, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

Kevin Walton, Secretary of the Board

mvc