

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

**Official Minutes**  
**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**  
**January 6, 2025**

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 1:30 p.m., Monday, January 6, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Vice President Letulle gave the invocation and Treasurer Ybarra 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:**

Jeff Ferre, Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

**3. Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda**

General Manager Eckhart requested Item No. 9.A be moved after public comment. On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by Secretary Walton, it was moved to adjust the meeting agenda by placing Item 9.A – Ratify and File the Audited Financial Statements for FY 2023-24 immediately following Item 6, Consent Calendar.

Approved by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**4. Public Comment**

No public/public comment received.

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

**A. Ratify and File the Audited Financial Statements for FY 2023-24**

CFO Thomas Todd, Jr., introduced Paul Kaymark, Managing Partner for Nigro & Nigro PC who presented background information on the audited financial statements for FY 2023-24, highlighting key points reviewed by the Finance & Budget Committee in December.

On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by Secretary Walton, the board approved to ratify and file the audited financial statements for FY 2023-24.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**5. Election of Board Officers:**

**A. Nominations/Election of Board President**

Prior to handing the floor over to Counsel Ferre, President Valdivia expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as president over the past year. He reflected on the honor of working with staff, consultants, and the public, and acknowledged the group's collaborative efforts. Valdivia commended the team for handling both routine and sensitive agenda items with dignity and respect, emphasizing pride in their collective achievements.

Counsel Ferre opened the floor for nominations of Board President. Director Letulle nominated Director Mickey Valdivia for Board President. With no additional nominations by the Board, Counsel Ferre closed nominations and requested a roll call vote for election of Director Mickey Valdivia for Board President.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**B. Nominations/Election of Vice President**

President Valdivia opened the floor for nominations of Vice President. Director Ybarra nominated Director Chander Letulle for Vice President. With no additional nominations by the Board, President Valdivia closed nominations and requested a roll call vote for election of Director Chander Letulle for Vice President.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**C. Nominations/Election of Treasurer**

President Valdivia opened the floor for nominations of Treasurer. President Valdivia nominated Director Robert Ybarra for Treasurer. With no additional nominations by the Board, President Valdivia closed nominations and requested a roll call vote for election of Director Robert Ybarra for Treasurer.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**D. Nominations/Election of Secretary**

President Valdivia opened the floor for nominations of Secretary. Director Smith nominated Director Kevin Walton for Secretary. With no additional nominations by the Board, President Valdivia closed nominations and requested a roll call vote for election of Director Kevin Walton for Secretary.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**6. Consent Calendar**

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

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

Approved by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**7. Reports**

**A. General Manager's Report**

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

- i. Update on the agency's participation trophy from ACWA for gap funding
- ii. Beginning January 2, the east branch extension will be off and estimated to be back on in February
- iii. Draft Memorandum of Understanding with Metropolitan Water District
- iv. Regional Manager's meeting scheduled for January 14, 2025
- v. 2025 Prospective scheduled for next board meeting

**B. Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel Ferre had no report.

**8. Informational Presentations and Updates:**

**A. State Water Project Overview**

Sr. Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell presented an overview of the State Water Project, explaining the movement of water from north to south and the various infrastructure components involved.

**B. 2025 Water Portfolio Update**

Sr. Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell presented an update on the 2025 water portfolio, recapping the 2024 recharge of 18,000 acre-feet. Mr. Campbell said the initial allocation for 2025 was set at 5% but was raised to 15% before Christmas. The current available supply is around 8,000 acre-feet, with potential for further increases as the winter progresses. Mr. Campbell also discussed the impact of the first flush in the Delta and the carryover storage, which could influence the allocation percentage.

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

**B. Authorize the General Manager to Execute the Letter Agreement between SGPWA and CRM TECH for Archaeological and Paleontological work and monitoring related to the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project for a not-to-exceed amount of \$78,410**

Sr. Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell presented background information on the Letter Agreement between SGPWA and CRM Tech for archeological and paleontological work related to the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project.

On a motion by Vice President Letulle, seconded by President Valdivia, the board approved to authorize the General Manager to execute the Letter Agreement between SGPWA and CRM Tech for Archaeological and Paleontological work and monitoring related to the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project for-a-not-to-exceed amount of \$78,410.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**C. Review of current Board Committee Assignments and approve assignments for 2025**

The Board discussed the current board committee assignments. Following deliberation, the board resolved to defer this item and revisit it at the next scheduled meeting.

**D. Approve Director participation in Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) UnTapped Fellowship Program in the amount of \$4,000**

Treasurer Ybarra provided an overview of the Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) UnTapped Fellowship Program, highlighting its objectives and the benefits it offers to participants.

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by President Valdivia, the board approved Director Robert Ybarra's participation in the Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) UnTapped Fellowship Program in the amount of \$4,000.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Smith, Walton, Wargo, Ybarra, Letulle, Valdivia

Noes: Ball

Absent: None

**Motion passed 6-1.**

#### **10. Reports - Directors and Committee Report**

Directors reported attending the following meetings:

- i. December 18, 2024, High Valleys Water District Board Meeting (Walton, Wargo)
- ii. December 19, 2024, Finance & Budget Committee Meeting (Walton)
- iii. December 10, 2024, Board Member Handbook Committee Meeting (Ball)

Directors Smith, Ybarra, and Letulle had no report. Director Ball asked to set the next meeting of the Board Handbook Committee meeting for January. President Valdivia reviewed housekeeping items.

#### **11. Topics for Future Agendas**

- i. Director Smith proposed organizing a Staff Appreciation Day to express gratitude for the team's contributions and dedication.
- ii. Secretary Walton requested a report on the Public Agency Retirement Service System (PARS) for staff and board members; explore the potential uses for the agency's vacant properties; coordination with the county supervisor or fire department regarding the Heli-Hydrant project site dedications and necessary correspondence.

#### **12. Announcements**

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 20, 2025
- B. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, January 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
- C. Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting, January 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
- D. Regular Board Meeting, February 3, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

#### **13. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, January 27, at 6:00 p.m.

---

Kevin Walton, Secretary of the Board

mvc