

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
February 3, 2025

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

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Invocation

The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Board President Mickey Valdivia at 1:30 p.m., on Monday, February 3, 2025, at the office of the Agency. President Valdivia gave the invocation, and Director Wargo 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 – arrived at 1:34 p.m.
Sarah Wargo, Director
Larry Smith, Director

Staff Present:

Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Thomas Todd, Jr., Chief Financial Officer
Maricela Cabral, Deputy Secretary 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

The agenda was adopted as published.

4. Public Comment

Mandy Parkes, Inland Empire Resources Conservation District Manager addressed and thanked the Board for its decade-long partnership in water conservation efforts. She highlighted 2024 achievements, including outreach to over 2,400 individuals through classroom programs, community events, and workshops promoting water stewardship. Looking ahead to 2025, she emphasized plans to enhance branding, refine workshops, and expand

partnerships, such as with the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District, to increase public awareness of San Geronio's mission and impact.

Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District Board member reaffirmed her role as a liaison between the San Geronio Pass Water Agency and the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. She emphasized her commitment to developing conceptual policies, regional objectives, and strengthening interagency relationships. Acknowledging the significance of County Line Road in Calimesa, she anticipates ongoing discussions and welcomes open communication to address any questions or concerns. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve as a liaison and looks forward to collaboration.

5. **Consent Calendar**

- A. Approve Minutes of the January 27, 2025, Regular Meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Treasurer Ybarra, 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.

6. **Reports**

A. **General Manager's Report**

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Expressed gratitude to the Inland Empire Resources Conservation and their continued efforts in bringing water education and conservation to the classrooms and communities.
2. Provided an update on Northern California precipitation and Governor Newsom's executive order.

B. **Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel, Jeff Ferre provided an update on the following:

1. Recent decision of the Delta Stewardship Council that DWR's proposed geotechnical activities for the Delta Conveyance Project are not covered actions requiring approval by the Delta Stewardship Council.
2. Schedule for construction of the Sites project.

7. **Informational Presentations and Updates:**

A. **Public Outreach Initiative Update**

Tara Bravo Mulally, CV Strategies' Chief Strategy Officer, provided an update on the agency's public outreach initiatives, outlining key communication goals, completed projects, and ongoing efforts. She highlighted recent website enhancements, the completion of informational videos, and the development of training materials for the Board and staff. Additionally, she emphasized the agency's growing impact through social media engagement,

press releases, and strategic council meetings, reinforcing its commitment to effective public communication and outreach.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Approve Agreement to Provide Gap Funding to the Banning Heights Mutual Water Company related to approved Small Community Drought Relief Program Grant Funds

Operations Manager Matt Howard introduced the agreement to provide gap funding to the Banning Heights Mutual Water Company. The initiative supports the construction of a new production well and a one-million-gallon storage reservoir to mitigate the effects of the 2020 Apple Fire. The agreement establishes a \$1.5 million line of credit to cover the project's remaining costs, with required monthly progress reports and invoices ensuring transparency and accountability.

Steve Romberg and Bill Thompson from Banning Heights Mutual Water Company expressed their appreciation for the gap funding program.

On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by Director Wargo, the board approved the Agreement to Provide Gap Funding to the Banning Heights Mutual Water Company related to approved Small Community Drought Relief Program Grant Funds.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

B. Consideration and Action to Appoint the Clerk of the Board to the Position of Deputy Board Secretary

General Manager Eckhart provided background on the action to appoint the Clerk of the Board Maricela Cabral to the position of Deputy Board Secretary.

Following board discussion, on a motion by Secretary Walton, seconded by Vice President Letulle, the board approved to appoint the Clerk of the Board Maricela Cabral to the position of Deputy Board Secretary.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

C. Consideration and Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kern County Water Agency to Identify and Evaluate Possible Arrangements for Collaboration on Water Management to Optimize Allocation of Costs and Benefits

Senior Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell provided background on the Memorandum of Understanding with Kern County Water Agency

explaining the mutual benefits of the partnership, including water supply optimization and financial strategies. General Manager Eckhart explained the importance of the MOU in facilitating collaboration and optimizing water management efforts, especially in the context of the Delta Conveyance Project.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Secretary Walton, the board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Kern County Water Agency to identify and evaluate possible arrangements for collaboration on water management to optimize allocation of costs and benefits.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

D. Consideration and Adoption of Resolution No. 2025-01 to Support the Presidents Executive Order Dated January 24, 2025, Regarding Emergency Measures to Provide Water Resources to Southern California

General Manager Eckhart introduced Resolution 2025-01 in support of the President's Executive Order dated January 24, 2025, which outlines emergency measures to enhance water resources in Southern California. Mr. Eckhart explained the resolution aims to address the executive order while also acknowledging the board's concerns regarding regulatory challenges impacting water supply.

Director Smith proposed an amendment to include support for both the President's and the Governor's executive orders, highlighting the bipartisan significance of the issue. Secretary Walton and Director Wargo expressed their support for the resolution, emphasizing the importance of the board's leadership in addressing critical water resource challenges.

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Secretary Walton, the board approved the adoption of Resolution No. 2025-01 with the recommended amendments, supporting both the President's Executive Order dated January 24, 2025 and the Governors Executive Order dated January 31, 2025, regarding emergency measures to provide water resources to Southern California.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

Directors reported attending the following meetings:

- January 28, 2025, City of Banning, City Council meeting (Valdivia)

- January 29, 2025, Board Handbook Committee meeting (Ball)
- January 30, 2025, Discussion on Water Issues and Long Term Needs (Valdivia)
- January 30, 2025, City of Calimesa Installation Dinner (Ybarra)
- Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) tour of the Coachella Valley (Ybarra)

Director Wargo reported she attended a meeting with the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to discuss the beautification of Cabazon. Community input will be gathered on the allocation and possible reallocation of funds to support the initiative.

Director Smith thanked the board for their visionary approach and encouraged continued vigilance in addressing water issues.

Directors Letulle and Walton had no report.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

No topics were discussed.

11. Closed Session Agenda

A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: 1216 BEAUMONT AVE, BEAUMONT, CA 92223;

APN: 415-130-021

Agency negotiator: Lance Eckhart, General Manager

Negotiating parties: Sara Santos-Sanchez, The Harris Group

Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

12. Reconvene

A. Report out of Closed Session Action

Board President Mickey Valdivia convened the meeting to open session. Counsel Ferre announced there was no reportable action.

13. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Water Conservation & Education Committee Meeting, February 11, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.
- B. Office closed February 17, 2025 in observance of President's Day
- C. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, February 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
- D. Regular Board Meeting, February 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
- E. Urban Water Institute Spring Conference, February 26-28, 2025

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Maricela V. Cabral, CMC, CPMC
Deputy Secretary of the Board
San Geronio Pass Water Agency

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