

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

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
February 24, 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 6:00 p.m., on Monday, February 24, 2025, at the office of the Agency. Director Wargo gave the invocation, and Director Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

President Valdivia requested a roll call.

Board Present: Mickey Valdivia, President
Robert Ybarra, Treasurer
Kevin Walton, Secretary
Blair M Ball, Director
Sarah Wargo, Director
Larry Smith, Director

Absent: Chander Letulle, Vice-President

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

Consultant Present: Jeremy Holmes, 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 February 3, 2025, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.

- B. Approval of the Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report, for January 2025.

Director Ball requested Item 5.B be pulled for discussion.

On a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Secretary Walton, the board approved Item 5.A on the Consent Calendar.

Approved by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle

Motion passed 6-0.

Item pulled for Discussion

- B. Approval of the Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Report, for January 2025.

Director Ball requested clarification on various expenses. Chief Financial Officer Thomas Todd Jr., explained the expenses, clarifying the nature of the payments and their relevance to the agency's operations.

Treasurer Ybarra reported that the Budget and Finance Committee met on February 19 to review January's financial items, including invoices, payroll, bank reconciliation, budget reports, legal invoices, and the grant funding report. The committee also reviewed the 2024 investment report, set for presentation on March 3, 2025, and approved the mid-year budget review for Fiscal Year 2024-25 for Board presentation. Additionally, the investment group will attend the March 3, 2025, meeting to provide a financial performance update.

On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by Secretary Walton, the board approved Item 5.B on the Consent Calendar.

Approved by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle

Motion passed 6-0.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Policy Statement for the Delta Conveyance Change in the Point of Diversion Petition
2. Notification of Emergency Actions in response to the Overflow Incident at the Citrus Reservoir

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel, Jeremy Holmes provided an update on recent changes to teleconferencing regulations for legislative bodies. AB 2449, enacted a few years ago, relaxed teleconferencing requirements for members facing Just Cause (family or medical needs) or emergency circumstances. It allowed participation without standard posting and public access requirements but limited the Just Cause exemption to twice per year.

Earlier this year, AB 2302 amended these rules by adjusting the caps based on meeting frequency. Given that the agency meets twice a month, each member can now use the Just Cause or emergency circumstances exemption up to five times annually. However, the original AB 2449 cap remains, meaning members can use Just Cause up to two times and emergency circumstances up to three times per year. Counsel Holmes further announced an additional revision to the closed session language, explicitly allowing closed sessions for security incidents.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager Matt Howard delivered the water conditions report, providing an overview of precipitation levels, reservoir status, and snowpack conditions. He highlighted the significant precipitation in February, which helped mitigate the dry conditions experienced in January, and discussed the forecasted hydraulic outlook. Mr. Howard also addressed current snowpack levels and their influence on the agency's water allocation, which is projected to see a slight increase.

Director Smith expressed interest in understanding the outflow of water to the bay and asked that this information be included in future water condition reports.

B. Mid-Year Budget Review FY 2024-25

Chief Financial Officer Thomas Todd, Jr., presented the mid-year budget review for fiscal year 2024-25, summarizing financial data from the first seven months, including six months of actual activity. Mr. Todd explained the classification of tax revenue and the impact on the agency's financial outlook. He said the finance and budget committee reviewed the report and made recommendations, which were incorporated into the presentation. The Board discussed the budget review, with members expressing satisfaction with the summary and detail provided.

C. State Water Project Fundamentals – Table A and Allocation

Sr. Water Resources Planner Emmett Campbell provided the Board with an overview of the concept of an acre-foot and the Table A allocation in the agency's water supply contract. He explained that the agency has contracted for up to 17,300 acre-feet, with actual allocations determined by the state based on proportional shares. The allocation represents the state's commitment to deliver a specified volume of water to State Water

Contractors. Currently, the allocation stands at 20%, providing the agency with 10,000 acre-feet available for delivery.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Water Transfer Agreement with the City of Yuba City for the Acquisition of 3,000 Acre-Feet of Carryover Water at \$225 per Acre-Foot, and to Complete All Required Documentation with the Department of Water Resources

General Manager Eckhart and Sr. Water Resources Planner Campbell presented background information on the Water Transfer Agreement with Yuba City which involves purchasing 3,000 acre-feet of carryover water at \$225 per acre-foot. Water delivery will begin in early March and is expected to be completed by April.

On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by President Valdivia, the board approved the General Manager to execute a Water Transfer Agreement with the City of Yuba City for the acquisition of 3,000 acre-feet of carryover water at \$225 per acre-foot, and to complete all required documentation with the Department of Water Resources.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Letulle

Motion passed 6-0.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

The following meetings were reported on:

- February 4, 2025, Beaumont City Council Meeting (Valdivia)
- February 4, 2025, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- February 4, 2025, Cabazon Beautification Project (Wargo)
- February 5, 2025, Beaumont Basin Water Master Meeting (Wargo)
- February 8, 2025, Cabazon Beautification Project (Wargo)
- February 11, 2025, IERCD Education Program at Hoffer Elementary School (Wargo)
- February 11, 2025, Banning City Council Meeting (Valdivia)
- February 12, 2025, South Mesa Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- February 12, 2025, Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District Board Meeting (Wargo & Ball)
- February 18, 2025, Beaumont City Council Meeting (Valdivia)
- February 18, 2025, Cabazon Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- February 19, 2025, High Valley Water District Board Meeting (Wargo)
- February 20, 2025, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's Santa Ana River Enhanced Recharge Phase 1-B Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony (Walton)

Director Smith commented on the agency's growing recognition and the importance of the "one water" concept.

Treasurer Ybarra had no report.

President Valdivia expressed appreciation to Paul Kielhold, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Board Director, and Alan Davis, Cabazon Water District Board Director for their presence at the meeting, commending their dedication and contributions to the community.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

No topics were discussed.

11. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Urban Water Institute Spring Conference, February 26-28, 2025
- B. Regular Board Meeting, March 3, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.
- C. Regular Board Meeting, March 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
- D. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting March 27, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, March 3, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.



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