

# **San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance**

*Draft Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.*

Banning City Hall Council Chambers  
99 East Ramsey Street, Banning California, 92220

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## **I. Call to order**

Debbie Franklin called to order the regular meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance at 6:00 p.m. on September 23, 2015 at Banning City Hall.

## **II. Public Comments**

Debbie Franklin opened public comments. Seeing none, the public comments section was closed.

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the August 26, 2015 meeting were presented for approval. Motion to approve was made by Mary Ann Melleby. Motion seconded and carried.

## **IV. Presentation**

Presentation: Haviva Shane of Best, Best, and Krieger presented options for the organizational structure of the Alliance. Following the presentation the floor was opened for discussion.

**Jennifer Ayres, Yucaipa Valley Water District:** The Alliance should determine its goals and objectives before deciding what type of organization would work best.

**James Siva, Morongo Band of Mission Indians:** The Alliance needs to decide on the direction, reach and breadth of its goals to determine what kind of funds it would solicit and from what type of agency.

**Eric Fraser, Beaumont- Cherry Valley Water District:** The Alliance creates a great opportunity for the agencies to share information, work collaboratively, build comradery and help each other make more informed decisions. There would have to be a distinct advantage to changing the structure of the Alliance.

**George Jorritsma, South Mesa Water Company:** The value of the Alliance, at this time, is the shared information and opportunity to bring solutions back to each agency's boards. Not convinced there is a joint project that would benefit all parties and is obtainable. If a project or idea were to come about in the future would be amenable to reconsidering the structure.

**Kyle Warsinski, City of Beaumont:** “Anything I say cannot be held against me, any way, shape, or form, representative of the elected body of the City of Beaumont.” The Alliance provides information and assistance to the Alliance member agencies. Support as individual agencies may actually prove to be more valuable than a consolidated organization.

**Alan Hamdorf, Banning Heights Mutual Water Company:** The Alliance has not identified a project that requires funding. Organizing as a non-profit may still be a good idea.

**Ernest Wright, High Valleys Water District:** The Alliance needs to determine where we stand, what we want to do, how we devise a plan to accomplish it.

**Kerri Mariner, Cabazon Water District:** The time and process involved in creating a non-profit or Joint Powers Authority (JPA) can be quite extensive. This needs to be in place prior to applying for grants or possible rebate programs in order not to miss out on these opportunities.

**Mary Ann Melleby, San Geronio Pass Water Agency:** The Alliance’s strengths lie in collaboration, communication and comradery. Concerns regarding future projects include implementation, staffing and equity.

**Debbie Franklin, City of Banning:** Recognizes the common message in all the comments. While the Alliance is not in a hurry it should not wait until it applies for grant money to create a new organizational structure.

## **V. M.O.U.**

Reminder to all agencies, the Alliance requires the agency minutes or resolutions approving the updated M.O.U. As many signers as possible should be present to sign the master signature sheet along with Supervisor Marion Ashley.

## **VI. Member Agency Profile**

- a. Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District, presented by Eric Fraser

## **VII. Technical Committee Reports**

- a) **Messaging Committee:** Mary Ann Melleby reported the website continues to be updated. The Power Point Presentation of Chromium-6 is now available on the website on the homepage, under Documents and Reports, and Challenges, Water Quality.

Invoicing for webmaster and hosting services has been adjusted to quarterly. The committee is continuing to work on a Facebook page with a link to the website.

- b) **Recycling Committee:** John Covington reported the committee has been discussing the current projects at each treatment facility. Discussed plans for expansion and improvements.
- c) **Conservation Committee:** Debbie Franklin reported the committee's continuing concern about the state's mandate and lack equity in how it affects each agency. Jeff Davis is working on a new model for grading water conservation efforts. Please look at the handouts and bring ideas to next month's meeting.

## **VIII. Groundwater Management Act**

John Covington presented information regarding the Groundwater Management Act. The new groundwater regulations and the new basin boundary revisions are in draft, and the comment period is still open. Everyone was encouraged to participate this phase.

## **IX. Discussion Items**

- a. iEfficient: The August meeting ended without a decision regarding participating in iefficient. Jennifer Ayres, Yucaipa Valley Water District discussed the benefits they have received by using iefficient. Item still open for discussion.
- b. Julie Hutchinson of Banning Heights Mutual Water Company and Debbie Franklin of the City of Banning met with a representative from Paul Cook's office and their federal representative. The Wilderness Act will be introduced on Friday September 25, 2015. It has been requested the Flume be excluded from being designated a national / historical monument. A motion was made to offer support from the Alliance in this endeavor. The motion was seconded and carried.

## **X. Future Topics**

- a. Stormwater
- b. Member Agency Profile Update: Cabazon Water District

## **XI. Comments by Alliance Members**

**George Jorritsma:** Not sure if the fees were paid. Will determine and resolve.

**Eric Fraser:** Pleasure to be in the Alliance and looking forward to future meetings.

## **XII. Adjournment**

Debbie Franklin adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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City of Banning

The next meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance will be October 28, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

**THE ACTION MINUTES SUMMARIZE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ALLIANCE. A COPY OF THE MEETING IN ITS ENTIRETY IS AVAILABLE IN DVD FORMAT AND CAN BE REQUESTED IN WRITING TO THE CITY OF BANNING CLERK'S OFFICE.**