

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance
January 26, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

Meeting Attendees

Agency	Representative	
City of Banning	Arturo Vela	Present
Banning Heights Mutual Water Company		Absent
Beaumont Basin Watermaster	Arturo Vela	Present
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District	Daniel Slawson Dan Jagers Kirene Manini, PhD Robert Rasha	Present
Cabazon Water District	Diana Morris	Present
City of Calimesa	Wynona Duvall	Present
High Valleys Water District	Stan Houghton	Present
Mission Springs Water District		Absent
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	John Covington	Present
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	Jason Uhley	Present
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	Larry Smith	Present
South Mesa Water Company		Absent
Yucaipa Valley Water District	Joyce McIntire	Present

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Daniel Slawson called to order the regular meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance at 5:02 p.m. on January 26, 2022. Roll call was conducted of the attendees and is reflected in the list of meeting participants above.

2. Public Comments

No public comments were provided.

3. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of Alliance Meeting Minutes from November 3, 2021 – A motion was made by John Covington and seconded by Daniel Slawson to approve the meeting minutes.

APPROVED	VOTE
City of Banning	YES
Banning Heights Mutual Water Company	absent
Beaumont Basin Watermaster	YES
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District	YES
Cabazon Water District	YES
City of Calimesa	YES
High Valleys Water District	YES
Mission Springs Water District	Absent
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	YES
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	absent
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	YES
South Mesa Water Company	absent
Yucaipa Valley Water District	YES

5. Discussion Items

A. Discussion Regarding the Selection of Officers for 2022

Chair Slawson moved and Joyce McIntire seconded to retain the current slate of officers for 2022:

Daniel Slawson, Chair
Stan Houghton, Vice Chair

APPROVED	VOTE
City of Banning	YES
Banning Heights Mutual Water Company	absent
Beaumont Basin Watermaster	YES
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District	YES
Cabazon Water District	YES
City of Calimesa	YES
High Valleys Water District	YES
Mission Springs Water District	Absent
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	YES
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	absent
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	YES
South Mesa Water Company	absent
Yucaipa Valley Water District	YES

6. Comments and Updates by the Elected Official or Agency Representative

- A. City of Banning – Art Vela reported that the Banning City Council assigned David Happe as the new representative from the City of Banning. Kyle Pingree will remain as the alternate.
The City is assembling its education campaign on water conservation, and is modifying its own use such as landscaping irrigation, he advised.
- B. Banning Heights Mutual Water Company – Absent.
- C. Beaumont Basin Watermaster – Mr. Vela reported that the Watermaster would soon be working on developing an outline for a series of workshops related to basin management strategies and consistency with the adjudication.
- D. Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District - Daniel Slawson reported that the District is working on a \$7.5 million Line 16 storm drain project with Riverside County Flood Control to divert stormflow to the recharge system. Grant funding has been obtained, and construction should begin in March 2022, completed in June 2023. Jagers added that preliminary grading has begun, but the holdup is materials acquisition.

Slawson also noted that District staff has worked hard on the burn scar area from the El Dorado and Apple fires, successfully averting damage from mud and debris flow. BCVWD General Manager Jagers added detail on the December 14 and 26 storm events and commended the partnership and mitigation work of Flood Control. Jason Uhley added that work is not over yet – muddy water will continue to be seen for a while. He acknowledged the partnership of BCVWD and the school districts and other agencies.

Slawson advised that the District will be redrawing its division boundaries per the 2020 U.S. Census data, and public hearings will be held.

- E. Cabazon Water District – Diana Morris indicated that the District is awaiting the assignment of a new Board member by the County of Riverside. At that time, the representative positions will be assigned.
- F. City of Calimesa - Wynona Duvall stated that the City's current focus is on the Housing Element draft document. She provided an update on commercial development.
- G. High Valleys Water District – Stan Houghton advised that Director Mona Vansickle had resigned and there will soon be two vacancies on the Board. He advised that Riverside County is considering establishing off-road vehicle parks. Two of the suggested locations are adjacent to High Valleys facilities, which would have an impact on the District area and water. He noted some concerns.

Mr. Vela said he had heard about it; Mr. Houghton directed the group to the website with relevant documents. Mr. Uhley noted this is the front end of the process and they are trying to daylight potential issues on the six sites and

determine which is most likely to succeed. Comments can be sent to Kyla Brown in the Parks Department, he advised, and offered to provide the Alliance with the links and with Ms. Brown's phone number.

H. Mission Springs Water District - Absent.

I. Morongo Band of Mission Indians – John Covington noted that the Tribe also has many things going on. He noted moderate flooding and damage on the reservation after the two storm events; mitigation is ongoing. Expenditure of the ARPA funding allocated to all federally-recognized tribes is in progress, he noted; at least 1/5 of which will go to water and wastewater projects. He indicated that 2022 will be a year of moving forward capital improvement projects.

Covington advised that there is money available in the federal Infrastructure bill passed in 2021 for regional water management and drought projects. The tribe is building an internal coalition, he said, but offered that if there is opportunity for joint multi-benefit, multi-use projects at a regional level to bring them back for discussion at this forum.

Covington advised of the realignment of Hathaway Street and the relocation of the Indian Health Clinic. In response to Covington, Vela provided an update on the Hathaway project.

J. Riverside County EDA / Flood Control District – Jason Uhley advised there was a lot of erosion downstream of the Brookside Bridge, and Flood Control is applying a significant amount of rock in the area to protect the bridge and keep the channel in place. The project will be ongoing for several months, he noted.

K. San Geronio Pass Water Agency – Larry Smith reported that he is now the Agency president, Mickey Valdivia is the vice president, and Director Letulle is the Treasurer.

Mr. Smith acknowledged the comments of Mr. Jagers and Mr. Covington at the retirement of Director Steve Lehtonen.

The appointment process is ongoing, and redistricting has started, Smith noted. He advised there is much action forthcoming. Mr. Jagers noted that SGPWA General Manager sent out a notice that the original State Water Project allocation of zero has been increased to 15 percent.

L. South Mesa Water Company – Absent.

M. Yucaipa Valley Water District - Joyce McIntire indicated that the District is getting closer to drilling the injection wells and reported on current status.

7. Suggested Presentations and Topics for Future Meetings

There were no suggested or requested presentation topics for the next meeting of the San Geronio Pass Regional Water Alliance. At prior meetings, the Alliance members expressed interest in the following meeting topics:

- Briefing on San Geronio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Discussion Regarding Funding for the Sites Reservoir Project
- Discussion Regarding Funding for the Delta Conveyance Project
- Discussion Regarding Funding for the Regional Cabazon/Banning Backbone Project

8. Future Meeting Dates

- March 23, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
- May 25, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
- July 27, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
- September 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
- January 23, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Daniel Slawson adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.