



Notice and Agenda of a Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

This meeting is available via teleconference
To join the Zoom meeting, use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88208695795?pwd=bm94K2RpaStSOUNsU3Z5NVhnT0JxUT09>

Meeting ID: 882 0869 5795 • Passcode: 697560

One tap mobile: +16699009128,,88208695795#,,,,*697560#

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View presentation material at <http://www.passwateralliance.com/>

Participating agencies:

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

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Public Comments

3. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of Alliance Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2023

4. Annual Business Meeting per the SGPRWA Best Practices

- A. Selection of Officers for 2023-2024 Term

Officers	Current	Selected 2023-2024
Chairperson	Daniel Slawson	
Vice Chairperson	Stan Houghton	
Secretary		
Treasurer		

- B. Review current Memorandum of Understanding
C. Review Best Practices
D. Review Budget

5. Discussion Items

- A. Beaumont Basin Watermaster report (Art Vela or Dan Jagers)
B. San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency activities update (Lance Eckhart)
C. Current status of water supply / drought and related activities
D. Grant opportunities and funding
E. Legislative report

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

	Agency	Representative	Representative
A	City of Banning	Rick Minjares	Alberto Sanchez
B	City of Beaumont	Jessica Voigt	
C	Banning Heights Mutual Water Company		
D	Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District	Daniel Slawson	Lona Williams
E	Cabazon Water District	Diana Morris	Taffy Brock
F	City of Calimesa	Wynonna Duvall	John Manley
G	High Valleys Water District	Sam Hughes	Stan Houghton
H	Mission Springs Water District	Amber Duff	
I	Morongo Band of Mission Indians	John Covington	
J	Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	Jason Uhley	
K	South Mesa Water Company		
L	Yucaipa Valley Water District	Joyce McIntire	

7. Suggested Presentations and Topics for Future Meetings

8. Future Meeting Dates

- A. July 26, 2023 at 5 p.m.
- B. September 27, 2023 at 5 p.m.
- C. January 24, 2024 at 5 p.m.
- D. March 27, 2024 at 5 p.m.

9. Adjournment

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance
March 22, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

Meeting Attendees

Agency	Representative	
City of Banning	Art Vela Jessica Voigt	Present
City of Beaumont	Thaxton Van Belle Jeff Hart	Present
Banning Heights Mutual Water Company		Absent
Beaumont Basin Watermaster	Dan Jagers	Present
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District	Daniel Slawson Dan Jagers Robert Rasha	Present
Cabazon Water District	Taffy Brock	Present
City of Calimesa	John Manley	Present
High Valleys Water District	Stan Houghton Sam Hughes	Present
Mission Springs Water District	Amber Duff	Present
Morongo Band of Mission Indians		Absent
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	Jason Uhley	Present
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	Lance Eckhart Larry Smith Kevin Walton	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 5:00 p.m. on March 23, 2023. Roll call was conducted of the attendees and is reflected in the list of meeting participants above.

2. Public Comments

Dan Jagers advised that Lance Eckhart had announced that the drought is over.

3. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of Alliance Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2023
The Consent Calendar was approved by the following vote:

MOVED: Slawson	SECONDED: Houghton
CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED	VOTE 8-0
City of Banning	YES
City of Beaumont	YES
Banning Heights Mutual Water Company	Absent
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District	YES
Cabazon Water District	YES
City of Calimesa	YES
High Valleys Water District	YES
Mission Springs Water District	YES
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	Absent
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	Absent
San Geronio Pass Water Agency	YES
South Mesa Water Company	Absent
Yucaipa Valley Water District	Abstain

4. Discussion Items

- A. Update regarding teleconference / in-person / hybrid meetings

Chair Slawson reported that Jason Uhley of Riverside County Flood Control has contacted County Counsel and confirm that the group is able to continue Zoom format meetings. He recommended continuing in this manner.

Mr. Jagers reminded about discussion at the last meeting regarding whether the SGPRWA was required to follow the Brown Act. County Counsel determined it did not because of the way it was declared by former Supervisor Marion Ashley. The group does post agendas and tries to be as transparent as possible, he added.

Ms. McIntire and Mr. Smith indicated support for continuing with Zoom meetings.

- B. Beaumont Basin Watermaster report

BBWM Chairperson Art Vela reported that the Watermaster Committee received a presentation from its administrator, Steve Stuart of Dudek, regarding a GIS-based data management system and is considering implementation.

C. San Geronimo Pass Water Agency activities update

Mr. Lance Eckhart, SGPWA general manager, reported on the following:

- Shared resources of case studies for regional water agencies and from the Water Education Foundation
 - Disadvantaged communities and smaller water systems have had difficulty navigating federal and state services that are set aside and designed for them as the process is cumbersome
 - Connecting support to the people in need has been an issue
 - Regional water systems are being asked to bridge the gap
 - Cal-Rural Water Association was hired to shepherd the agencies through the process with good results
 - Discussed increased support to High Valleys, Cabazon, and Cherry Valley Water Company
 - Working with Banning Heights Mutual Water Company as a proof of concept locally
 - Grant work has been successful
 - Supported by SGPWA Board and will ramp up the program
- Water conditions update
 - Drought is over (unofficially)
 - It has been a very wet water year and that is continuing
 - Snowpack is about 200 percent of normal - recordbreaking
 - Reservoirs are starting to spill but they are trying to hold onto water – a balancing act
 - Water stored last year is being lost
 - Hustling since February to import water locally
 - State Water Project allocation is 35 percent (artificially low) but will be much higher, waiting on snow surveys (expects to see a raise in the next couple of weeks)
 - There will be a lot of water parked at the San Luis Reservoir at the end of the year
 - The east branch of the SWP is typically down for inspection and maintenance in January, and delivery of water begins in February – will see if it can be shortened
 - Recharge facilities were opened February 1 and water was moved from San Luis Reservoir
 - SGPWA sold 400 af of water in November with a return of 800 af over a 10 year period, and received a call in February to return it; all was moved back and now there is \$600,000 to buy more water
 - Made a deal with the City of Yuba at \$175 per af for what is able to get into the ground before it spills
 - The SGPWA Board has moved quickly to make these deals when introduced; the agency is small and can be nimble
 - BCVWD ponds and SGPWA ponds are full and intended to stay full through the remainder of the year
 - “Recharge Rick” was removed from the facility over the weekend
- State Water Project Energy
 - DWR bills for electric annually, agency has little control over it

- The more water moved in a wet year the cost is kept down due to hydroelectric generation; in dry years it costs a lot more to move water
- In a dry year, the energy cost was approximately \$667 per af
- During a wet year, the energy cost was \$231 per af
- There is value in selling water or making exchanges
- Import strategy will be considered
- Brookside West facility (adjacent to BVCWD facility)
 - Closed on 60 acres (two parcels) for about 30 acres of recharge capacity and operational flexibility
 - Had it been built, it would be in use
 - A stormwater capture element may be added
 - There has been interest in recharging recycled water during the cold months when there is less demand
 - Will work with the school district for usable traffic area / parking
 - It is a very grant fundable project
- Capacity Constraint
 - It is difficult to harvest all the water available
 - Pearblossom Pumping Plant is a known chokepoint
 - Working to mitigate this but there are things outside of control
 - There are issues with a pump creating further constraints and there may be a slowdown
 - Mr. Jagers explained the proportionate share paid by agencies to participate in the SWP – this region owns only a small sliver and the available share is diminished
 - The area may not be able to import all the water available and some may be parked in San Luis Reservoir for carryover to 2024
 - A water bank outside the area may be needed and discussions are being held with Antelope Valley East Kern (a State Water Contractor)
 - The water bank will have to be constructed; there is a lot of storage available

D. Grant opportunities and funding

Jason Uhley of Riverside County Flood advised that he would forward the SAWPA list.

E. Ongoing drought restrictions and outreach activities

Mr. Jagers shared that BVCWD will probably be soon discussing the Water Shortage Contingency Plan after the governor releases his drought declaration. Numbers show a 75 percent level of production compared to last year and the year before, and March will likely be the same because it has been so wet. There is need to unwind the drought restrictions.

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

A. City of Banning – No report

B. Banning Heights Mutual Water Company – Absent

- C. City of Beaumont – Jessica Voigt reported:
- Thanked Mr. Jagers for attending the City Council meeting and said his perspective was appreciated
 - Looking forward to bringing back an initiative to look at a blanket agreement
- D. Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District – Dan Jagers highlighted:
- Shared the SGPRWA Best Practices document
 - Daniel Slawson and Stan Houghton are co-chairs
 - BCVWD is providing meeting minutes, hosting the Zoom meeting, and keeping the website
 - Flood Control / County of Riverside has budget activities
 - Chair Slawson said he would enjoy continuing as chair. This will be addressed at the May meeting.
 - Water banking strategy would be to reduce the costs for the region by limiting the marginal areas where there is capacity in the East Branch and bank the water in the wet years. Money saved from reduced energy costs could be allocated to other projects
- E. Cabazon Water District – Taffy Brock reported:
- New isolation valve installations have been completed
 - Contract awarded to have reservoirs repaired and prevention done
- F. City of Calimesa – John Manley thanked the group for all the information presented.
- G. High Valleys Water District – Stan Houghton reported:
- Working with SGPWA and California Rural Water Association on potential grants
 - Moving forward to complete a grant with IRWM
 - Many roads need repair at this time
- H. Mission Springs Water District – Amber Duff reported:
- The Board recently toured the new Regional Water Reclamation Facility under construction. It is on schedule for completion on time in October
 - Looking forward to the next update from Mr. Eckhart regarding connecting MWSD
- I. Morongo Band of Mission Indians – Absent

- J. Riverside County EDA / Flood Control District – Jason Uhley reported:
- It has been a wet year (annual average is 16 inches)
 - Banning Bench is at 24 inches of rain for the year
 - Beaumont at 21 inches
 - Emergency work is still being done at Noble Creek
 - Grade control structure on Noble Road
 - Additional cleanup below Brookside
 - Will work with SGPWA to facilitate stormwater capture and coordinate improvements between properties
- K. South Mesa Water Company – No report
- L. Yucaipa Valley Water District – Joyce McIntire reported:
- 14-year Board member Lonni Granlund is leaving at the end of April. Notices will be released for applications to fill Division 4.

7. Suggested Presentations and Topics for Future Meetings

Alliance members expressed interest in the following meeting topics:

- Annual Business Meeting and election of officers – May 24 meeting
- Supply issues and how agencies are affected
- Chromium 6
- Drought response actions and presentation from Lance Eckhart, SGPWA
- Briefing on San Geronio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Update and 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

- May 24, 2023
- July 26, 2023
- September 27, 2023

9. Adjournment

Daniel Slawson adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Memorandum of Understanding
San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance
A Coordination of Regional Water Providers

1. Background

The San Gorgonio Pass Area local governments and water districts understand that regular coordination, collaboration, and communication can result in improved management of water resources at local and regional levels. Water is a limited resource, and in May 2013, County Supervisor Marion Ashley appointed, with the approval of the entire County Board of Supervisors, a Pass Water Policy Panel. The Panel is made up of representatives in the San Gorgonio Pass Area. The Panel, known as the San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance ("SGPRWA") is to identify challenges in water supply and water quality for the region, to develop mutually beneficial solutions that include coordinating plans and infrastructure development that ultimately delivers clean, reliable, and affordable water supplies for the citizens of the San Gorgonio Pass area for the foreseeable future.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish the mutual understandings of SGPRWA with respect to certain voluntary joint efforts towards regional coordination, collaboration, and communication of water resource programs.

3. Goals

The goals of the SGPRWA are:

- 3.1 To improve coordination, collaboration, and communication among local government water agencies in the San Gorgonio regional area, to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in delivering water supplies. Services are local control.
- 3.2 To develop and promote common water strategies that will, when implemented, fulfill the water demands of the regional area for the foreseeable future.

4. Definitions

- 4.1 San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance. Participating county, local governments, and water agencies in the San Gorgonio Regional area.
- 4.2 Signatories. The parties signing this MOU (Signatories) constitute the current participants.

5. Mutual Understandings

5.1 Alliance Agreements. Principal idea of non-binding collaborative is so that we do not overstate supplies in area. The collaborative is to share resources and opportunities that can benefit our area that we might not qualify for individually. Agreements of the Alliance members:

- 1) Water supply is a regional need

- 2) Affordable quality water is a regional need
- 3) We, the Alliance, are interested in obtaining affordable quality water supply for our individual districts
- 4) Regional collaboration allows for an opportunity for us to obtain #3 above

As we agree on these four points, we also agree to explore opportunity of an integrated water management plan for the area.

5.2 Participation. Participation is strictly voluntary and may be terminated at any time without recourse. San Geronio local governments and water agencies will be invited to become Signatories.

5.2.1 All members have one vote; no one member has more authorization than anyone else.

5.2.2 Officers are elected at the annual meeting. The elected positions include: chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, and treasurer. The duties include: chairperson presides at meetings, sets the agenda, and communicates with outside parties as needed. The vice-chairperson fills in upon the absence of the chairperson. The secretary confirms the audio tape is working. The treasurer maintains communications with the county regarding the status of the Alliance's account. All officers are subject to performing other duties as voted upon by the majority of the Alliance members.

5.3 Activities. Efforts pursued under this agreement will remain consistent with and will not exceed the current authority for any individual participating local government and water agency. Efforts will include information dissemination and sharing between local governments, water agencies, public outreach, and education and other activities as mutually agreed upon from time to time among the Signatories.

5.3.1 It is anticipated that the Signatories will meet at least monthly with subcommittee meeting happening in between full Alliance meetings.

5.4 Funding. Individual Signatories are not required to commit funding to any other Signatory of the Alliance. Recognizing this is a voluntary, non-binding agreement, Signatories agree to commit such resources as are required to implement actions agreed upon per Section 5.4 herein within their individual service areas, subject to approval and direction of the governing bodies of each Signatory.

5.5 Decision Making. Consensus will be sought when the need for decisions arises. Decisions lacking consensus may be implemented by such individual Signatories that choose to do so, but said decisions may not be considered activities of the Alliance.

5.6 Non-binding Nature. This document and participation under this MOU are non-binding, and in no way suggest that a local municipal government or water agency may not continue its own activities as each government and water agency is expected to continue its own policies and procedures , and undertake efforts to secure project funding from any source . A local government or water agency may withdraw from participation at any time.

5.7 Termination. Signatories may terminate their involvement at any time with no recourse.

6. Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding

We, the undersigned representatives of our respective governing bodies, acknowledge the above as our understanding of how the SGPRWA Coordination, Collaboration, and Communication MOU will be implemented.

This MOU will be revisited annually.

Signatures on the following page

Marion Ashley
County of Riverside
Supervisor, Fifth District

Deborah Franklin
City of Banning
Mayor

Lloyd White
City of Beaumont
Councilmember

Jeff Hewitt
City of Calimesa
Mayor Pro Tem

Alan Hamdorf
Banning Heights Mutual Water Co.
President

Ken Ross
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water Dist.
Director, Division 5

Kerri Mariner
Cabazon Water District
Director

Ernest Wright
High Valleys Water district
President

Russ Martin
Mission Springs Water District
Chairman

Robert Martin
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Tribal Council Member

Mary Ann Melleby
San Geronio Pass Water Agency
Director

George Jorritsma
South Mesa Mutual Water Company
President

Tom Shalhoub
Yucaipa Valley Water District
Director

Best Practices for the San Geronio Regional Pass Water Alliance

Meeting Ground Rules:

Meetings – Meetings will be held monthly at the Banning City Hall unless the Alliance majority agrees to any changes. Meeting times are 5pm to 6:30pm. Meeting agendas will be posted 72 hours before meetings. All materials distributed to the Task Force members will be posted on the website. Action minutes will be recorded. All meetings will be audibly recorded. The May meeting will be considered the annual business meeting. During this meeting the Alliance will conduct elections and review the memorandum of understanding, budget, and best practices. Any additions, changes, or corrections will be presented during this meeting. Ratification of changes will take place during the June meeting and will be subject to the approval of the governing boards of the signatory entities. Only substantial changes will require the signatures of the participating members.

Transparency – Meeting notices, agendas, and minutes will be posted on the Alliance website - www.passwateralliance.com. All Task Force meetings are open to the public. All regular meetings of the Alliance in public agency facilities and at times that are generally deemed convenient for maximum public attendance and participation.

Quorum – A majority of the Alliance member agencies shall constitute a quorum with a minimum of 7 members present to vote on any Alliance action item.

Voting – One vote per participating member that is a signatory to the MOU.

Alliance members conduct - Alliance members will conduct themselves with courtesy toward each other, avoiding interruptions and showing respect by listening. Alliance members will not participate in side bar conversations while someone else has the floor. Humor is welcome, but should not be at someone's expense.

All ideas and points have value - Alliance members may hear something with which you do not agree. Please remember that the purpose of the Alliance is to share ideas. All ideas have value in this setting. You are not required to defend or promote your perspective, but you are asked to share it. If you believe another approach is better, offer it as a constructive alternative. Be cautious of ascribing motives to others.

Be comfortable – Alliance members are welcome to refreshments and/or personal breaks. If other needs arise, please complete them without interrupting the meeting if possible.

Electronic courtesy – Most Alliance members have demanding responsibilities outside of this meeting. We ask for everyone's full attention during the meeting. Please turn cell phones, and/or any other communication device to silent or vibrate.

Honor Time – In order to meet ambitious Alliance goals, please follow the time guidelines agreed upon by the Alliance. Comments should be limited to agendaized topics. The exception will be if the consensus of the Alliance is to have an item added to the agenda. Alliance members' comments

should be focused, stating the point succinctly within 3 minutes; do not hog the floor. This time does not apply to agendaized formal presentations or reports.

Amendments – Any substantive changes to the Alliance MOU are to be ratified by the governing Boards of the respective member agencies of the San Geronio Pass Regional Water Alliance.

Public participation – Public comments are permitted at the beginning of each meeting. They are also permitted during the course of the meeting after the members have been heard and as time permits. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes. The public is held to the same afore noted standards as the members of the Alliance.