

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance
September 27, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

Meeting Attendees

Agency	Representative	
City of Banning	Rick Minjares	Present
City of Beaumont	Thaxton Van Belle Jessica Voigt	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		Absent
High Valleys Water District		Absent
Mission Springs Water District	Amber Duff	Present
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	John Covington	Present
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	Jason Uhley Juliana Adams	Present
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	Lance Eckhart	Present
South Mesa Water Company		Absent
Yucaipa Valley Water District	Joyce McIntire	Present

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Daniel Slawson called to order the regular meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance at 5:00 p.m. Roll call was conducted of the attendees and is reflected in the list of meeting participants above.

2. Public Comments: None.

3. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of Alliance Meeting Minutes from July 26, 2023
The Consent Calendar was approved by the following vote:

MOVED: Covington	SECONDED: Voigt
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	Absent
High Valleys Water District	Absent
Mission Springs Water District	YES
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	YES
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	YES
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	Absent
South Mesa Water Company	Absent
Yucaipa Valley Water District	YES

4. Review Budget and Financials

Ms. Juliana Adams of Riverside County Flood Control reported a current balance of \$13,336.02 in the Alliance's account. Any invoices should be submitted to Ms. Adams.

5. Discussion Items

- A. Beaumont Basin Watermaster report

BBWM representative Dan Jagers reported:

- Next meeting on October 6

- B. San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency activities update

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

- SGPWA is pursuing a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation grant for the Brookside West recharge facility; project is in design

- Feasibility study for bringing water from recharge into the Banning / Cabazon area has been completed
- The adjudicated Beaumont Basin, San Geronimo Pass Sustainable Groundwater Agency, and Yucaipa Groundwater Sustainability Agency will all have pumping rights and other mechanisms – imported water will be a critical element
- Looking at recharge along County Line Road
- Working with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District on a grant
- Backbone Pipeline project cost of moving water toward Banning is estimated to be more than \$100 million; the population is not yet there but is pushing further east
- Paperwork is being completed to move 2,500 to 4,000 acre-feet of water into the Antelope Valley-East Kern-Palmdale-Lancaster area in October. Much water banking has been happening there
- AVEK is looking into developing an analog for Class 8 members along the East Branch as an exchange
- The water portfolio has grown, and it may be many years before another 100 percent year . Capacity is constrained and everyone is trying to store water
- Various deals are being made for water storage between agencies along the East Branch of the State Water Project; capacities vary
- Working with the Cal Rural Water Association to provide assistance with grants to small systems
- BCVWD assisted SGPWA with algaecide application
- The problem Foothill Pipeline crossing at City Creek is going to be addressed with a tunnel under the creek (\$15 million project, SGPWA is responsible for 14 percent of the cost)

C. Current status of water supply / drought and related activities

Mr. Echart described the challenges of the large imported water supply this year. Another wet year is expected, he advised. He emphasized partnerships to be able to store water.

D. Grant opportunities and funding

Mr. Eckhart reported there are new WaterSMART grant opportunities.

E. Legislative Report:

Chair Slawson noted that the region would not be especially bothered by the PFAS regulations. Mr. Jagers noted that there is a class action lawsuit that may be worth joining. Mr. Covington provided detail on the lawsuit against DuPont, said it was for every public water system, and there is a window in which it must be filed. He noted that environmental interests are pushing to have local water agencies take responsibility. He suggested sampling local sources.

Mr. Covington advised that the EPA is pushing to have public water systems to include cybersecurity in their sanitary survey reports. A lawsuit was filed and EPA

lost, he reported. The federal rules trickling down are a big impact on small to medium water systems. Jagers advised of grant funding for cybersecurity.

Chromium 6 rules are supposed to be adopted in January, Jagers reported. It may be last minute, he noted. There is a new filtration technology, he added.

Jagers advised about the requirements of SB 606 and AB 1668, Making Conservation a Way of Life and discussed activities related to compliance. He said he would provide a more detailed report at the next meeting. Mr. Minjares suggested involving legal counsel.

6. 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 Voight reported:
 - The wastewater treatment plant handled the loads well throughout the recent tropical storm with peak rates of 12 million gallons per day
 - A contract was awarded and the Adaptive Management and Mitigation Plan study was kicked off in support of future recycled water efforts
 - A contract was awarded for wastewater treatment plant improvements
- D. Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District – Daniel Slawson and Dan Jagers highlighted:
 - Ribbon cutting for the MDP Line 16 stormwater recharge project was held. The project won an award from the American Society of Civil Engineers
- E. Cabazon Water District – Taffy Brock reported:
 - The Grant funded reservoir corrosion project has been completed
 - Working on rehab of Well 4 including rebuilding the motor and a new pump
- F. City of Calimesa – No report
- G. High Valleys Water District – Absent
- H. Mission Springs Water District – Amber Duff reported:
 - Tropical Storm Hilary damage is being assessed, but the reclamation plant under construction was unharmed
 - The City is working on a lot of related repairs
- I. Morongo Band of Mission Indians – No report

J. Riverside County EDA / Flood Control District –

- Work downstream of Noble Creek was delayed but is preparing to start, including a grade control structure at Noble Street, stabilize damaged drop structures on the Creek, placing additional rock below Brookside
- During Tropical Storm Hilary, Mission Creek and the upper end of Whitewater was hammered hard and had 1.75 inch per hour intensities for 6 hours. It will be a lot of work resetting infrastructure and cleaning things up in the desert

K. South Mesa Water Company – No report

M. Yucaipa Valley Water District – No report

7. Suggested Presentations and Topics for Future Meetings

- Chromium 6
- PFAS
- Lead and Copper rule
- 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
- Review budget and financials
- AB 606 and SB 1668

8. Future Meeting Dates

- January 24, 2024
- March 27, 2024

9. Adjournment

Chairman Daniel Slawson adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.