

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance  
March 27, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Meeting Attendees

Agency	Representative	
City of Banning	Art Vela	<b>Present</b>
City of Beaumont		Absent
Banning Heights Mutual Water Company		Absent
Beaumont Basin Watermaster	Art Vela Dan Jagers	<b>Present</b>
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District	Daniel Slawson Dan Jagers	<b>Present</b>
Cabazon Water District	Taffy Brock Melissa Carlin	<b>Present</b>
City of Calimesa	John Manley	<b>Present</b>
High Valleys Water District	Stan Houghton	<b>Present</b>
Mission Springs Water District	Amber Duff	<b>Present</b>
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	John Covington	<b>Present</b>
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	Jason Uhley Julianna Adams	<b>Present</b>
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	Kevin Walton Larry Smith Mickey Valdivia	<b>Present</b>
South Mesa Water Company		Absent
Yucaipa Valley Water District		Absent

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**1. Call to Order - Roll Call**

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

**2. Public Comments:** Mr. Jagers advised that on April 17 the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) plans to adopt the proposed Chromium 6 maximum contaminant level of 10 ppb.

### 3. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of Alliance Meeting Minutes from January 24, 2024  
The Consent Calendar was approved by the following vote:

MOVED: Slawson	SECONDED: Covington
CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED	VOTE 8-0-2
City of Banning	YES
City of Beaumont	Absent
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	Abstain
Mission Springs Water District	YES
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	YES
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	YES
San Geronio Pass Water Agency	Abstain
South Mesa Water Company	Absent
Yucaipa Valley Water District	Absent

### 4. Presentations / Discussion Items

- A. Beaumont Basin Watermaster Report

BBWM representative Art Vela reported:

- The last two meetings have focused on discussion of Beaumont Basin strategies including management areas. The Basin is divided into two smaller subbasins separated by physical features and have different characteristics. The intent is to develop different management solutions for each.
- Currently in redetermination of the Safe Yield (SY) (done every 10 years); it appears the SY may increase.
- In response to a question from Mr. Slawson, Mr. Vela detailed the SY modeling process and data involved in determination.
- In response to a question from Mr. Covington, Mr. Vela said he expects a draft of the SY modeling efforts over the summer.
- Mr. Jagers added that the April 3 meeting has been postponed to April 17.
- Dudek, the BBWM administrative consultant, has been tasked with review of Rules and Regulations to bring them to today's standards and management practices

## B. San Geronio Pass Water Agency activities update

Mr. Jagers shared points provided by Lance Eckhart, SGPWA general manager:

- The SGPWA water Conditions Report was given on March 18. The import schedule is for taking 2023 water through most of 2024, and carryover 2024 water into 2025. The Ventura water deal is helpful
- Snowpack is helpful for stored water across the Sierras
- The SWP allocation has been raised to 30 percent
- There are some potentially protected fish loitering near the SWP intakes which have created a restriction in pumping capacity, which shows the need for the Delta Conveyance Project, Sites Reservoir, and the voluntary agreements along with investment in generational opportunities. He responded to questions from Chair Slawson about the type of fish (steelhead salmon)
- San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and SGPWA were the first SWP contractors to support the latest round of DCP funding. Mr. Smith added that Secretary Wade Crowfoot was on the call and was engaged and informed.
- SGPWA has applied for a turf replacement grant for a local HOA
- The South Mesa gap funding project has moved forward and there is a groundbreaking ceremony for new pipeline
- Sites Reservoir is moving forward. Had it been available this year, it would be 80 percent full
- SGPWA is projecting that 3,623 af will be delivered and recharged, with another 19 af for direct delivery
- Mr. Mickey Valdivia pointed out there was a ribbon cutting for the Yucaipa reservoirs, which were ARPA funded
- Mr. Jagers noted that because of these meetings, BGVWD was made aware of and received some funding

## C. Revised Draft Regulation – Making Conservation a California Way of Life

Dan Jagers, BGVWD general manager, reminded the group of a previous presentation on this subject and provided an overview of the revisions to the proposed Making Conservation a California Way of Life regulation being considered by the State Water Resources Control Board.

The SWRCB intends to adopt the regulation in 2024. Comments on the revision were submitted by BGVWD. Key changes are the outdoor standards timeline extension to 2035, opportunity for 20 percent irrigable / non-irrigated credit, variance, maximum model water efficiency landscape ordinance, credit for recycled water, and alternate pathways to compliance.

Generally, water purveyors see it as better. But some items are still not attainable for many; there are still challenges.

Mr. Covington shared comments from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) January report on the regulations, which was not supportive. The regulations are

beyond the borders of the legislation. He suggested contacting local legislative representatives. Mr. Vela explained that it had been shared with Sen. Ochoa-Bogh, and these regulations will result in increased water rates.

The SWRCB is not legally required to make changes to the regulations in response to the LAO, Covington noted. This is such an impact to water agencies, if this is not stopped now, the long-term impact will be worse, he said. He suggested sending the LAO report to ACWA.

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

- A. City of Banning – Art Vela
  - No report
- B. Banning Heights Mutual Water Company – Absent
- C. City of Beaumont – Absent
- D. Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District – Daniel Slawson and Dan Jagers highlighted:
  - In process of drilling a couple of needed wells
  - Two APRA projects were put out to bid
  - Legislation will require an increase in staffing levels and a Prop. 218 process to raise rates to accommodate
- E. Cabazon Water District – Taffy Brock reported:
  - No report
- F. City of Calimesa – John Manley
  - Will take a look at the reports from the LAO
- G. High Valleys Water District – Stan Houghton reported:
  - Closer to completing the grant for the 8-inch pipeline improvement, and using the gap funding option
  - Excited about the heli-tanks for firefighting
- H. Mission Springs Water District – Amber Duff reported:
  - New General Manager is Brian Macy
  - Will be promoting Marian Champion to Assistant GM
  - Talking to state legislators about the items mentioned earlier
  - Water reclamation plant is close to completion; a ribbon cutting is being scheduled
  - Thanked all for sharing knowledge

- I. Morongo Band of Mission Indians – John Covington reported:
  - Working on ARPA funded projects
  - Trying to get projects out to bid and contracts awarded before the Dec. 31 deadline
  - Drilling two new wells
  - New reservoir at 60 percent design
- J. Riverside County EDA / Flood Control District – Julianna Adams reported:
  - Rain is expected this weekend
- K. San Geronio Pass Water Agency – Mickey Valdivia and Kevin Walton reported:
  - Gap funding paved the way for projects
  - Cheryle Stiff is retiring, and will be replaced by Maricela Cabral
  - Heli-hydrants for fire suppression helicopters may be in the future
  - Partnerships are being sought
- L. South Mesa Water Company – Absent
- M. Yucaipa Valley Water District – Absent

**6. Suggested Presentations and Topics for Future Meetings**

- PFAS (window for joining class action lawsuits closes in April)
- Lead and Copper rule (obligated to perform under EPA guidelines before October 2024, grant money available)
- 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
- City of Banning Chromium 6 compliance study

**8. Future Meeting Dates**

- May 22, 2024
- July 24, 2024
- September 25, 2024

**9. Adjournment**

Chairman Daniel Slawson adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.