

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance
September 25, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Meeting Attendees

Agency	Representative	
City of Banning	Rick Minjares Art Vela	Present
City of Beaumont	David Fenn Thaxton Van Belle	Present
Banning Heights Mutual Water Company		Absent
Beaumont Basin Watermaster	Dan Jagers	Present
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District	Daniel Slawson Dan Jagers	Present
Cabazon Water District	Taffy Brock	Present
City of Calimesa		Absent
High Valleys Water District	Stan Houghton	Present
Mission Springs Water District	Amber Duff	Present
Morongo Band of Mission Indians		Absent
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	Julianna Adams	Present
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	Larry Smith Lance Eckhart	Present
South Mesa Water Company		Absent
Yucaipa Valley Water District		Absent

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 24, 2024
The Consent Calendar was approved by the following vote:

MOVED: Slawson	SECONDED: Houghton
CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED	VOTE 9-0-5
City of Banning	YES
City of Beaumont	YES
Banning Heights Mutual Water Company	Absent
Beaumont Basin Watermaster	YES
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District	YES
Cabazon Water District	YES
City of Calimesa	Absent
High Valleys Water District	YES
Mission Springs Water District	YES
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	Absent
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	YES
San Geronio Pass Water Agency	YES
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 BBWM has held special meetings to strategize on management of the Basin
- Discussed how to continue efforts on analyzing Basin losses and provided direction to consultant Thomas Harder & Co.
- Next meeting is October 2, 2024

Chair Slawson noted that SGPWA had partnered with the USGS on well monitoring and asked if the BBWM had considered it. Vela indicated that Lance Eckhart had broached the topic, and it is in discussion. Mr. Eckhart added that wells will be going in next year, and the monitoring network will be improving over time.

Dan Jagers added that the Safe Yield for the next year was calculated to be 7,100 af (an increase over previous). The east side of the Basin is in better shape than the west, which has influences from most overlier extractions and ground surface rainfall decline. He said he did not see anything alarmingly out of balance. There are subsurface and above ground mechanics to manage.

Mr. Eckhart added that moving water to areas where there is less, and regional management is the next iteration of management. Overall, the Basin is in good shape.

B. San Geronimo Pass Water Agency Water Activities Update

General Manager Lance Eckhart reported:

- It is getting into the rainy season
- There is a cloud seeder on a SGPWA property obtained through a grant, which produces some rain
- Sites Reservoir appeal of certified the EIR (challenge) was overturned
- Will recharge about 18,000 af of water this year between SGPWA and BCVWD ponds. This is less than last year due to operational challenges.
- Reservoirs are starting out healthy, it is expected to be an average / decent year
- Countyline Road project is moving forward. Funding is anticipated from County Supervisor Gutierrez
- Working with the County on heli-hydrants. Approval expected at the next Board meeting
- Water at risk of loss (6,000 af) was able to be sold to some growers in the Kern-Bakersfield area
- Developing new partnerships to quickly move water; working with agriculture
- Moving forward to move water further east from Beaumont into Banning and to Cabazon with the Backbone Pipeline project (\$100 million). Webb engineers will be making a presentation.
- Talking to Metropolitan about alternatives such as the Colorado aqueduct (possible trade for Sites water)
- If Sites had been built last year, it would now be full

Eckhart responded to Mr. Minjares and Mayor Fenn about the Zoom meeting with Webb. The meeting may be recorded and available later.

Chair Slawson asked about the sale of water and the status of the Nikel agreement. Eckhart said there are about 14 years left on the agreement but there is a court case is involved, and it may or may not be part of the portfolio moving forward (1,700 af per year).

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

- A. City of Beaumont – Mayor David Fenn and Thaxton Van Belle reported:
- a. The Beaumont State of the City was a nice event and other cities' are coming up soon
 - b. Announced the substantial completion of the Mesa force main project: \$3 million to bring a 16-inch main over Highway 60
 - c. The Mesa Lift Station expansion project is expected to be awarded in October

- B. Banning Heights Mutual Water Company – Absent
- C. City of Banning – Art Vela reported:
- Updating treatment study for Chromium VI. Looking at same technologies but from a different lens. The RCF may be the best option as it does not require trucking away brine. Draft study expected first week of next month. Grant funding is being pursued. Initial estimates for treating all the City's wells range from \$40 to \$70 million.
 - The wastewater treatment plant project is in progress using the progressive design-build process. An RFP is out, and a contract is expected to be awarded in December. A grant application has been submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation for \$16 million
 - Two booster facilities funded through ARPA are out to bid. Hope to award next month. They were earmarked to receive funds, but inflation has caused a \$2 million shortfall.
- D. Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District – Daniel Slawson and Dan Jagers highlighted:
- Signed a new paving agreement with the City
 - Construction of a new 24-inch line is awaiting valves but will start soon. Has ARPA funding. As soon as the encroachment permit is received from the County, work will start.
 - The bid for the B-line project in Edgar Canyon came in at a reasonable price
 - A main was replaced on Elm Avenue
 - Positive experience at State of the City and in working with the City
- E. Cabazon Water District – Taffy Brock reported:
Heli-hydrants are scheduled to be installed
- F. City of Calimesa – Absent
- G. High Valleys Water District – Stan Houghton reported:
- Bids were returned for a pipeline. Inflation has affected the project, and the District is trying to identify funding for the shortfall
 - Looking forward to obtaining heli-hydrants
- H. Mission Springs Water District – Amber Duff reported:
- Finalized power purchase agreement for the solar plant, which is covering all wells and reservoir sites, plus two plants which will save about \$18 million over the next 20 years.
 - Ribbon cutting for the Nancy Wright Regional Water Reclamation Facility on Friday. This has been 10 years in the works and will treat 1.5 million gallons of wastewater and will accommodate a septic-to-sewer \$4 million grant
- I. Morongo Band of Mission Indians – Absent
- J. Riverside County EDA / Flood Control District – Julianna Adams reported:
- Working with GSA to analyze potential debris flow to prepare for winter storms
 - GSA did an Apple-Eldorado post-fire site visit. Public safety is the goal

- K. San Geronio Pass Water Agency – No report
- L. South Mesa Water Company – Absent
- M. Yucaipa Valley Water District – Absent

6. Suggested Presentations and Topics for Future Meetings

- a. Briefing on San Geronio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- b. Update and Discussion Regarding Funding for the Sites Reservoir Project
- c. Discussion Regarding Funding for the Delta Conveyance Project
- d. Discussion Regarding Funding for the Regional Cabazon/Banning Backbone Project
- e. PFAS
- f. Lead and Copper Rule
- g. City of Banning Chromium 6 compliance study (January)

7. Future Meeting Dates

Committee is dark in November

Meeting time is 4th Wednesday of odd months at 5 p.m.

- January 22, 2025
- March 26, 2025
- May 28, 2025
- July 23, 2025
- September 24, 2025

8. Adjournment

Chairman Daniel Slawson adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.