

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance
May 27, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

Meeting Attendees

Agency – MOU Members	Representative	
City of Banning	Art Vela	Present
City of Beaumont	David Fenn Thaxton Van Belle	Present
Banning Heights Mutual Water Company		
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District	Daniel Slawson Dan Jagers	Present
Cabazon Water District	Taffy Brock Knala Keith	Present
City of Calimesa		Absent
High Valleys Water District	Stan Houghton	Present
Mission Springs Water District		Absent
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	Anthony Mendoza	Present
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	Julianna Adams	Present
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	Lance Eckhart	Present
South Mesa Water Company		Absent
Yucaipa Valley Water District		Absent

Other Agencies	Representative	
Desert Water Agency		Absent
Beaumont Basin Watermaster	Dan Jagers	Present

Members of the Public in Attendance: None

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Daniel Slawson called to order the regular meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance at 5:03 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 March 25, 2026
The Consent Calendar was approved by the following vote:

MOVED: Slawson	SECONDED: None
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	YES
Mission Springs Water District	Absent
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	YES
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	YES
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	YES
South Mesa Water Company	Absent
Yucaipa Valley Water District	Absent

4. Annual Business Meeting per the SGPRWA Best Practices

- A. The following officers were selected by unanimous vote for the term July 2026 to May 2027:

Officers	Term 2026-2027
Chairperson	Daniel Slawson
Vice Chairperson	Stan Houghton
Secretary	Beaumont-Cherry Valley WD
Treasurer	Riverside County Flood Control

Mr. Jagers advised that a different arrangement for Secretary may be necessary at the end of the calendar year.

- B. Review current Memorandum of Understanding

The Committee reviewed the MOU. No changes were proposed.

C. Review Best Practices

A discussion was held regarding the Alliance Best Practices document, particularly quorum requirements and agency participation. The Chair reviewed the existing best practices, including meeting procedures, transparency provisions, voting requirements, conduct expectations, and public participation guidelines. No concerns were raised regarding most provisions, and members generally agreed that the practices continue to serve the Alliance well.

Discussion focused on the requirement that a quorum consists of seven participating agencies. David Fenn noted that some agencies listed in the original MOU have not participated regularly in recent years and questioned whether the current quorum threshold remains appropriate. Members discussed whether the Alliance should update its roster of active participants and whether staff representatives should continue to be recognized as authorized representatives when elected officials are unavailable. Participants generally agreed that agency staff have historically participated and voted on behalf of their organizations without issue.

Several ideas were considered, including defining active participation based on meeting attendance and revising the quorum language to reflect current participation levels. Julianna Adams observed that attendance records from the previous two years showed participation by eight to ten agencies at most meetings, suggesting the current quorum requirement has not presented a practical problem. Daniel Jagers cautioned against changing the rules to solve a problem that may not exist and recommended gathering additional information before making amendments.

Following discussion, members agreed to contact participating agencies to reaffirm their interest in continuing as Alliance members and to revisit the quorum language at a future meeting after receiving feedback. No changes to the Best Practices document were adopted at this meeting.

D. Review Budget

Chair Slawson drew attention to the Budget Report and advised there is a balance of \$13,362.02 in the account.

In the past, the Alliance had paid for website hosting services, but in recent years BCVWD has been maintaining the site at no cost.

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

A. **San Geronio Pass Water Agency:** Lance Eckhart reported:

- State Water Project allocation increased from 30 percent to 45 percent, supported by strong reservoir storage conditions despite below-average snowpack. Regional recharge facilities are expected to continue operating throughout the year, supporting groundwater replenishment efforts.
- Acquisition of 3,000 acre-feet of water from Napa County at a favorable cost, further strengthening regional water supply reliability and storage reserves.
- Continued advancement of the Sites Reservoir Project, with major planning and documentation efforts underway and key participation decisions anticipated before the end of the year. The project was described as a significant long-term water supply reliability investment for the region.

- Progress on the County Line Recharge Project in partnership with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, including construction of recharge facilities in Calimesa and plans for a ribbon-cutting event before year-end.
- Announced a June 11 ribbon-cutting ceremony for Banning Heights Mutual Water Company's new one-million-gallon reservoir, funded through a Department of Water Resources grant and supporting future heli-hydrant operations.
- Reported successful deployment of the Cabazon heli-hydrant system during a recent wildfire response. Firefighting helicopters utilized both heli-hydrant locations to suppress a brush fire that had the potential to expand significantly, helping limit the burn area to approximately 14 acres with no structures lost.
- Provided an update on the hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) litigation, noting that Fresno County Superior Court upheld California's 10 parts-per-billion standard. Agencies were advised to continue planning for compliance unless a future appellate decision alters the regulatory requirements.
- Discussed potential regional collaboration opportunities to address chromium-6 challenges, including evaluation of water supply interconnections and operational strategies that could reduce treatment costs by maximizing use of high-quality imported and stored water supplies.

B. City of Beaumont – David Fenn reported:

- The groundbreaking for the ramps of the Potrero Bridge on the Highway 60 was recently held
- Congratulations to Banning for their groundbreaking on the Sun Lakes Boulevard extension
- Both of those projects will spur positive growth and revenue-generating business with manageable water use increase

C. City of Banning – Art Vela reported:

- A number of capital project are in progress
- The Urban Water Management Plan is in the update process

D. Banning Heights – Absent

E. Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District –Dan Jagggers highlighted:

- An increase in State Water Project allocation to 45%
- Pleased to see continued opportunities for stable water supplies for the region

F. Cabazon Water District – Taffy Brock reported:

- Currently in negotiations to buy property for locating a new well.

G. City of Calimesa – Absent

H. High Valleys Water District – Stan Houghton reported:

- Awaiting the start of the new fiscal year and beginning a couple of CIP projects

I. Mission Springs Water District – Absent

J. Morongo Band of Mission Indians – Anthony Mendoza reported:

- He has been appointed Water Systems Manager, with John Covington transitioning to an administrative role while continuing to provide support and knowledge.
- Continued progress on two new wells, which produced water for the first time on the day of the meeting after approximately two years of planning and construction.
- Ongoing efforts to complete electrical and operational startup activities, including coordination with Southern California Edison for permanent power service and calibration of meters and control systems.
- Temporary operation of the wells using generator power until utility power becomes available, with full production anticipated within the next several months.
- Expansion of water supply capacity to support the Tribe's growing infrastructure needs, including a 1-million-gallon increase in storage capacity.
- Initial well production successfully demonstrated, with water quality sampling and production testing still pending before the wells enter regular service.

K. Riverside County EDA / Flood Control District – Julianna Adams reported:

- Continued monitoring of NOAA climate forecasts and El Niño conditions in preparation for the upcoming winter season.
- El Niño conditions can produce widely varying outcomes, ranging from above-average precipitation to relatively dry conditions.
- Forecast accuracy is expected to improve as winter approaches, providing a clearer understanding of potential rainfall patterns and storm track locations.
- Ongoing evaluation of weather and hydrologic models to assess regional water supply and flood control implications.

L. South Mesa Water Company – Absent

M. Yucaipa Valley Water District – Absent.

7. Update from Beaumont Basin Watermaster – Art Vela and Dan Jagers reported:

- The Annual Watermaster Report is nearing completion, with the agency comment period concluded and final revisions underway prior to submission.
- Upcoming discussion of proposed Rules and Regulations updates, following receipt of comments from participating agencies.
- The next meeting is Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., with in-person attendance available at Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District and remote participation available via Zoom.

8. Suggested Presentations and Topics for Future Meetings

- a. Funding for the Regional Cabazon/Banning Backbone Project
- b. PFAS
- c. Lead and Copper Rule
- d. Preparation of 2025-2026 Urban Water Management Plans

9. Future Meeting Dates

- July 22, 2026 and September 23, 2026
- *Committee is dark in November*

10. Adjournment. Chairman Daniel Slawson adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.