

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance
May 27, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

Meeting Attendees

Agency	Representative	
City of Banning	Colleen Wallace	Present
Banning Heights Mutual Water Company		Absent
Beaumont Basin Watermaster	Dan Jaggers	Present
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District	Daniel Slawson Dan Jaggers Robert Rasha	Present
Cabazon Water District	Diana Morris	Present
City of Calimesa	Wynona Duvall	Present
High Valleys Water District	Stan Houghton Sam Hughes	Present
Mission Springs Water District		Absent
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	John Covington	Present
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	Juliana Adams	Present
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	Larry Smith Lance Eckhart Robert Ybarra	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. Roll call was conducted of the attendees and is reflected in the list of meeting participants above.

2. Public Comments

No public comments were provided.

3. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of Alliance Meeting Minutes from March 23, 2022 – A motion was made by Robert Ybarra and seconded by Daniel Slawson to approve the meeting minutes.

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

4. Discussion items

- A. San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Presentation by Terry Erlewine, Provost & Pritchard

Mr. Erlewine provided explanation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA), Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) and Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GPS).

The San Gorgonio Pass Sustainability Agency (San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency, City of Banning and Cabazon Water District) is one of three GSAs which define the San Gorgonio Pass subbasin (along with the Verbena GSA in the area of Mission Springs Water District, and Desert Water Agency GSA). He noted that the Beaumont Basin was already adjudicated and is therefore exempt from SGMA.

GSAs develop and implement the State-required GSPs and monitor conditions and prepare annual reports to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR). They are not enforcing or regulating agencies; they handle planning and management.

Erlewine described the functions of the GSPs. He noted that the issues of interconnected surface water, land subsidence, and seawater intrusion are not present in the San Gorgonio area. He described the components of the GSP pertaining to the San Gorgonio Pass management criteria. The goal is to avoid undesirable results such as water level decline, reduction of storage, or effects on water quality.

In response to Chair Slawson, Mr. Erlewine described the sources of information for the report.

Erlewine continued with the description of the GSP and related actions including water level monitoring and noted that the water quality is good in most of the Pass area. He reviewed the projects and management actions in the GSP. He discussed the required annual reporting.

GSAs are already implementing the GSPs and working towards maintaining stable groundwater conditions, he stated.

Mr. Lance Eckhart of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) pointed out that this is an unfunded mandated pushed by the State, but asserted that this brings resource certainty, regulatory certainty, and business certainty to a big area of the groundwater basin. There are not a lot of rules, such as with an adjudication. It allows self-management and justifies investments in the region such as recharge. It is transparent and these actions are protective of the basin and keeps the parties working together and out of court.

Mr. John Covington noted that the DWR will take public comments at any time while the GSP is under review, despite the deadline.

Ms. Wynona Duvall asked about funding and the handling of administrative tasks. Mr. Eckhart explained that the SGPWA is the lead agency and handles administrative efforts such as hiring of consultants and assuring the submittal of reports to DWR, but all are members of the GSA across the basin. There is a cost-sharing agreement between all participating GSA agencies to produce the reports, he explained.

Mr. Daniel Slawson asked if other agencies should be involved. Eckhart indicated the GSA is set for the agencies operating within the basin and those have already been captured unless there is a future change in boundaries.

If the GSA is not sustainable by 2042, the State Water Resources Control Board takes over basin management, Erlewine advised in response to a question.

B. California State Water Resources Control Board Meeting Agenda Item 3,
*“Consideration of a Proposed Resolution Regarding a Drought-Related
Emergency Regulation for Water Conservation”*

Mr. Dan Jagers commented on drought conditions. He described the action taken by the SWRCB and detailed the regulations adopted on January 18, 2022 and emergency regulations adopted on May 24, 2022. These include the requirement to activate the Water Shortage Level 2 of each urban agency’s Water Shortage Contingency Plan, but do not require a moratorium on new residential connections. He enumerated the criteria for exception.

The State has put local agencies in a position to begin conservation messaging in a growing community at the beginning of summer, Jagers pointed out. He noted the regional public outreach efforts.

Mr. Eckhart noted that the droughts force agencies to do things collectively, and he pointed to a few points made in the Governor's executive order N-7-22, correlated with actions currently being taken.

Jaggers advised that the Beaumont Basin is healthy, but the District needs to make sure water supply is achieved in a balanced condition. He discussed further effects if the drought continues and noted there may be further measures coming forward. Eckhart noted that the area is not running out of water due to decades of planning and importation of water. There needs to be caution, but the situation is OK, he stated.

C. Discussion on Chromium 6 and impacts of draft regulations

Mr. Jaggers advised that there are chromium 6 issues in the region and explained that there are proposed regulations of 10 parts per billion that could have very significant cost impacts if implemented. Many comments have been made regarding continued bad science and analysis. Local agencies have submitted comments.

The best available technology identified by the SWRCB has a cost of about \$1 million per 1,000 gallons per minute of treatment capacity, Jaggers explained.

D. Update on procurement issues

Mr. Jaggers said that BCVWD is hearing from its materials suppliers that items ordered in mid-June will not likely be available for delivery until January or February of 2023. The Board has authorized pre-purchase of materials on several projects, he noted.

Mr. Slawson pointed out that BCWVD remains committed to assisting other agencies with supplies if there is an emergency need.

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. Beaumont Basin Watermaster – Mr. Jaggers reported that the draft Annual Report will be considered for adoption at the June meeting. Administrative help is also being sought to help projects moving forward.

E. Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District - Daniel Slawson reiterated the beginning of conservation messaging, and early procurement of supplies. He advised that BCVWD Board members took a tour of the Bay-Delta infrastructure. One of the key themes was the desire for less dependence on the Delta water system.

- E. Cabazon Water District – Absent.
- F. City of Calimesa – Wynona Duvall updated the Committee about active projects at the Oak Valley Town Center, and the Summer Wind Phase II. Two capital improvement projects in focus are the County Line Road improvements from Park Avenue to Bryant Street in partnership with Yucaipa, and County Line Road and Calimesa Boulevard intersection.
- G. High Valleys Water District – Stan Houghton advised that the District is seeking funding for some projects.
- H. Mission Springs Water District – Absent.
- I. Morongo Band of Mission Indians – John Covington indicated he has a presentation ready for the Morongo Tribal membership tomorrow on the current drought situation and effects on tribal trust lands, and the intentions moving forward. While the tribe is not subject to State law, it does not turn a blind eye to the situation in surrounding communities and attempts to be good neighbors. The conservation plan as enacted in 2007 predominantly regarding new development, which reduces overall water demand, he noted.

Like other agencies, Covington continued, there are many projects ongoing, some of which are water related. The agency is working with its project partners at the City of Banning and is seeking grant funding for water projects and others.
- J. Riverside County EDA / Flood Control District – Juliana Adams thanked members for the updates.
- K. San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency – Ron Duncan noted that the new agency motto is “Collaboration, collaboration, collaboration.” The Board recently approved technical work to try to establish a 20,000acre-foot banking storage account in San Bernardino with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) for SGPWA and YVWD. Also approved engineering work for the Calimesa recharge project with the South Mesa Water Company and the SBVMWD.
- L. South Mesa Water Company – Absent.
- M. Yucaipa Valley Water District – Joyce McIntire reported on the Calimesa Recycled Water Advance Project, an essential transmission main line to the Summer Wind and Shopoff developments without need for a booster.

There will be a groundbreaking at Calimesa Golf Course on June 3 at 9 a.m.

7. Suggested Presentations and Topics for Future Meetings

Alliance members expressed interest in the following meeting topics:

- Drought messaging
- Supply issues and how agencies are affected
- Drought response actions and presentation from Lance Eckhart, SGPWA
- 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

- July 27, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
- September 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
- January 23, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
- March 22, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Daniel Slawson adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.