

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance
September 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

Meeting Attendees

| Agency | Representative | |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| City of Banning | Art Vela | Present |
| Banning Heights Mutual Water Company | | Absent |
| Beaumont Basin Watermaster | Art Vela Dan Jagers | Present |
| Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District | Daniel Slawson Dan Jagers Robert Rasha | Present |
| Cabazon Water District | Diana Morris Taffy Brock | Present |
| City of Calimesa | | Absent |
| High Valleys Water District | Stan Houghton Sam Hughes | Present |
| Mission Springs Water District | Russ Martin | Present |
| Morongo Band of Mission Indians | | Absent |
| Riverside County EDA / Flood Control | Jason Uhley | Present |
| San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency | Robert Ibarra (6:07 p.m.) Lance Eckhart Larry Smith Dr. Blair Ball Emmett Campbell | 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 July 27, 2022
The Consent Calendar was approved by the following vote:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| MOVED: McIntire | SECONDED: Houghton |
| CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED | VOTE 8-0 |
| City of Banning | 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 | Abstain |
| Morongo Band of Mission Indians | Absent |
| Riverside County EDA / Flood Control | YES |
| San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency | YES |
| South Mesa Water Company | Absent |
| Yucaipa Valley Water District | YES |

4. Discussion items

- A. Riverside County Board of Supervisors September 20, 2022 Joint Water Districts Drought Presentation

Dan Jagers reported that representatives from five agencies presented to the Board of Supervisors last week about the drought and shared a video of the presentation. He noted that the County had responded, and touched on their conservation efforts including removal of more than ½ million square feet of turf at County facilities since the last drought.

Jagers noted that the Solve the Water Crisis effort is being backed by Eastern Municipal Water District and Western Municipal Water District, and agencies may want to consider joining the regional or statewide drought messaging.

Daniel Slawson added that the Board of Supervisors stated that there has been no real statewide infrastructure job done since the 1970s. The only real reservoir built (Diamond Valley) was built by regional agencies. The State has not received the message that they need to do something more with infrastructure such as the Delta Conveyance and Sites Reservoir.

Jason Uhley commented that the presentation seemed effective and well done.

Slawson added that he hoped the Solve the Water Crisis Coalition continued to grow. Jagers acknowledged the efforts of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA).

Joyce McIntire noted various efforts and said everyone needs to get on the same page. Partnerships to grow local water supply are very important. Each agency seems to have something different, and it gets confusing, she pointed out. Information needs to get to the public. City Council need to get on board, as they are the decision makers regarding growth of homes, and yard landscaping. Mr. Jaggars noted the presence of representatives from the cities of Beaumont and Banning.

B. San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Activities Update

SGPWA General Manager Lance Eckhart reported the following activities in progress:

- Working with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) and Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) to move 40,000 acre-feet of storage in the Bunker Hill Basin. Contracts to do modeling are out, and the Technical Advisory Group must make sure there is no impact. It is a water quality benefit, he explained.
- Working with South Mesa Water Company (SMWC), SBVMWD and the Department of Water Resources on the County Line Road Recharge Project. An existing pipeline will be repurposed to feed a recharge basin. SBVMWD engineers are aggressively working to design a turnout facility along the East Branch Extension. The nearby County of Riverside Flood Control Facilities can also be used as a multi-benefit facility.
- Eckhart met with the HOA leadership at Solera to review landscaping and possible improvements / opportunities / incentives to convert to drought tolerant. There is a lot of funding coming from the federal government for turf replacement and he is working with Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD) on a path forward, including a grant application.
- Working on water transfer with the City of Ventura, buying their share of the State Water Project (SWP) and creating a long-term deal. Last Tuesday, a 20-year program for the City of Ventura's Table A was reached. Environmental work will be done. The addition of this water will increase the SGPWA State Project Water (SPW) by 10,000 acre-feet annually. With other water deals, SGPWA's water portfolio will total approximately 30,000 acre-feet per year. The Yuba River water deal recently culminated in 150 acre-feet.
- On Monday, the SGPWA approved the sale of 400 acre-feet at \$1,500 per acre-foot to the Carpinteria Central Coast Water Authority as a balanced exchange: for every acre-foot sold, SGPWA gets 2 acre-feet back, doubling the water. Staff has requested the proceeds be set aside for water purchases in the California Water Market.
- Working with the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) to do some cloud seeding. SGPWA has provided \$20,000 over the next four years for emitters, including in the Cherry Valley area. The agency is trying to do everything possible to increase water supply.
- Mr. Jaggars reported that the recycled water project is moving forward and hiring a facilitator is being considered. All are working together, Eckhart added. Local water needs to stay local.

- Actively looking for properties for recharge / water spreading facilities with the expanded water portfolio.
- Backbone pipeline extending the East Branch Extension from Beaumont to the Cabazon area: Met with retailers and several alignments are being considered. Working with the scientific work done as part of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and the modelers are looking for areas of most benefit.
- SGPWA has begun a small water systems assistance program and a grant application for the Banning Heights Water District was awarded \$3.7 million.
- SGPWA supplied Cabazon Water District with \$75,000 for gap funding / cash flow related to a grant project.
- Sites Reservoir is plugging along. Some environmental work and water rights application is close to being done. The Governor is anxious to begin and stated there has been no major project since the 1970s and Sites was funded by Proposition 1 back in 2014. A lot of work is being done.
- The Delta Conveyance Project EIR is available, and the comment period will be through December.
- A low SWP allocation year is expected. It is hoped for rain, but the aquifer will not run dry.

Russ Martin noted that Mission Springs Water District just broke ground on a new \$68 million expandable water reclamation facility (1.5 million gallons per day) which has been fully funded by grants.

In response to Daniel Slawson, Mr. Eckhart provided some detail on grant funding.

Chair Slawson indicated that Mr. Eckhart had covered the remaining items under Item 4:

- C. Ongoing drought restrictions and outreach activities
- D. Procurement / Supply issues
- E. Sites Reservoir project and Delta Conveyance project and funding options
- F. Regional Cabazon / Banning backbone project and funding options

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

- A. City of Banning – Art Vela reported that Council approved moving forward with a Proposition 218 process to adjust water and wastewater rates, primarily to address deferred maintenance and capital projects such as production of Title 22 water. Banning is tracking Chromium 6 and is making progress on the flume project. Outreach for conservation is focused on educating people and trying to create new habits, and on eliminating non-functional turf. The water restriction mandates are a good opportunity to create new habits and new standards, he noted.
- B. Banning Heights Mutual Water Company – Absent.

- C. Beaumont Basin Watermaster – Mr. Vela reported that Dudek has been hired to handle some of the heavy lifting of administration. A couple of goals are to be accomplished over the next couple of months. An RFP has been issued for on-call engineering services. The next meeting is next Wednesday at 11 a.m.
- D. Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District - Daniel Slawson and Dan Jagers reported:
- The drought is still at Stage 3. BCVWD is beholden to a resolution adopted by the Board in 2014 that indicates new development over 2 EDUs or which has not already paid significant infrastructure or other fees will not be issued a Will Serve Letter.
 - Staff attained another finance award for budget transparency from the GFOA.
 - The Master Drainage Line 16 project continues to move forward working with Riverside County Flood Control.
 - Pipeline replacement projects are underway.
 - Grant funding opportunities in partnership with Riverside County in the amount of \$2.58 million will be going to the Board for replacement of higher elevation pipelines which bolster fire protection. He noted that this afternoon, lightning strikes ignited a fire near Bogart Park. It was quickly suppressed.
 - Local and regional messaging is important to continue to be recognized as regional participants. The importance of partnerships was emphasized.
- E. Cabazon Water District – Ms. Taffy Brock reported that she is a new Board member. The new General Manager is Michael Pollack.
- F. City of Calimesa – No report.
- G. High Valleys Water District – Sam Hughes reported that grants are being pursued and the faulty water meter issue was solved. Stan Houghton said there was a great meeting with Mr. Eckhart and Dustin from the California Rural Water Association (CRWA), and a follow up meeting with the tech assistants will be held. Mapping is in progress, and they will come out and help map the system. There are no as-builts of the system.
- H. Mission Springs Water District – No report.
- I. Morongo Band of Mission Indians – No report.
- J. Riverside County EDA / Flood Control District – Jason Uhley reported that Tropical Storm Kay hit on Monday. He showed a radar map of the rainfall over the Apple Fire and Eldorado Fire burn scars. Approximately 2.5 inches of rain in one hour along the ridgeline caused some spectacular mud and debris flows out of the Banning Canyon and Hathaway. There are photos of Oak Glen and Forest Falls. He cautioned that San Geronio and Noble could still kick out some mud flows under a good amount of rain. Hopefully, some vegetation can grow in over the winter. Mr. Vela commented on the accuracy of the map and noted his observations hiking the area. He noted that in the area of Gilman Creek approximately 1,000 feet of pipe came

out of the ground and the erosion was 5 to 15 feet deep. The storm destroyed the construction yard of a Southern California Edison contractor working in the Water Canyon, he explained.

Mr. Eckhart, Mr. Uhley, and Dave Armstrong will meet with the lead agency Calimesa in the next couple of weeks regarding the County Line Road project.

K. San Geronimo Pass Water Agency – No further report.

L. South Mesa Water Company – Absent.

M. Yucaipa Valley Water District – Joyce McIntire gave an update on the regional recycled water 24" pipeline from Avenue L and 3rd in Calimesa to Calimesa Boulevard and 3rd toward Cherry Valley Boulevard. There will be a project celebration on October 14 at 9 a.m. at the I-10 Logistics Warehouse.

6. Suggested Presentations and Topics for Future Meetings

- Teleconference / hybrid / in -person meetings
- Grant funding
- Selection of officers for 2023
- Drought
- 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

7. Future Meeting Dates

Meeting time is 5:00 p.m.

Chair Slawson broached discussion of in-person or hybrid remote meetings. This will be on the agenda for determination in January.

- January 25, 2023
- March 22, 2023
- May 24, 2023
- July 26, 2023
- September 27, 2023

9. Adjournment

Daniel Slawson adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.