



Notice and Agenda of a Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

This meeting is available via teleconference
To join the Zoom meeting, use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88208695795?pwd=bm94K2RpaStSOUNsU3Z5NVhnT0JxUT09>

Meeting ID: 882 0869 5795 • Passcode: 697560

One tap mobile: +16699009128,,88208695795#,,,*697560#

Dial in:

1 (669) 900-9128 US (San Jose) • Meeting ID: 882 0869 5795

View presentation material at <http://www.passwateralliance.com/>

Participating agencies:

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

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
2. Public Comments

3. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Alliance Meeting Minutes:

- May 28, 2025 REVISED (reapproval requested by staff)
- July 23, 2025

4. Beaumont Groundwater Basin: Recharge and Recycled Water Update and Discussion – Dan Jagers, GM, BCVWD

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

	Agency	Representative	Representative
A	City of Banning	Leroy Miller	Richard Royce
B	City of Beaumont	David Fenn	Jessica Voigt
C	Banning Heights Mutual Water Company		
D	Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District	Daniel Slawson	Lona Williams
E	Cabazon Water District	Diana Morris	Taffy Brock
F	City of Calimesa	Wynonna Duvall	John Manley
G	High Valleys Water District	Sam Hughes	Stan Houghton
H	Mission Springs Water District	Amber Duff	
I	Morongo Band of Mission Indians	John Covington	
J	Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	Jason Uhley	Julianna Adams
K	South Mesa Water Company		
L	Yucaipa Valley Water District	Joyce McIntire	
M	San Geronio Pass Water Agency	Lance Eckhart	
N	Beaumont Basin Watermaster	Art Vela	Dan Jagers

6. Suggested Presentations and Topics for Future Meetings

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

7. Future Meeting Dates

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

- *Committee is dark in November*
- January 28, 2026
- March 25, 2026
- May 27, 2026
- July 22, 2026
- September 23, 2026

8. Adjournment

REVISED
MEETING MINUTES OF THE
San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance
May 28, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendees

Agency	Representative	
City of Banning	Art Vela	Present
City of Beaumont	David Fenn Thaxton Van Belle	Present
Banning Heights Mutual Water Company		Absent
Beaumont Basin Watermaster	Art Vela 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		Absent
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	Anthony Mendoza John Covington	Present
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	Joyce McIntire	Present

Members of the Public in Attendance: Steve Grasha, Desert Water Agency; Shah Nawaz, City of Banning

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Daniel Slawson called to order the regular meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance at 5:01 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 26, 2025
The Consent Calendar was approved by the following vote:

MOVED: Slawson	SECONDED: None
CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED	VOTE 9-0-1
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	ABSTAIN
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	YES

4. Presentation by San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency General Manager Lance Eckhart:

- San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Monitoring well progress
- Coordination with the Beaumont Basin Watermaster modeling effort

Lance Eckhart discussed:

1. Groundwater Coordination and Modeling:

- The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) serves as the hub for the San Gorgonio Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), which includes East Banning, Cabazon, parts of Banning Heights Mutual Water Company, and extends toward Mission Springs Water District (Desert Hot Springs) and Indio.
- A key issue is understanding and quantifying the natural water underflow between basins, particularly how much groundwater migrates from the adjudicated Beaumont Basin eastward into neighboring basins like Cabazon and Indio.
- State-mandated modeling and sustainability planning has been supported by a \$1 million DWR grant.
- Accurate modeling is difficult but necessary. It uses historical data, USGS studies, and modern tools to estimate water flows and identify changes over time.

2. Collaborative Modeling Efforts:

- SGPWA is partnering with Desert Water Agency and using Provost & Pritchard (via Interra) to refine regional groundwater modeling.
- The goal is to sync modeling tools across agencies—including with Beaumont Basin Watermaster's consultant Tom Harder—to avoid data conflicts.
- A joint modeling effort is underway, funded through a cost-share agreement between the larger agencies to avoid burdening smaller GSA members.

3. Monitoring Wells Update:

- Four deep monitoring wells (MWP-1 to MWP-4) are being installed across the region to provide long-term data. These are funded by a DWR grant and installed by the USGS.
- The first well, MWP-1, is located in the adjudicated Beaumont Basin near residential areas. Despite noise and disruption, the community has been supportive.
- These wells are designed to last many decades and are critical to scientific management and model validation.

4. Regional Water Supply Portfolio:

- SGPWA has built a diversified and flexible water supply portfolio, including:
 - The Ventura lease (10,000 AF/year for 20 years)
 - Nickel water rights
 - Participation in Sites Reservoir (90,000 AF of storage)
 - Delta Conveyance Project (future high-capacity conveyance)
- Active water trading has enhanced the region's flexibility. For example, surplus water was sold during wet periods and repurchased at favorable rates during dry conditions.
- The region's nimbleness in transactions provides a competitive edge over larger, less agile contractors.
- Long-term modeling shows robust supply capacity extending through 2070, including provisions for climate change, conservation, and environmental constraints.

Dan Jagers emphasized the importance of maintaining balance in the Beaumont Basin and managing flows to downstream basins. He supported monitoring well installations to improve boundary understanding and praised the long-term planning efforts while reinforcing the need for regional coordination to prevent overdraft conditions. Jagers also noted the importance of Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs) and their synchronization with regional planning efforts.

Larry Smith commended the field crews for their professionalism and the public outreach regarding drilling near residential areas. He noted the success of proactive communication with neighbors, which prevented complaints.

Art Vela confirmed that no complaints had been received regarding the drilling. He praised interagency collaboration for permitting and materials handling, which led to significant cost savings.

In response to John Covington, Mr. Eckhart confirmed modeling had begun and is expected to be completed within a year. Covington emphasized the importance of modeling for understanding inter-basin flows and preserving long-term supply security.

Covington also highlighted the value of coordination for upcoming 2025–2026 UWMPs and suggested a future meeting topic on planning across member agencies, and Chair Slawson concurred. Covington also raised concerns about land use planning in rapidly growing cities like Beaumont and Banning, and how UWMPs guide development. He called attention to the connection to the regional supply of both Yucaipa Valley Water District and Desert Water Agency.

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

A. City of Beaumont – Thaxton Van Belle reported:

- Capital projects include:
 - Lift station expansion
 - Seismic work on the sewer bridge
 - Improvements on Highland Springs and Potrero
- Will ask the City Council to join the Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act (federal level)
- Productive whiteboarding session with BCVWD and SGPWA to talk about concepts of recycled water
- Phase 1 of the Adaptive Management Plan draft is complete and there is push to get it finalized to establish direction
- AB 466, intended to protect water agencies from litigation related to Chromium 6, is moving forward. Agencies must submit a compliance plan.

B. City of Banning – Art Vela reported:

- Two well projects are in the equipping and site improvement phase
- Constructing two booster stations and reservoirs
- Kicked off progressive design-build for the wastewater treatment plant improvement and expansion project
- Working on major traffic projects

C. Banning Heights – Absent

D. Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District – Daniel Slawson and Dan Jagers highlighted:

- Wells are being installed
- Approved a 15 percent rate increase
- Work is being done on a heli-hydrant with some ARPA funding

E. Cabazon Water District – Taffy Brock reported:

- Both heli-hydrants are up and functioning

F. City of Calimesa – Absent

G. High Valleys Water District – Stan Houghton reported:

- Grant-funded pipelines are complete and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held

- Will begin on heli-hydrants
- A preliminary engineering report has been done through the California Rural Water Association (CRWA) with the help of SGPWA
- Additional grants are being pursued

H. Mission Springs Water District – Absent

I. Morongo Band of Mission Indians – John Covington reported:

- Capital improvement projects are underway, including enhancement of production for the Morongo Trust lands and construction of reservoirs
- The Environmental Protection Department is updating the water conservation plan

J. Riverside County EDA / Flood Control District – No report.

K. South Mesa Water Company – Absent

L. Yucaipa Valley Water District – Joyce McIntire reported:

- The pre-injection wells being drilled on the west side of Interstate 10 are at 1,200 feet and moving along very well

M. San Geronio Pass Water Agency – No report

N. Beaumont Basin Watermaster – Dan Jagers and Art Vela reported:

- The Watermaster meets next on June 11.
- At the May meeting, the Watermaster received an update on water loss and agreed on different scenarios for analysis
- The draft annual report is under review and it is hoped it will be finalized quickly.

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

- 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
- PFAS
- Lead and Copper Rule
- Preparation of 2025-2026 Urban Water Management Plans

7. **Future Meeting Dates**

Committee is dark in November

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

- July 23, 2025
- September 24, 2025

8. **Adjournment**

Chairman Daniel Slawson adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance
July 23, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

Meeting Attendees

Agency	Representative	
City of Banning	Art Vela	Present
City of Beaumont	David Fenn Thaxton Van Belle	Present
Banning Heights Mutual Water Company		Absent
Beaumont Basin Watermaster	Art Vela 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		Absent
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	Larry Smith Lance Eckhart Kevin Walton Sarah Wargo	Present
South Mesa Water Company		Absent
Yucaipa Valley Water District	Joyce McIntire	Present

Members of the Public in Attendance: Steve Grasha, Desert Water Agency

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Chairman Daniel Slawson called to order the regular meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Regional Water Alliance at 5:08 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 May 28, 2025
The Consent Calendar was approved by the following vote:

MOVED: Slawson	SECONDED: None
CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED	VOTE 7-0-1
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	Abstain
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	Absent
Riverside County EDA / Flood Control	Absent
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	No vote
South Mesa Water Company	Absent
Yucaipa Valley Water District	YES

4. Presentation by San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency General Manager Lance Eckhart:

- a. Update and Discussion Regarding Funding for the Sites Reservoir Project
- b. Discussion Regarding Funding for the Delta Conveyance Project

Lance Eckhart provided a financial and economic update regarding the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency's (SGPWA) position in relation to two major state water infrastructure projects: the Sites Reservoir and the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). He emphasized that the SGPWA is in a strong financial and economic position to participate in both projects. The Alliance members acknowledged the importance of remaining proactive about infrastructure funding and regional economic development. Eckhart discussed:

1. Budget Overview and Financial Position

- SGPWA's annual income is approximately \$70 million, with about 40% in unrestricted funds and 60% in restricted (debt service-related) funds.
- The agency maintains strong reserves and is financially positioned to support local infrastructure projects and debt obligations, including balloon payments on the State Water Project (SWP) East Branch Extension (EBX) bonds due in the next few years.
- Overall, SGPWA's financial health is robust, buoyed by steady growth in assessed valuation and tax revenues in the region.

2. Sites Reservoir Project

- The Sites Reservoir is considered imminent, with an expected operational date in the early 2030s.
- It is projected to have a significant impact on regional water supply security.
- SGPWA holds approximately 90,000 acre-feet of storage capacity in the reservoir. If it fills and empties multiple times during wet periods, this could translate to 180,000–270,000 acre-feet of usable water.
- Estimated cost is under \$20 million annually. The agency can afford this within its current revenue structure.

3. Delta Conveyance Project (DCP)

- This is a more complex and expensive project, with estimated annual costs for the agency in the mid-\$30 million range.
- SGPWA has committed to a 2% share of the project, with the ability to adjust this.
- Funding will be supported by tapering off of older debt obligations (like EBX) around 2035, creating room in the budget.

4. Economic Analysis

- Mr. Eckhart shared preliminary findings from an economic study by Beacon Economics and financial forecasting by HDL:
 - The assessed value in the region has grown from \$11 billion in 2020 to approximately \$18 billion in 2025.
 - Beaumont has experienced substantial population and housing growth, from 11,000 residents in 2000 to over 53,000 in 2020.
 - Local tax revenue, economic development, and retail sales—especially logistics—are increasing.
 - The area's robust economic trajectory supports the agency's financial capacity to invest in generational water projects.
- Lance concluded that the agency is in a position to participate meaningfully in both Sites and DCP, likely without new taxes or drastic financial measures.

Steve Grasha, Desert Water Agency Director, asked whether the spike in taxable sales in Beaumont was due to distribution centers (like Amazon) or secondary economic activity from employees. Alliance members discussed the economic impact and policy considerations surrounding fulfillment centers. Eckhart and others noted that these centers can generate substantial local tax revenue if structured to include a point-of-sale designation. Beaumont was highlighted as a case study, where a noticeable spike in taxable sales appeared to correlate with such a facility. However, caution was raised about the potential for the State to redistribute this revenue, prompted by complaints from cities that host no fulfillment centers but still want a share of the associated taxes.

Jaggers and others emphasized that while fulfillment centers bring economic advantages, they also introduce challenges such as traffic, infrastructure wear, and mixed public sentiment. Nonetheless, they acknowledged the importance of protecting these revenue sources legislatively. Grasha noted that in regions like the Coachella Valley, the facilities provide essential

employment opportunities, filling a void for local residents. Overall, the group expressed both appreciation for the economic benefits and awareness of the need for vigilance in retaining the tax revenues.

Daniel Slawson (Chair) asked about the long-term funding horizon for the SWP and whether current payments would really sunset or could be replaced. Eckhart responded that while some bonds will retire around 2035, new funding mechanisms will be required for modernization and ongoing infrastructure needs. Jagers affirmed this and added that while legacy debt tapers off, it will be replaced by new capital obligations to support system improvements, such as Sites and DCP.

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

- A. City of Beaumont – Thaxton Van Belle reported:
 - Completed maintenance work on a sewer bridge near Three Rings Ranch.
 - Continuing work on road improvements and upgrades to the Mesa Lift Station.
 - Emphasized focus on advancing recycled water initiatives in collaboration with regional partners.
- B. City of Banning – Art Vela reported:
 - Reported progress on the long-anticipated expansion of the wastewater treatment plant, now underway under a progressive design-build agreement with AECOM and WM Lyles.
 - Noted completion of a waterline replacement and ongoing construction of two booster stations and two wells.
 - Announced his temporary appointment as Acting City Manager; recruitment for a permanent position is pending.
- C. Banning Heights – Absent
- D. Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District – Daniel Slawson and Dan Jagers highlighted:
 - Currently drilling new wells and nearing completion on two ARPA-funded pipeline projects.
 - Actively supporting recycled water implementation efforts.
 - Highlighted fire-readiness measures including coordination on heli-hydrants and water system interconnections with neighboring agencies.
- E. Cabazon Water District – Taffy Brock reported:
 - Confirmed successful use of heli-hydrants during the Wolf Fire; minor infrastructure adjustments (e.g., additional rock) are planned.
 - Announced that the District's General Manager will retire in February; search for a replacement is underway.

- F. City of Calimesa – Absent
- G. High Valleys Water District – Stan Houghton reported:
- Reported minimal infrastructure damage from recent fires, aside from one damaged transition line.
 - New heli-hydrant tanks are being installed, with anticipated completion in two weeks.
 - IRWM grant-funded water lines were heavily utilized during fire response, though high demand briefly reduced pressure to some properties.
- H. Mission Springs Water District – Amber Duff reported:
- Another group of interns from the high school will start soon in wastewater, water production, and engineering
 - A young man from the first internship will be taking classes for Wastewater I
 - A CVAG Civic Spark intern was awarded to MSWD to help with the Making Conservation a California Way of Life compliance, pleased to receive that grant money
- I. Morongo Band of Mission Indians – Absent
- J. Riverside County EDA / Flood Control District – Absent
- K. South Mesa Water Company – Absent
- L. Yucaipa Valley Water District – Joyce McIntire reported:
- Reported on Calimesa City Council's approval of two new projects: a low-income housing development and the Bircher's Logistics Center.
 - YVWD will be responsible for installing lift stations and reservoirs to support the developments.
- M. San Geronio Pass Water Agency – Lance Eckhart reported:
- Two heli-hydrants are operational in Cabazon; two more are nearly ready in High Valleys, with additional installations planned in Beaumont and Calimesa.
 - A seventh heli-hydrant is slated for Banning Heights with \$300,000 from Riverside County Flood Control.
 - Acknowledged Director Kevin Walton's key role in initiating and advancing the heli-hydrant program.
- N. Beaumont Basin Watermaster – Dan Jagers and Art Vela reported:
- The next meeting will be August 6
- O. Desert Water Agency – Steve Grasha reported:
- New DWA General Manager Esther Saenz took over in July

6. Suggested Presentations and Topics for Future Meetings

- a. Update and Discussion Regarding Funding for the Sites Reservoir Project
- b. Discussion Regarding Funding for the Delta Conveyance Project
- c. Discussion Regarding Funding for the Regional Cabazon/Banning Backbone Project
- d. PFAS
- e. Lead and Copper Rule
- f. Preparation of 2025-2026 Urban Water Management Plans

7. Future Meeting Dates

Committee is dark in November

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

- September 24, 2025
- January 28, 2026

8. Adjournment

Chairman Daniel Slawson adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.