Notice and Agenda of a Meeting of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster

Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Location: Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District
560 Magnolia Avenue
Beaumont, California 92223
(951) 845-9581

Watermaster Members:

City of Banning
City of Beaumont

Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District
South Mesa Water Company
Yucaipa Valley Water District

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

City of Banning: Arturo Vela (Alternate: __________)

City of Beaumont: ____________ (Alternate: Kyle Warsinski)

Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District: ____________ (Alternate: Tony Lara)

South Mesa Water Company: George Jorritsma (Alternate: Dave Armstrong)

Yucaipa Valley Water District: Joseph Zoba (Alternate: Jennifer Ares)

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Public Comments

At this time, members of the public may address the Beaumont Basin Watermaster on matters within its jurisdiction; however, no action or discussion may take place on any item not on the agenda. To provide comments on specific agenda items, please complete a Request to Speak form and provide that form to the Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting.

V. Consent Calendar

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting Minutes for October 4, 2017

VI. Reports

A. Report from Engineering Consultant - Hannibal Blandon, ALDA Engineering

B. Report from Legal Counsel - Keith McCullough/Thierry Montoya, Alvarado Smith

VII. Discussion Items


   Recommendation: No recommendation.


   Recommendation: No recommendation.

VIII. Topics for Future Meetings

A. Development of a methodology and policy to account for new yield from capturing local stormwater in the basin.

B. Development of a methodology and policy to account for groundwater storage losses in the basin resulting from the spreading of additional water sources.

C. Development of a methodology and policy to account for recycled water recharge.
D. Develop a protocol to increase the accuracy and consistency of data reported to the Watermaster.

E. Develop a policy to account for transfers of water that may result when an Appropriator provides water service to an Overlying Party.

IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members

X. Announcements

A. The next regular meeting of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

XI. Closed Session

A. Closed Session—Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation, Government Code section 54956.9:

XII. Adjournment
Meeting Location:
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
560 Magnolia Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223

I. Call to Order
Chairman Arturo Vela called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call
City of Banning Arturo Vela Present
City of Beaumont Kyle Warsinski Present
Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District Tony Lara Present
South Mesa Water Company George Jorritsma Present
Yucaipa Valley Water District Joseph Zoba Present

Keith McCullough was present representing legal counsel for the Beaumont Basin Watermaster.

Members of the public who registered their attendance were: Mike Kostelecky, Fran Flanders, Steve Lehtonen, Tom Harder, and Hannibal Blandon.

III. Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Vela led the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Public Comments
None.

V. Consent Calendar
Member Zoba moved to approve the meeting minutes for August 2, 2017, and August 30, 2017. The motion was seconded by Member Lara.

AYES: Jorritsma, Lara, Vela, Warsinski, Zoba
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None
STATUS: Motion Approved

VI. Reports
A. Report from Engineering Consultant - Hannibal Blandon, ALDA Engineering
Engineer Hannibal Blandon gave a brief report.

B. Report from Legal Counsel - Keith McCullough, Alvarado Smith

Legal Counsel Keith McCullough stated there has been follow up with the City of Banning, the City of Beaumont and the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District regarding appointment of representatives to this Committee. A motion will be submitted to the Riverside Superior Court.

VII. Discussion Items

A. Nomination of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee - Secretary

Recommendation: That the members of the Watermaster Committee nominate an individual from the Watermaster Committee to be Secretary.

Member Zoba nominated Tony Lara of the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District as Secretary of the Watermaster Committee. The motion was seconded by Member Warsinski.

AYES: Jorritsma, Lara, Vela, Warsinski, Zoba
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None
STATUS: Motion Approved

B. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through September 25, 2017

Recommendation: No recommendation.

Engineer Hannibal Blandon drew attention to a map of well locations for potential water level monitoring. He indicated new locations of Beaumont-Cherry Valley Well 21 in the Chicken Ranch area, and in Desert Lawn. If successful, there will be sixteen wells located throughout the basin.

Engineer Blandon continued with a status report of the water level monitoring being done.

C. Potential Scenarios to be Evaluated using the Groundwater Model for Analyzing Basin Losses

Recommendation: No recommendation.

Mr. Tom Harder, hydrogeologist for the Watermaster, presented three scenarios and alternates to determine water losses. He reminded the group that the losses must be accounted for in order to keep water balances whole and to avoid trouble with the County in ten years.

He noted that in August, he presented scenarios to the committee and on August 30 presented a Technical Memorandum with five scenarios for analysis using a model to determine how storage losses change with different stresses in the basin, including fault lines.
Mr. Harder presented detail on three scenarios and sub-scenarios for entering into the model. The group discussed the variables of recharge, stormwater capture, hydrologic conditions (drought vs. wet), additional wells, and development. Mr. Harder requested submission of written comments within the following week.


Member Lara moved to receive and file the Independent Accountant’s Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2017. The motion was seconded by Member Jorritsma.

AYES: Jorritsma, Lara, Vela, Warsinski, Zoba
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None
STATUS: Motion Approved

VIII. Topics for Future Meetings

A. Development of a methodology and policy to account for new yield from capturing local storm water in the basin.
B. Development of a methodology and policy to account for groundwater storage losses in the basin resulting from the spreading of additional water sources.
C. Development of a methodology and policy to account for recycled water recharge.
D. Develop a protocol to increase the accuracy and consistency of data reported to the Watermaster.
E. Develop a policy to account for transfers of water that may result when an Appropriator provides water service to an Overlying Party.

IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members

There were no comments.

X. Announcements

A. The next regular meeting of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

XI. Closed Session: 10:54 a.m.

A. Closed Session—Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation, Government Code section 54956.9:
There was no reportable action taken.

XII. Adjournment

Chairman Vela adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Attest:

_____________________________
Tony Lara, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Date: December 6, 2017

From: Hannibal Blandon, ALDA Inc.

Subject: Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through November 27, 2017

Recommendation: No recommendation.

At the present time, there are 14 monitoring wells collecting water level information on an hourly basis at various locations throughout the basin. In addition, there are two monitoring probes collecting barometric pressures at opposite ends of the Beaumont Basin. The location of active monitoring wells is depicted in the attached Figure No. 1.

Water levels at selected locations are depicted in Figures 2 through 6 and are described as follows:

✓ Figure No. 2 – Water levels at YVWD Well No. 34 and Oak Valley Well No. 5 are considered representative of basin conditions in the Northwest portion of the basin. At YVWD No. 34 the water level is fairly stable; it has increased a mere three feet over the last 2 years. Data for the last four months was not recorded at this location as the probe is not working properly. A new probe was installed during our November visit. Conversely, water level at Oak Valley No. 5 rose over five feet in the March 2016 to November 2017 period. Data for the last six months was not available as the probe was stuck in the well and the communications cable was non-operational; however, during our November visit we were able to dislodge the probe and pull it out of the well. The probe was reinstalled with a new communications cable.

✓ Figure No. 3 – Two of the Noble Creek observation wells are presented in this figure representing the shallow and deep aquifers. In the shallow aquifer, the water level has increased close to 80 feet over the last 18 months from a low of 2,337 ft. to 2,416 ft., recorded at the end of November 2017. Levels in the deep aquifer have risen recently to their highest elevation (2,260 ft) since the summer of 2015.

✓ Figure No. 4 – Southern Portion of the Basin. Water level at the Summit Cemetery well is highly influenced by a nearby pumping well that is used to irrigate the cemetery grounds. The Water level at this well was not available for the last two months as cemetery personnel were not present to open the gate to the well. The water level at this well has fluctuated over a 20-foot band over the last two years. Conversely, the water level at the Sun Lakes well has fluctuated minimally over the same period as it decreased two feet.
Figure No. 5 illustrates levels at three wells owned by the City of Banning in the Southeast portion of the basin. While water level at the Old Well No. 15 (Chevron Well) has been fairly flat over the last two years, a somewhat significant and steady decline, close to 20 feet, has been recorded at Banning M-8. Levels at Banning M-9 have fluctuated within a 10-15 feet range during the same period.

Figure No. 6 illustrate recorded water level at BCVWD No. 2. Over the last two years, the level at this well has increased by over 20 feet topping in May 2017 at an elevation of 2,218 ft. The level at this well has declined by ten feet over the last four months, with a slight recovery in the last two months.

Troubleshooting Issues

The following malfunctioning issues were encountered during our July 25, 2016 field visit:

- YVWD Well No. 34 – Both communication cable and probe were not working at this well. The probe was replaced, but the 400 ft communication cable was not replaced at this time; a new 400 ft cable needs to be ordered for this site.

- Sun Lakes Well – A new 200 ft communication cable was installed at this well and it seems to be working fine.

- Oak Valley No. 5 – Over the previous two visits, the water level data could not be downloaded from the probe because of a faulty communications cable; in addition, the probe was stuck inside the well and could not be removed. During our November visit, the probe was finally removed from the well and a new 200-ft communications cable installed. This probe should not be pulled from the well because of potential damage to the communications cable.

New Monitoring Sites

A new water level probe was installed at BCVWD Well No. 25, located in the central/eastern portion of the basin. The probe sits at 650-ft below ground in this pumping well. Static level at this well was measured at 493 ft below surface while pumping level is in the mid 500s.

In addition, SMWC Well No. 4 in the northwest portion of the basin was considered for installation; however, the observation conduit was much too small for the monitoring probe to fit.

Potential New Monitoring Sites

Potential new monitoring sites include:

- Sharondale Home Owner Association wells
- Rancho Calimesa Mobile Home Park
- Desert Lawn
- Sunny Cal Ranch Area
Figure No. 3
Static Groundwater Elevations at Noble Creek Obs. Well 4S and 4D
(May 28, 2015 through November 27, 2017)
Figure No. 4
Static Groundwater Elevations at Summit Cemetery and Sun Lakes Wells
(May 28, 2015 through November 27, 2017)
Figure No. 6
Static Groundwater Elevations at BCVWD Well No. 2
(May 28, 2015 through November 27, 2017)
Date: December 6, 2017
From: Thomas Harder, Thomas Harder & Company
Subject: Potential Storage Losses Evaluation – Progress Report

Recommendation: No recommendation.

As authorized by the Board at the August 2, 2017 board meeting, Alda, Inc. in association with Thomas Harder & Co. will be evaluating potential basin loss scenarios using the calibrated groundwater flow model of the basin. At the August 30, 2017 Board meeting, a draft technical memorandum summarizing proposed scenarios for analysis was submitted for review and input.

Recharge and recovery scenarios to be evaluated for analyses of storage losses were also presented at the October 4, 2017 meeting to obtain input from the Watermaster Committee. Multiple comments were received regarding the setup of these scenarios. In addition, the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District requested one additional scenario to evaluate in-lieu recharge for the western portion of the basin. No additional comments were received after the October meeting.

Over the last two months, we have been setting up the model input files for analyzing the recharge and recovery scenarios, as presented and modified per the last meeting. Most of the input files have been completed. In December, we are planning to finish the input files and begin analyzing the scenarios using the groundwater flow model. We are planning to provide preliminary results of the model analysis of basin storage losses at the February meeting.