

**Record of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Committee of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Wednesday, January 10, 2018**

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 11:31 a.m.

II. Roll Call

<i>City of Banning</i>	<i>Arturo Vela</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>City of Beaumont</i>	<i>Kyle Warsinski</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District</i>	<i>Tony Lara</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>South Mesa Water Company</i>	<i>George Jorritsma</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Yucaipa Valley Water District</i>	<i>Joseph Zoba</i>	<i>Present</i>

Legal Counsel: Thierry Montoya

Staff Present: William Clayton

Members of the public who registered or attended were: David Fenn, Ron Duncan, Larry Stephenson and Tom Shalhoub.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Vela led the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Public Comments

Mr. David Fenn: Mr. Fenn stated he is the President of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) but is here as an individual, not representing the SGPWA. He requested the Committee reconsider its storage account with no conditions. The SGPWA is a regional agency and representing the needs of and providing water to the seven agencies within its jurisdiction and any other agency which may purchase water in the future. He opined that the conditions are unfair, and the SGPWA was not treated the same as other entities. He believes it is not the best use of public funds to have things tied up with legal fees. He asked the Committee to reconsider and re-vote on the storage account with no conditions.

Mr. Fenn read an email from Dr. Blair Ball who was unable to attend: Dr. Ball wrote that he is a Director of SGPWA but is speaking only as a taxpayer. He favors removal of the conditions placed on the SGPWA's water account, as they are restrictive when compared with other Watermaster accounts, which can create an unhealthy atmosphere. Time, energy and money spent over the restrictions will be counterproductive.

Mr. Ron Duncan: Mr. Duncan said he echoes the points made by Mr. Fenn. He asked the Committee to reconsider and remove the conditions on the storage account. As a Director of the SGPWA, he feels they are restrictive. He expressed concern over the first right of

refusal and said it makes sense not to have something like that on there. He indicated the SGPWA is in agreement with the other three. Mr. Duncan said he supports the statements by Director Ball. He noted that it feels good to make progress and work together. He said the SGPWA is working hard to bring new water deals and he hopes to continue to work together.

Mr. Lenny Stephenson: Mr. Stephenson stated that he is a Director at SGPWA but is not representing SGPWA. He stated the mission of the SGPWA and noted that his agency is not in competition with the retailers, but strongly desires to partner to assure water needs are met. He advised that it is paramount that the SGPWA have a storage account in the Beaumont Basin to accomplish its mission; an account no different and with no more restrictions than any other account. He noted that the agency was established by the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Act and as elected officials, their duty is to uphold that Act. There is no desire to prolong the disagreement between the agencies, the cost of which is borne by the taxpayers. He said he asks only that the Board respect SGPWA's position. He advised that SGPWA will defend the rights of its constituents and suggested trying harder to work together on the same goal: water. Mr. Stephenson explained the SGPWA could not carry out its mission if it were to accept a conditional storage account limiting its rights and responsibilities. SGPWA is here to help meet water needs, he said, and implored the Committee members to vote to remove the conditions on its storage account and begin working as partners for the greater good.

V. Announcements

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

VI. Closed Session: 11:40 a.m.

Watermaster Committee members and alternates Arturo Vela, Kyle Warsinski, Tony Lara, George Jorritsma, and Joseph Zoba were present in closed session with Legal Counsel Thierry Montoya to discuss the following item:

- A. Closed Session-Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation, Government Code section 54956.9:
- i. Case: *San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency v. Beaumont Basin Watermaster, et al.*, Riverside Superior Court Case No. RIC 1716346.

Reconvene to Open Session: 12:30 p.m.
There was no reportable action taken.

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Vela adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Attest:



Tony Lara, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster