

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 3, 2020**

Meeting Location:

*There was no public physical meeting location due to the coronavirus pandemic.
Meeting held via video teleconference pursuant to:
California Government Code Section 54950 et. seq. and
California Governor's Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-33-20*

I. Call to Order

Chairman Arturo Vela called the meeting to order at 10:00 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>Daniel Jagers</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>

Thierry Montoya was present representing legal counsel for the Beaumont Basin Watermaster (BBWM). Hannibal Blandon and Thomas Harder were present as engineers for the BBWM.

Staff present: Mark Swanson and Erica Gonzales from BCVWD.

Members of the public who registered and / or attended: None acknowledged on the teleconference.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Tabled due to teleconference limitations.

IV. Public Comments:

None.

V. Reports

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

Mr. Blandon advised that the 2019 Draft Report will be presented at the August 2020 meeting provided that public meetings are allowed by that time.

- B. Report from Hydrogeological Consultant – Thomas Harder, Thomas Harder & Co.

Mr. Harder noted a data request from Joe Reichenberger who indicated that the website is down. Mr. Zoba noted that the Committee is in the process of transitioning to a WordPress site and should be back up by the end of the week.

- C. Report from Legal Counsel – Thierry Montoya, Alvarado Smith

Mr. Montoya reported that he received an email from Art Vela regarding the interest of the City of Banning to add another well to the Beaumont Basin and requested policies and procedures. Upon research, Mr. Montoya discovered the adoption of a Riverside County ordinance regarding well installation and maintenance. Montoya discussed with Mr. Jagers the need for policy regarding well requests, locations, backup supporting information, and engineering documentation for the Watermaster to make an informed decision.

Mr. Vela added that the proposed well location is near the intersection of Wilson and Highland Home roads. He said he would keep the group apprised and would more than likely submit a formal letter.

Mr. Jagers advised that the Watermaster had adopted the Riverside County standards and there is one additional item to provide for groundwater monitoring. BCWVD is also looking at re-drilling Wells 1 and 2, existing wells which have reached the end of their service lives, Jagers advised, as well as drilling two wells in the future. He indicated he will submit a similar letter.

VI. Discussion Items

- A. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through May 18, 2020

Recommendation: No recommendation.

Engineering Consultant Hannibal Blandon explained that after four months of not checking wells, they were visited on May 19. The Watermaster has 16 monitoring wells of the goal of 18 in the basin, he noted, and said that based on the location of the potential wells described by Banning and BCWVD, the engineer may use them as monitoring wells.

Mr. Blandon pointed to Oak Valley Well 5 and reported there have been problems with communicating with the probe and suggested the cable may need replacement again.

Mr. Blandon pointed out that water level in the Noble Creek observation wells has risen by approximately 90 feet over the last 40 years and it has been fairly stable over the last two years, but with a 60-foot rise over the last two months, which continues to increase. He explained additional water level trends and equipment issues.

To address all the equipment repair, Mr. Blandon estimated costs between \$2,000 and \$2,500. In response to Chair Vela, Mr. Bandon said he would coordinate with YVWD staff to make the request to the manufacturer, and he will check on the amount available in the budget.

B. A Comparison of Production and Allowable Extractions through April 2020

Recommendation: No recommendation. Information only.

Mr. Blandon compared production and allowable extractions through April 2020. Actual production has been 3,442 for a total of 37.7 percent production. He noted the numbers change with additional summer production and as additional water is spread.

Chair Vela noted that the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) delivered imported water to the City of Banning last month which will needed to be updated in the table.

Member Jagers identified that the SGPWA delivered approximately 215 AF of water to their Fiesta storage facility in December 2019. Between BCVWD and the SGPWA approximately 2,000 AF was delivered in March, which is part of the 3,100 AF shown as imported water. A portion of that was delivered to the SGPWA's ponds to alleviate concern about possible carryover water left in San Luis Reservoir due to rain, Jagers continued. Deliveries were stopped in March due to COVID-19, and restarted in May, Jagers advised. He said he believes that the SGPWA agreement with the BBWM for the storage account requires them to determine if anyone wants that water supply before it is credited to them; Jagers said he did not receive an inquiry. With a new general manager expected at the SGPWA, Jagers recommended review of the agreement to assure the approach is understood by all parties regarding recharge and what is offered or ordered by the BBWM members and others. He suggested tracking the storage account on a chart.

In December, the YVWD submitted a Form 5 Notice of Adjustment Rights for transfer of overlying water rights from the Oak Valley Partners, and there was discussion, Jagers reminded the Committee. He said he did not feel this was resolved to where it should be showing up on the chart and this appears to need future discussion, Jagers stated. He pointed to Resolution 2017-02 adopted by the Board related to the transfer of overlier rights and indicated there were several things this Committee resolved to do when those transfers were made. He suggested agendizing the discussion.

In response to Mr. Jagers, Engineer Bandon noted that the 1,399 AF was added to the report based on discussion during the meetings. He noted this would impact the 2019 report and must be documented and concurred with agendizing for the next meeting to resolve the issue.

Chair Vela asked that the record reflect that there are questions regarding the 1,399 AF under the YVWD column of the report, and this issue can be included as a future agenda item. Mr. Zoba disagreed, and pointed out this document is prepared by the consultant and is consistent with the adjudication, with the judgment, and with the Form 5 that was filed. He suggested this is not the appropriate item under which to have this discussion.

To track the SGPWA deliveries, Mr. Bandon suggested a line to be added to the report "SGPWA spread X number of acre-feet through April 2020." Mr. Jagers clarified that his concern is to memorialize other additions to the Beaumont Basin groundwater.

- C. Updated 2018 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report – Delivery of Final Report

Recommendation: Information only.

Mr. Bandon reminded that the final 2018 report was approved at the February 5 meeting with agreement that the report include only events and actions that took place in 2018. Bandon reported that all 2019 items were excluded, and a note was placed at the bottom of each page that this version supersedes that dated February 5, 2020. Committee members have a pdf of the report, and hard copies will be delivered at the August meeting, provided the meeting takes place, Bandon advised.

- D. Consideration of Change Order No. 2 for Task Order No. 17 for the Development of a Return Flow Methodology for the Beaumont Basin

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee consider the approval of basic tasks 1 through 6 and optional tasks 7 and 8 as presented under Change Order No. 2. The estimate to complete the basic tasks 1 through 6 is \$25,510.00 while the estimated cost to complete optional tasks 7 and 8 is an additional \$43,750.00. If approved, the Watermaster Committee should direct the Treasurer to invoice specific Appropriators based on anticipated benefits.

Mr. Harder reviewed the history of the item. He pointed out that significant comments were received at the October 2019 Board meeting resulting in changes to the original scope of work. The recommendation was to return at the February meeting to address the scope and comments.

The nature of the October comments, Harder explained, related to the accounting for indoor and outdoor water use, refinement of categories, accounting for pipeline leakage, and lag time factor over time. The scope of work in February included seven tasks to address the comments, Harder continued.

The original proposed budget amendment to address the Return Flow Methodology was \$27,850, Harder noted, but there was concern over the depth of detail and projected water quality impacts that were not included in the scope. Harder presented a revised scope which reduced the cost to \$25,510. Evaluating Water Quality was added as an optional task, Harder noted. Including the water quality would add about \$43,750 to the cost, he advised. Tasks 1 through 8 would total \$69,060.

Mr. Jorritsma noted that the South Mesa Water Company is not included in this. Harder concurred and noted that by virtue of its location within the BCVWD, the City of Beaumont is included.

Mr. Warsinski clarified that the SMWC and the City of Beaumont would not derive any benefit from the study and were therefore not included for billing purposes in the original task order that was approved.

Member Zoba concurred with Mr. Jorritsma that tasks 1 through 6 would be divided between YVWD, BCVWD, and the City of Banning; however he said Task 8 appears to be a requirement of the maximum benefit obligations with the regional board and tracking salt content is important to YVWD and the City of Beaumont.

Chair Vela concurred and noted concern regarding the assumptions included in the analysis and that it is important for all to understand the impacts and determine how to approach each one. Mr. Jaggars and Mr. Warsinski indicated interest in Task 7 - Accounting for Pipeline Losses and Infiltration and Inflow.

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Jagers to approve basic tasks 1 through 6 of Task Order 17 for a sum not to exceed \$25,510 and directed the Treasurer to invoice specific Appropriators Yucaipa Valley Water District, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District and the City of Banning based on anticipated benefits. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Vela to approve optional tasks 7 and 8 as new Task Order 22 for a sum not to exceed \$41,410 and directed the Treasurer to invoice specific Appropriators Yucaipa Valley Water District, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District, the City of Beaumont and the City of Banning based on anticipated benefits. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

VII. Topics for Future Meetings

- A. Development of a methodology and policy to account for groundwater storage losses in the basin resulting from the artificial recharge of water resources.
- B. Development of a methodology and policy to account for recycled water recharge.

Member Jagers reminded the Committee of his earlier comments related to Item VI-B and recommended moving forward with an ad hoc committee. Chair Vela appointed the City of Beaumont and Yucaipa Valley Water District.

- C. Discussion of return flow credit and how it might be managed.
- D. Quarterly production reports for City of Banning through jointly owned well

The following topics were added:

- E. Review of the SGPWA Storage Account agreement, activity and accounting

- F. Review of Resolution 2017-02, the amended Rules of the Watermaster and the judgement, and the YVWD Notice of Adjustment of Right of an Overlier Party due to Proposed Provision of Water Service by an Appropriator dated December 2017 and determination of what constitutes perfection of water right (under Legal Review)
- G. 2019 Draft Report
Requested by Mr. Blandon. Mr. Jagers suggested making legal counsel available to Mr. Blandon for guidance. Chair Vela concurred. Mr. Montoya noted the importance of time frame of documents and order of precedence.

VIII. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members:

None.

IX. Announcements

- A. The next regular meeting of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- B. Future Meeting Dates:
 - i. Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
 - ii. Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
 - iii. Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Vela adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Attest:



Daniel Jagers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster