

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 2, 2021**

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>Jeff Hart</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>

Hannibal Blandon and Thomas Harder were present as engineers for the BBWM.

Members of the public who registered and / or attended:

*Lance Eckhart, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Erica Gonzales, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
John Covington, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District / Morongo Band of Mission Indians*

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Vela led the pledge.

IV. Public Comments:

None.

V. Consent Calendar

1. Meeting Minutes for April 7, 2021

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Hart to approve the Meeting Minutes.

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

VI. Reports

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

Mr. Blandon reported that the 2019 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report was submitted on April 21, 2021 but has not been posted.

Blandon advised that Member Hart had requested copies of all annual reports and all files related to the groundwater model of the Beaumont Basin. Due to the expense of compiling the files, the item would have been agendaized for approval by the Committee. After discussion, consensus was to provide the requested information as the time should be minimal. Mr. Blandon will complete the work under the open Task Order for On Call Engineering Services.

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

No report.

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

No report.

VII. Discussion Items

- A. Financial Status Report

Recommendation: No recommendation. Presentation only

Member Zoba provided an overview. After payment of invoices, the bank balance is \$93,000, he noted, and pointed to the Operating expenses. At the next meeting, the fiscal year will be closed out and a year end report will be provided.

- B. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through May 13, 2021

Recommendation: No recommendation.

Mr. Blandon reviewed the report. He reminded the Committee of anomalies reported at the last meeting and said that the jump in level had been determined to be correct.

He noted that Banning Well M-9 has declined by more than 30 feet over the last two years, and BCVWD Wells No. 2 and 25 show significant fluctuations.

New monitoring wells were being considered in the northern portion of the Basin, and three wells were evaluated, Blandon explained. Since levels measured were flat it was decided there is no need to have observation wells monitored on an hourly basis, he said.

- C. A Comparison of Production and Allowable Extractions through April 2021

Recommendation: No recommendation; informational only

Mr. Blandon shared the table of Production vs. Allowable Extractions through April 2021. He noted that 6,617 acre-feet of imported water has been spread in the Basin. Production through April has been 4,126 af and the total allowable production considering the transfers of overlying rights since 2016 is 6,171, he stated. The numbers change daily as the agencies continue to pump, he added.

Member Jagers suggested adding the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and the San Geronio Pass Water Agency to the report to memorialize the data. Mr. Blandon suggested a footnote indicating that they, along with the City of Beaumont, have water storage accounts but no water in storage.

- D. Discussion Regarding Task Order No. 25 with ALDA Inc. for On-Call Engineering Services

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee approve Task Order No. 25 for a sum not to exceed \$25,000

Mr. Blandon reminded the Committee about Task Order No. 8 approved in October 2015 for \$20,000. Six tasks have been completed and \$18,062 spent, with a remainder of about \$1,900. A portion of that will be used to pull the data requested by Member Hart, he noted.

New Task Order No. 25 is requesting an additional \$25,000, Blandon explained. In response to Chair Vela, Blandon indicated that Task Order 8 would be exhausted or closed. Member Zoba recommended adding Task 25 which would take over once the amount in Task 8 is expended.

It was moved by Member Vela and seconded by Member Jagggers to approve Task Order No. 25 for a sum not to exceed \$25,000 and to send out invoices to the Watermaster Committee members and was approved by the following vote:

AYES:	Hart, Jagggers, Jorritsma, Vela, Zoba
NOES:	None.
ABSTAIN:	None.
ABSENT:	None.
STATUS:	Motion Approved

E. Development of a Policy to Account for Storage Losses in the Beaumont Basin – Initial Approach

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee authorize the expenditure of \$10,000 under Task 25 On-Call Services, to cover the expense associated with this task

Tom Harder of Thomas Harder and Associates reminded the Committee of the discussion regarding comparison of the storage accounts and the written accounts which appears to show the groundwater level response is not commensurate with the storage accounts that are accruing. It is a complicated matter and is worthwhile to evaluate to assure the physical water budget in the Basin is commensurate with what is on paper, he noted.

Harder said analyses show that groundwater flows to the southeast, and most of the losses are occurring in that area. Some limited losses are occurring at the western part of the Basin, he added. Issues are outlined in the Technical Memo along with a summary of what other basins are doing to address storage losses.

Basin losses are sensitive to imported recharge, and the location and pumping rate of pumping wells, Harder advised. The conclusion was that loss can be limited on the east side of the Basin via strategic pumping. Pumping outside the Basin is also influencing the loss, he noted.

Harder said that accounting for Basin losses is necessary to maintain a representative water balance, and it behooves the Committee to

evaluate those losses and develop a methodology and policy to account for them, otherwise, safe yield assessments may have a discrepancy.

Harder recommended development of a framework to account for storage losses based on the hydrogeology of the Basin via an initial budget of \$10,000 Under Task Order 25.

Member Jagers clarified that in addition to potential losses there are potential gains due to operational activity. BCVWD has increased pumping on the east side to capture those losses and has shut down Well 29 in the winter to stimulate in-lieu recharge on the western side of the Basin, he explained. The framework would want to make an understanding of those operations, he noted. He pointed out that Tukwet Canyon pumps (mostly irrigation water) in the area, also.

Member Zoba suggested the work be rolled into the redetermination of safe yield. Harder agreed and said it would be helpful to have the Committee's input ahead of the process to vet the ideas and issues.

Mr. Lance Eckhart of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) pointed out this is a big deal for a managed basin, and \$10,000 might get it started, but moving into basin optimization and how to minimize losses will be an ongoing effort. He also pointed out the current drought conditions and noted that the Committee will want to aggressively store more water and do more active conjunctive use moving forward. He stated there should not be a disincentive to bring imported water into the Basin and touted a thoughtful, collaborative process. This is core to the mission of the SGPWA, and the Agency would be happy to participate in answering these important questions.

In response to Mr. John Covington of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Member Jagers explained the location of Well 29 near the old Sunny Cal Egg Ranch.

Committee members concurred regarding communication with SGPWA regarding participation.

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Jagers to create Task Order No. 26 for a sum not to exceed \$10,000 and to send out invoices to the Watermaster Committee members and was approved by the following vote:

AYES:	Hart, Jagers, Jorritsma, Vela, Zoba
NOES:	None.
ABSTAIN:	None.
ABSENT:	None.

STATUS: Motion Approved

F. Update on Development of a Return Flow Accounting Methodology

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee receive the Draft Report and provide comments that will be addresses at the August 2021 regular meeting

Mr. Harder reminded the Committee that a draft of the Return Flow Methodology was prepared in 2019, comments were received, and results were presented in February. A draft Technical Memo is included in the Board packet along with a water quality analysis on TDS concentrations in the Basin into the future, he added. He requested Committee member comments by July 21.

G. 2020 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report – Presentation of Comments Received on Draft Report

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee consider Approving the 2020 Annual Report after comments received on the Draft Report are Presented and Discussed.

Mr. Blandon highlighted comments that were received and changes made to the Report in response.

It was moved by Member Jorritsma and seconded by Member Jagers to approve the 2020 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report. The motion was approved 4-1 by the following vote:

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

VIII. 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.
- c. Discussion regarding the addition of various topics to future meetings.

IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members

Member Zoba commented on recycled water recharge, which is not an indirect discharge of treated wastewater, and said he agreed with Member Jaggars regarding re-titling of the Annual Report sections, but recommended keeping the agenda related to recycled water recharge.

Member Jaggars added that the City of Beaumont is approaching recycled water and noted two components: treated tertiary wastewater and recycled water.

Zoba indicated that the judgment discusses recharge of recycled water and appears to require the filing of an application through the Watermaster. Jaggars concurred and added there are minimum standards outlined in the judgment.

X. Announcements

- a. The next regular meeting of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
- b. Future Meeting Dates:
 - i. Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
 - ii. Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Vela adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Attest:


Daniel Jaggars, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster