

**Record of the Minutes of the  
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the  
Beaumont Basin Watermaster  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, August 17, 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, N-33-20, and N-08-21*

*This meeting was rescheduled from August 4, 2021.*

**I. Call to Order**

*Chairman Arturo Vela called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.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.*

*Thierry Montoya was present as BBWM legal counsel.*

*Members of the public who registered and / or attended:*

*Thaxton Van Belle, Chief Plant Operator, City of Beaumont  
Julio Martinez, City Councilmember, City of Beaumont  
Madeline Blua, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Allison Edmisten, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Jennifer Ares, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
David Armstrong, South Mesa Water Company  
Lance Eckhart, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency  
Daniel Baguyo, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District  
Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District  
Erica Gonzales, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District  
Evan Ward, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District  
Madeline Chen  
Steve Anderson  
Steve Stuart  
Ty Muli*

### III. Pledge of Allegiance

*Chair Vela led the pledge.*

### IV. Public Comments:

*None.*

### V. Consent Calendar

1. Meeting Minutes for June 2, 2021
2. Meeting Minutes for June 28, 2021

*It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Jagers 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 two issues on Task Order No. 26 regarding a framework to address storage losses from the basin. A presentation will be made at the October 21 meeting.*

*Development of a new production well at YVWD is a candidate as a new monitoring site, he said. Mr. Blandon identified an issue with the transfer of water rights. Mr. Zoba clarified this is an existing well and does not result in a transfer of water rights; the rights belong to Beaumont-Chery Valley Recreation and Park District.*

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

*No report.*

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

*Mr. Montoya noted that the hearing on YVWD's motions has been continued to August 31, 2021 at 830 a.m. He advised that he had received a memo from John Pinkney on behalf of the City of Beaumont requesting an update on when Beaumont will receive all the technical reports and public records requested. He advised it is in the works.*

*In response to a request from Mr. Zoba, Mr. Montoya will send a copy of the request made by the City of Beaumont to all Committee members.*

## **VII. Discussion Items**

- A. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through July 26, 2021

Recommendation: No recommendation.

*Mr. Blandon reviewed the report. Water levels at several observation wells continue to decline he noted. He advised the Committee of a cable under warranty replaced at no charge.*

*Blandon described seasonal fluctuations and year-to-year decline at BCVWD Well 25, and the impact of pumping at BCVWD Well 3 on levels at Well 2.*

*Equipment issues at BCVWD Well 29 will be investigated in the fall, Blandon noted, and said BCVWD has indicated they will be fully responsible for the replacement of the cable and the probe.*

- B. Production and Allowable Extractions through June 2021

Recommendation: No recommendation; informational only

*Mr. Blandon shared the table of Production vs. Allowable Extractions through June 2021. He noted that 6,617 acre-feet of imported water has been spread in the Basin.*

*Production through the end of June has been 7,600 af which exceeds the total allowable production by 16 percent. As of December, 2020 over 117,000 af was in storage in the Basin, Blandon noted.*

*Member Jagers said BCVWD understands it is withdrawing from storage and proposed that the table be revised.*

- C. Return Flow Accounting Methodology presentation of final Technical Memorandum and comments

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee accept the final Technical Memorandum, findings, and recommendations

*Mr. Thomas Harder reviewed the recommended return flow accounting methodology and comments received on the Technical Memo. Data records from each appropriator would be obtained via a spreadsheet document. Information from the entire service area would be gathered and compared to wastewater treatment plant inflows, he explained. Those ratios can be applied to those parcels within the adjudication area.*

*Implementing the plan, estimated return flow for each appropriator on an annual basis, reporting previous year and applying the return flow to each appropriator per the lag time schedule, he explained. It takes the water in some areas 50 to 50 years to get down to the water table.*

*Harder recommended reevaluating the methodology every five to 10 years to assure it is representative of what is happening.*

*Mr. Harder responded to comments and questions submitted by the City of Banning.*

*Member Jagers pointed to water activities moving forward such as the grading along Cherry Valley Boulevard and questioned the evaporation factor. Mr. Harder advised that the State does not publish a return flow factor for applied water for construction use. Short of anything else, the 25 percent factor will be applied. These are not significant, as historically there has not been much construction water delivered, Harder noted, and suggested reevaluating in five years.*

*Member Hart added that production numbers for wells belonging to the Parks District for the grading would be interesting to analyze. Ten acre-feet seems low, he opined, considering the growth being seen. Mr. Vela agreed that construction is very active.*

*Mr. Harder discussed the projected impact of return flow on groundwater quality in the Beaumont Basin.*

*Member Jagers advised that BCVWD intends to contribute recycled water and asked about detail of the model. Mr. Harder responded that there is no history of recycled water recharge in the adjudicated area, so the model includes only return flow of implied irrigation water is included in the model. The imported water was included as an average of historic delivered concentrations, he stated. Jagers suggested there is some refinement to move toward to fully understand the application of recycled water.*

*Member Zoba pointed out that the Basin Plan Objective is required to be met. Chair Vela pointed out that the intent was to better understand and model the return flow and implement from a policy perspective. He*

*inquired about formal steps for implementation and requested member input.*

*Mr. Jagers said it is important to project the health of the basin overall and have an opportunity to improve the model as cause and effect is seen. He pointed to future solutions based on data collected.*

*Member Jorritsma indicated neutrality on moving forward, as South Mesa has no return flow.*

*Member Hart concurred with the methodology and suggested a deeper dive into analysis of rate of return on construction water.*

*Chair Vela touched on water quality saying that the City of Beaumont is planning to discharge recycled water over the basin and is looking at different technologies. The intent is to meet the requirements of the Beaumont Management Zone, he said. The review of this analysis will help understand impacts to the Basin from recycled water, he noted, and supported.*

*Member Zoba asked how the issue with overlies will be addressed, as they may also want to receive return flow credit. Mr. Montoya noted there are multiple parties and multiple viewpoints, and suggested an ad hoc committee to examine the various standpoints. Member Vela pointed to the Morongo golf course and their storage account. Mr. Harder said golf courses will be watering and have more regular return flow. It would be relatively easy to quantify and there is information on return flow factors for golf courses that can be incorporated into the accounting; the methodology would be the same.*

*Mr. Montoya indicated the constituent elements should be determined before the policy. Following comments from Mr. Jagers and Mr. Zoba, he indicated there is not enough information at this point to get to the policy development stage. Roles of overlies and issues must be developed further, he said.*

*In response to Chair Vela, Mr. Zoba suggested tabling the item as at this time it may be incomplete. Mr. Harder said it is easy to add a single golf course, but to extend to other overlying uses may be more involved. Counsel Montoya advised that the development of policy needs further consideration. He suggested consideration of the impact of a single golf course.*

*Mr. Harder indicated he could report back on addition of a single golf course. Mr. Jagers pointed out that most production for the Tukwet Golf Course is from the Beaumont Basin, however a number of the greens lie outside the Basin and therefore part of the water leaves the Basin and does not return. In response to Member Zoba, Mr. Harder*

*advised that the methodology is geared toward appropriators, and it has not been considered how it might be applied to overlies. Mr. Jagers requested legal counsel's opinion and discussion on related overlie rights. Mr. Zoba agreed, pointed to upcoming uses such as a park, and suggested a table of multipliers to provide for the accounting.*

*Mr. Blandon pointed out there are other types of overlies without storage accounts which are contributing return flows to the Basin. Mr. Jagers pointed back to the Basin safe yield.*

*Chair Vela requested legal counsel opinion and tabled the item for further discussion.*

D. Task Order No. 27 to Provide Electronic Files of the Groundwater Model of the Beaumont Basin to the City of Beaumont

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee considers the approval of this task order at a cost not to exceed \$15,000

*Mr. Hannibal Blandon requested a new Task Order be opened and reminded the Committee about the request from the City of Beaumont, which was completed at a cost of \$2,765. The new information requested by the City includes electronic files that will take an estimated 84 hours of mostly Mr. Harder's time for a cost of \$10,790. Blandon requested \$15,000 in case the City may have other miscellaneous requests.*

*Member Hart advised that he did not request this Task Order. He said his interpretation of the contract with ALDA indicates this is information to which the owner is entitled and has paid, and he objected to the additional compensation required to fulfill the task. Mr. Blandon reiterated this requires significant effort of the part of the consultant.*

*Mr. Hart pointed out the requesting agency is an owner and is party to the contract, and said he was having a hard time seeing the significant time and effort for delivering data that has already been created and compiled. Mr. Harder offered detail.*

*In response to Member Hart, Mr. Blandon noted the ALDA contract is on a time and materials basis. Mr. Hart indicated this seems excessive. Mr. Zoba and Mr. Jagers concurred that the data would be helpful to have in a clear and consistent form.*

*In response to Chair Vela, Mr. Harder described the data and work involved. Mr. Jagers noted that with all agencies participating, the cost*

*is \$3,000 apiece. He pointed out that nothing happens in a public records request without effort, and supported the Task Order.*

*The cost is to prepare the data requested, and does not include updating the data, Harder stated.*

*It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Jagers to approve Task Order No. 27 to be split between the five members and to send out invoices to the Watermaster Committee members. The motion was approved by the following vote:*

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

E. Electronic Delivery of Annual Report

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee considers the delivery of annual reports, both draft and final, in electronic format unless an individual member or agency would prefer hard copies of individual reports

*Mr. Blandon noted that reports have been delivered and comments provided electronically for the past year and longer due to COVID-19 and business is moving toward paperless. The cost of annual reports is approximately \$2,000 for 12 copies of the draft and 12 copies of the final report, he advised.*

*It was moved by Member Hart and seconded by Member Jagers to deliver the annual reports in electronic format. The motion was approved 5-0 by the following vote:*

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

F. Discussion Regarding the Date and Time of Regular Meetings of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster

*Member Zoba requested comment for scheduling the next year's meetings. Discussion ensued. Member Zoba will prepare a resolution for adoption at the next meeting on October 6, 2021 at 11 a.m.*

#### G. Financial Status Report

*Member Zoba presented the update and indicated the Task Orders will be updated to include the approved Task Order 27. He advised that he is engaging with the auditor to prepare the review of financial documents, which may be ready for the next meeting.*

### **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.
- d. Process to place an item on the Watermaster Committee agenda.
- e. Establishment of an ad hoc committee to produce a procurement policy.

### **IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members**

*Member Hart inquired about interest in creating a procurement policy. Member Jagers suggested creation of an ad hoc committee. Member Zoba pointed out that most activities are consultant based and have been via Requests for Proposal. Member Hart clarified the policy would include other procurement types.*

*Member Hart requested that presentations be provided on Mondays prior to the meetings. Mr. Jagers suggested 72 hours or 24 hours in advance in accordance with the Brown Act.*

### **X. Announcements**

- a. The next regular meeting of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
- b. Future Meeting Dates:



i. Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

**XI. Adjournment**

*Chairman Vela adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.*

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Jagers, Secretary  
Beaumont Basin Watermaster

