

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 1, 2021**

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 11:02 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>Jennifer Ares</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:

Ron Duncan, San Geronio Pass Water Agency
Cenica Smith, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Robert Rasha, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Steve Anderson, Best Best & Krieger LLP
John Covington, Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Thaxton Van Belle, City of Beaumont
Steve Stewart
Logan Largent, California Association of Mutual Water Companies

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Vela led the pledge.

IV. Public Comments:

None.

V. Consent Calendar

- B. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through November 17, 2021
- C. A Comparison of Production versus Extraction Credits through October 2021

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Jorritsma to approve items B and C.

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

- A. Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2021

Member Jagers suggested some corrections to the October 6, 2021 minutes as noted by ALDA Consultants, to be verified via the meeting recording. Ms. Ares requested that in the future, such items be checked ahead of time to avoid delay in approval of the minutes. Mr. Jagers indicated that would be possible if comments were received in time prior to publication. The October 6, 2021 minutes were tabled to the next meeting.

VI. Reports

- A. Report from Engineering Consultant – Hannibal Blandon, ALDA Engineering
Mr. Blandon requested early review of the meeting minutes.
- B. Report from Hydrogeological Consultant – Thomas Harder, Thomas Harder & Co.
No report.
- C. Report from Legal Counsel – Thierry Montoya, Alvarado Smith
Nothing to report.

VII. Discussion Items

A. Storage Accounting Issues

Recommendation: Information only. No recommendation.

Mr. Blandon reviewed issues raised and information discussed in October and reminded the Committee that storage accounts collectively contain approximately 117,000 acre-feet (af). However, Blandon continued, the changing groundwater storage that Mr. Harder investigated indicates that the change between 2003 and 2020 could be anywhere between 42,000 af and 59,000 af depending on the way that the water levels are interpreted by hand or through the flow model. Mr. Harder also concluded that there is approximately 1.4 million af of water in the basin and noted that most of the depletion (40,000 af) was on the west side of the basin, Blandon said.

Preliminary issues include the recharge imbalance between the eastern and western portions of the basin, the storage account balances appear to be in conflict with evidence of the physical storage of the basin, and current storage accounting does not account for losses, Blandon reminded. He said he reviewed the documentation at the time of the judgment and advised there was no documentation as to how the determination of the safe yield was made, but newly available court documents related to the August 2021 ruling provide clarification.

The tentative ruling settles the water rights and storage issues in the basin for supplemental water as well as unused surplus water; the judgment does not preclude the storage of unused surplus water; and there is nothing improper about carryover surplus water, Blandon explained. All water in the storage accounts is valid and available for use, he said, and the basin must be managed accordingly.

Temporary Surplus is defined in the judgment as, "the amount of groundwater that can be pumped annually in excess of the Safe Yield from a Groundwater Basin necessary to create enough additional storage capacity to prevent the waste of water," Blandon read. He advised that the intent was to pump up to 160,000 af from the basin to create space to bring more imported water or to produce additional water from the basin, and the judgment defines 16,000 af per year as percentages and amounts distributed to the four water agencies. Blandon pointed to the storage account amounts as of the end of 2020, totaling 117,533 af.

Blandon reviewed tables comparing the agencies' temporary surplus allocations and all extraction rights to actual 2003-2020 production. The appropriators have the right to produce another 117,533 af up to the 160,000 af initially anticipated, he stated. To be determined over the next few meetings will be how to manage the basin in a way that does not negatively affect some producers, consideration of the issues of

spreading imported water on the west side of the basin and ascertaining that appropriator can safely store and extract their production rights, he stated.

To address the recharge imbalance, Blandon recommended capture of additional stormwater, spreading of additional imported water in existing and new basins, and use of recycled water. He pointed to potential project areas and offered suggestions.

Member Jaggars noted that the results noticed are reasonable with what is set forth in the judgment for extraction. He recalled discussion at the prior meeting about precipitation and the reduced average over the last 10 years and pointed to impact on the basin. He indicated that BCVWD could assist with basin management from an operational perspective. He said he calculated that basin losses could be in the range of 10,000 to 20,000 af and pointed to continued drought.

Chair Vela noted that it will get to a point where agencies will have to rely on the surplus water, and basin management practices and implementation to ensure the basin is in good condition should be discussed, along with a policy on storage losses.

Member Hart suggested a workshop to identify mission, vision, and goals and how to proceed as to the best interests of the sustainability of the basin.

Chair Vela invited public comment. There was none.

B. Use of On-Call Task Order No. 8 and 25 to Provide Engineering Services related to evaluation of Storage Issues in the Beaumont Groundwater Basin

Recommendation: That the Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee approves ALDA Inc. / TH&Co. to use available funds in On-Call Task Order No. 8 and Task Order No. 25 to continue providing technical support to Watermaster on issues related to the storage evaluation and management of the groundwater basin

Mr. Blandon explained that additional work was discussed at the October meeting but there is currently no budget approved for continuing activities. He shared the current budget remaining on Task Orders 8 and 25. After Committee discussion of upcoming work, continuing task orders, and the Request for Proposal process, Legal counsel Thierry Montoya suggested bringing back a request for services and a specific contract. A special meeting and a workshop will be scheduled in January.

Chair Vela tabled the item.

C. Discussion Regarding Amendment of Engineering Services Contract with ALDA Inc. for Calendar Year 2022

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee approves the contract extension with ALDA Inc. through December 31, 2022

Mr. Blandon provided history of the Agreement for Engineering Services, originally signed on May 10, 2012, and extended through December 31, 2021. He shared the proposed billing rates for ALDA Inc. and Thomas Harder & Company and reminded the Committee that the rates had not changed over the last five-year period.

Mr. Blandon advised that most of the work for the task orders takes place in the first three months of the year as the annual report and engineering analysis of the basin is prepared. He recommended extension of the contract through December 31, 2022, at the listed 2022 rates, or a five-year extension with rates updated annually.

Member Hart pointed to the active task order and recommended extension of the existing contract until a procurement policy is established. In response to a question from Chair Vela, Mr. Montoya recommended determining what specific services are sought as opposed to extension of contracts and task orders remaining open.

Mr. Jagers pointed to production of the annual report, ongoing tasks, and need to create a vehicle to move forward and complete the 2021 work. Mr. Blandon detailed the annual report process and Mr. Jagers added the required report submission dates.

Following discussion of upcoming work and the RFP process, the majority of the Committee concurred on extension of the contract. Mr. Jagers pointed out that an amendment will be required for signature, but the document is not yet herewith. Mr. Montoya indicated that he would produce an amendment to come back for Committee approval.

It was moved by Member Ares and seconded by Chair Vela to approve the contract extension with ALDA Inc. through December 31, 2022. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

- D. Discussion Regarding Task Order No. 28 with ALDA Inc. for the Preparation of the 2021 Consolidated Annual Report, Estimate of the Basin Safe Yield, Update of the Groundwater Model, and Associated Consulting Services for 2022

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee approves Task Order No. 28 for a sum not to exceed \$103,600.00 and considers the approval of a 10 percent contingency

Mr. Blandon explained that this is the basic task order as provided each year to prepare the consolidated annual report for 2021, estimate the operating safe yield, and to provide general consulting services during 2022. He reviewed the costs and prior year expenditures, averaging 90 percent of the budget on this task.

The economic impact is \$20,7020 for each Watermaster Committee member, Blandon noted, and addition of the recommended 10 percent contingency would result in a proportionate increase.

Member Hart recommended this item be tabled to the workshop in January; Member Jagers concurred but acknowledged the challenge of submitting the report by the April 1 deadline. Chair Vela pointed out the need for continuing the work.

Member Jorritsma acknowledged the work of ALDA and recommended not delaying the approval for the annual report work. It was moved by Member Hart to approve Task 2 of Task 28 and bring back the remaining items. The motion died for lack of second.

It was moved by Chair Vela and seconded by Member Jorritsma to approve Task Order No. 28 for a sum not to exceed \$103,600.00 and considers the approval of a 10 percent contingency. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

- E. Discussion Regarding Task Order No. 29 with ALDA Inc, for the Installation, Maintenance, and Data Collection of Water Level Monitoring Equipment in 2022

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee approves Task Order No. 29 for a sum not to exceed \$24,975.

Mr. Blandon reviewed the work and announced the availability of two additional wells. The cost represents approximately \$4,995 for each Committee member.

In response to Member Hart, Mr. Blandon explained that data is collected approximately two weeks before each Committee meeting to prepare the report. Other issues are addressed between readings such as equipment needs, he added.

It was moved by Member Jorritsma and seconded by Chair Vela to approve Task Order No. 29 for a sum not to exceed \$24,975. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES:	Hart, Jagggers, Jorritsma, Vela, 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 groundwater storage losses in the basin / Groundwater management
- b. Scope of work and Request for Proposal for a workshop facilitator / consultant
- c. Incidental discharge
- d. Effect of Court ruling on Production vs Extraction Credits
- e. Development of a recycled water policy

IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members

None.

X. Announcements

- a. Tentative special meeting January 5, 2022 at 11 a.m. to address the contract amendment and topics for the workshop
- b. The next regular meeting of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster is scheduled for Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
- c. Future Meeting Dates:
 - i. April 6, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
 - ii. June 1, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
 - iii. August 3, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
 - iv. October 5, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Vela adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Attest:



Daniel Jagers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster