

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 13, 2022**

Meeting Location:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
560 Magnolia Ave.
Beaumont, CA 92223

I. Call to Order

Chair Arturo Vela called the meeting to order at 11:03 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>Davis Armstrong</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Yucaipa Valley Water District</i>	<i>Joe 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:

Cenica Smith, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Robert Rasha, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Lynda Kerney, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Jennifer Ares, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Albert Maldonado
Lance Eckhart, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Larry Smith, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Madeline Chen, Ortega Strategies

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Vela led the pledge.

IV. Public Comments:

None.

V. Consent Calendar

- A. Resolution 2022-04: Authorizing Public Meetings to be Held via Teleconferencing Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and Making Findings and Determinations Regarding Same
- B. Meeting Minutes
 - a. January 5, 2022 Special Meeting
 - b. February 2, 2022 Regular Meeting
 - c. March 10, 2022 Special Meeting
- C. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through March 21, 2022
- E. ALDA Contract Execution

It was moved by Member Jaggars and seconded by Member Hart to approve Consent Calendar items A – C and E.

AYES:	Hart, Jaggars, Armstrong, Vela, Zoba
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None
STATUS:	Motion Approved

Member Jaggars requested to pull Item D for discussion.

- D. A Comparison of Production versus Extraction Credits through February 2022

Member Jaggars noted that at the last BBWM meeting, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District and the San Geronio Pass Water Agency memorialized a transfer of 508 acre-feet between a storage account and an appropriator. He suggested adding a row to the chart to include comment to show such activities. Mr. Blandon agreed, and noted it was the first time ever for this. He requested to be informed about such water transfers.

There was no vote on approval of Item D.

VI. Reports

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

Mr. Blandon advised of a need for replacement equipment and noted that funding has been set aside.

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

No report.

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

Mr. Montoya advised that the memorandum extending ALDA's contract was prepared.

VII. Discussion Items

- A. Alvarado Smith Request for Rate Increase

Recommendation: Discuss and consider approval of an increase in rates for General Counsel Services provided by Alvarado Smith

Chair Vela introduced the item and noted the increase is reasonable.

It was moved by Chair Vela and seconded by Member Jagers to approve the increase in rates for General Counsel Services provided by Alvarado Smith.

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

- B. Finalization of Return Flow Technical Memorandum

Recommendation: Approve the Memorandum

This has been underway for quite some time, Vela reminded. Mr. Tom Harder reported that since 2013, appropriators have been looking at

accounting for return flow. In 2018, engineers were asked to come up with methodology and a draft report was submitted in July 2018. Based on comments received, staff looked at modifications based on potential result from return flow. A revised draft was submitted in May 2021. No comments other than some minor return flow on golf courses were received; therefore, no further changes have been made and the report has been finalized.

Chair Vela said the document is in final form, and suggested it is appropriate to approve unless there are additional comments or suggested revisions.

Vela asked about the application of the Basin Management. He reminded about discussion regarding accounting for return flows in the annual report. Mr. Montoya responded that if a policy is developed for public consideration, then there will have to be a draft and vote on it. For now, the Committee can continue exploring the issue.

It was moved by Member Jaggars and seconded by Member Hart to approve the Return Flow Technical Memorandum.

AYES:	Hart, Jaggars, Armstrong, Vela, Zoba
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None
STATUS:	Motion Approved

C. 2021 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report – Presentation of Draft Report

Recommendation: None. For information purposes only.

Mr. Blandon reviewed the report. There were no resolutions adopted in 2021. He pointed to a new section titled "Recent Opinions related to the Judgement," related to the YVWD filing of two motions to the court, included as Appendix A. He pointed to that the final budget numbers are not yet available.

Blandon emphasized that precipitation has been significantly less than the long-term 100-year average, and has been since 2010. He explained that groundwater production by appropriators in 2021 was 17,904 which is 15.9 percent higher than the 2017-2021 average year. Contributing to the increase production. He pointed to the changing proportions produced by individual appropriators. Total combined production for overliers in 2021 was 2,034 acre-feet (af) which is slightly less than the

five-year average, representing less than one-third of the total production right from the Basin.

Production by overlies continues to decline, Blandon stated, and it stands at 60 percent of what was produced in the early 2000s. He explained the required replenishment of the Basin and the highest producers. None have reached their maximum allowable production, he noted. Over 99 percent of prod by overlies is metered.

Jaggers advised that there may have been imported water to the City of Banning in 2021. Banning will provide the information.

Harder pointed to the operating safe yield and explained groundwater flow trends. There were negative changes throughout the Basin this year due to lower precipitation, an increase in production and a decrease in artificial recharge. He estimated about a 9,500 af negative storage change in the Basin in 2020-2021 and 2,500 af of artificial recharge.

Harder described variances in groundwater levels. Member Zoba requested inclusion of BCVWD Well 29 in contour maps.

Harder explained that every year, the model is being updated to determine the Operating Safe Yield. Harder recommended obtaining monitoring well data from December to improve storage calculations in the Noble Creek area. It has been dry since 2011, Harder said, therefore it is not surprising that the safe yield value is lower than estimated for 2014. He reminded that the long-term safe yield will need to be reevaluated next year, and in response to Member Jaggers asserted that he believes the storage estimates were underestimated for the last three years.

Mr. Blandon introduced the California Department of Public Health Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment database (GAMA), which is a better tool for water quality, however only 2,760 results were obtained statewide. Blandon said he is checking the data.

Blandon discussed water quality and said no state or federal standards were exceeded in 2021.

Mr. Blandon reminded the Committee that a study on groundwater storage loss was conducted in 2018, and recommended development of a policy to account for the losses and for recycled water recharge. He also recommended the development of a protocol to increase accuracy and consistency of data reporting (requesting water meters to be calibrated and provision of documentation).

Mr. Blandon advised that he would produce a final report for approval at the June 1, 2022 meeting. He requested comments by May 13 for inclusion in the final report.

D. Certification of Groundwater and Imported Water Use during Calendar Year 2021

Recommendation: Certify groundwater production, imported water spreading, and change in storage in the Beaumont Groundwater Basin during CY 2021

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Jagers to certify groundwater production, imported water spreading, and change in storage in the Beaumont Groundwater Basin during CY 2021.

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

E. Consideration of a Request for Proposals to Provide Professional Administrative and Technical Support Services to the Beaumont Basin Watermaster

Recommendation: Authorize the release of the Request for Proposals

Member Zoba reviewed the project timeline and requested direction from the Committee. He offered to disseminate the RFP to YVWD's list of consultants, and will add others that are submitted by members of the Committee.

Member Hart concurred that this assistance is needed. He suggested adding a timeline to assure all are on the same page. The City of Beaumont distributes RFPs via Public Purchase, and Hart said he would be happy to fly it there.

Member Jagers indicated there may be another option for delivery of services. Certain tasks could be excluded if there is staff to perform them, Zoba noted. He suggested building upon what is currently done. The individual or consulting firm would augment the engineering consultant staff and make recommendations. The cost for these services would be on a time and materials basis.

Chair Vela asked about the process for proposal evaluations and interviews. Member Zoba suggested that it would be via an open, noticed online meeting, with a target for approval at the June meeting. Member Hart supported the timeline and the points in the RFP. Vela concurred and said points can be fine-tuned based on proposals received.

Jaggers recommended separate evaluation and weighting of costs. A scoring matrix was suggested, and Member Zoba proposed first ranking the proposals 1 – 10, then interviewing the top 5. This would allow all agencies to process individually, but cumulatively come up with a final, Zoba stated.

Proposals will be sent out by the City of Beaumont and will be returned via the portal.

It was moved by Member Hart and seconded by Chair Vela to approve the Request for Proposals to Provide Professional Administrative and Technical Support Services to the Beaumont Basin Watermaster and authorize the release of same.

AYES:	Hart, Jaggers, Armstrong, Vela, Zoba
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None
STATUS:	Motion Approved

F. Independent Accountant's Financial Report of Agreed-Upon Procedures for the Beaumont Basin Watermaster

Recommendation: Receive and file the Independent Accountant's Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2021

Mr. Zoba advised that Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott (RAMS) conducted the independent auditor's review.

It was moved by Member Jaggers and seconded by Member Armstrong to receive and file the Independent Accountant's Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2021.

AYES:	Hart, Jaggers, Armstrong, Vela, Zoba
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None
STATUS:	Motion Approved

G. Consideration of the Watermaster Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23

Recommendation: Approve the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23

Zoba reminded the Committee about the practice of billing out any additional costs via invoice. Next year, he said, the budget may be amended to scale back to define only the administrative costs, but to continue invoicing upon approval, it may be more difficult for members to get a budget number. The change would need to be approved by the Committee, he noted.

Carrying forward in a streamlined administrative budget would be items including the prior approved RFP, legal expenses, and a reserve fund, Zoba explained. Everything else would be issued by task order and invoiced out appropriately.

Zoba recommended approval of the FY 2022-23 budget in its current format with no additional invoices or charges needed at this point in time.

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Armstrong to approve the budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

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

H. Financial Status Report

Recommendation: Presentation only – no action required.

Member Zoba presented the monthly report.

VIII. Topics for Future Meetings

- a. Development of a methodology and policy to account for groundwater storage losses in the basin / Groundwater management
- b. Incidental discharge
- c. Development of a recycled water policy
- d. Development of a return flow accounting policy

IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members

None.

X. Announcements

- a. Special meeting / workshop date: None set.
- b. The next regular meeting of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
- c. Future Meeting Dates:
 - i. August 3, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
 - ii. October 5, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
 - iii. December 7, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Vela adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

Attest:



Daniel Jaggers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster