

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 1, 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>Mark Swanson</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>South Mesa Water Company</i>	<i>David 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:

Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District

Albert Maldonado, BB&K

Larry Smith, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

Ron Duncan

Steve Stuart, Dudek

Madeline Chen, Ortega Strategies

Dan Jagers, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

Robert Rasha, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Vela led the pledge.

IV. Public Comments:

None.

V. Consent Calendar

- A. Resolution 2022-05: 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. April 13, 2022 Regular Meeting
- C. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through May 18, 2022
- D. A Comparison of Production versus Extraction Credits through February 2022
- E. A Comparison of Production versus Extraction Credits through April 2022

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

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

VI. Reports

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

No report.

- 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 he reviewed and commented on the proposed Request for Proposals. He suggested to Mr. Blandon a different title or the list of legal decisions for the prior year.

VII. Discussion Items

A. 2021 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report Draft – Response to Comments

Recommendation: Approve the 2021 Report

Mr. Blandon reported the following comments received:

- *City of Banning: The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency's transfers from the City of Banning and the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD) were conducted in 2021 and should be included in the annual report. This was discussed at the April 13 meeting, and it was agreed to put them in the 2022 report; however due to this request they were included in the 2021 report, resulting in a change to Table 3-8.*
- *Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District: primarily editorial comments regarding consistency of terms, and labeling*
- *Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD): 1) the Watermaster Committee should develop a workflow and methodology for tracking and accounting for the use of overlying water rights and conversion of overlying rights to appropriative rights, and should be included in the annual report. Blandon recommended discussion by the Committee at a future meeting, and 2) YVWD has been providing water for construction of two warehouses on Cherry Valley Boulevard and production that was used is to be reported. Production from August to December was included in the annual report; however, the numbers for June and July were not reported so are not included. The numbers must be incorporated and will result in changes to tables as it impacts the amount of groundwater produced by YVWD as well as the impact on water rights and storage issues. Table 3-1E was corrected with June and July data. Table 3-3B was edited and Table 3-8 was updated. Figures 3-4, 3-5 and 3-6 were updated to include June and July 2021 data.*
- *Legal Counsel Thierry Montoya: Suggested a change of title for Section 1.3.*

Final expenses of 2021 are now available, Blandon reported. During the fiscal year, \$108,982.59 was spent of the approved budget. The budget for FY 2021-22 is \$246,700.

Mr. Swanson requested clarification of the location of the YVWD well used for Calimesa irrigation in Table 3-1E. Blandon will include a figure

depicting the location. Mr. Zoba requested Blandon to refer to the YVWD well site as "I-10 Logistics",.

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Chair Vela to approve the 2021 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report with the stated modifications.

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

- B. Consideration of a Response to Request for Proposals from Dudek to Provide Professional Administrative and Technical Support Services to the Beaumont Basin Watermaster

Recommendation: That the Watermaster enter a contract with Dudek for Professional Administrative and Technical Support Services for a sum of \$87,730 and send invoices to each Watermaster Committee member for 20% of the approved amount

Member Hart reminded the Committee of prior discussion regarding administrative support to the Committee and recommendations. An RFP was posted by the City of Beaumont and went out to numerous individuals. One proposal was received from Dudek in the amount of \$87,730. Should this be approved, the treasurer will invoice Committee members for their respective cost of the item, Hart reported.

Mr. Hart explained that Dudek has a good working knowledge of the region and has worked on various projects in the area.

Mr. Swanson pointed to Dudek's substantial number of disclosures of work in the area and asked if anyone felt there was any conflict of interest.

Mr. Swanson pointed out there seems to be some overlap of technical aspects between this proposal and the Engineering Services RFP in item VII-D. He suggested compiling a list of needs and dividing between administrative and technical to delineate the two RFPs.

Chair Vela asked if any other firms had reached out. Mr. Jagers advised that BCVWD received the proposals, and this was the only one.

Member Hart explained the goal was for provision of administrative services with the ability to engage with technical aspects. He suggested

looking at this as a not-to-exceed budgetary number; selectively implementing tasks and combining with on-call engineering services. He reminded the Committee about the need for a facilitator / administrator who would potentially engage with engineering analyses as needed but also help procure additional work.

Member Zoba related his experience with Dudek and billing. He noted that although it may seem there is some duplication, it is up to the Committee to define. He pointed out that Dudek has much useful information and suggested review of Basin reports and key wells. He agreed this should be an upper limit budget line item with a refined scope to assure there is value.

Chair Vela lamented there were no other proposals and noted the RFP could be re-opened. He concurred about the budget line item and noted the importance of assuring there are no overlapping task items.

Member Armstrong stated Dudek did a good job in the Yucaipa Basin, but he would have liked to see another bid, and agreed with re-opening the RFP. Member Hart said it was seen by several firms and he was not sure re-opening would yield more proposals.

Chair Vela invited public comment. There was none.

Member Zoba posited that it is time for a fresh assessment of the Watermaster activity. Member Hart offered an amendment to the motion regarding process for task order approval by the Committee. Mr. Montoya advised it could be added to the agreement.

The agreement goes through June 2023 and can be extended, Zoba responded to Chair Vela. Mr. Montoya indicated that whoever receives the agreement should circulate it for comments. Member Zoba recommended Mr. Montoya compose or review the agreement.

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Hart to approve entering a contract with Dudek for Professional Administrative and Technical Support Services for a sum of \$87,730 and sending of invoices to each Watermaster Committee member for 20 percent of the approved amount.

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

C. Draft Groundwater Water Well Level Measuring Procedures and Review of Draft Response Letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board

Recommendation: Approve the Groundwater Water Well Level Measuring Procedures and authorize transmittal of the letter to the RWQCB

Legal Counsel Thierry Montoya pointed to his February 8, 2022 email response to Ms. Jeanne Sabin of the State Water Board answering all her questions. There has been no further contact or request for clarification, he reported. He noted that the email states that a copy of the groundwater monitoring protocols will be sent. If the procedures are accepted, an electronic link can be sent to Ms. Sabin as a follow-up.

Mr. Swanson reminded the Committee that Member Jagers had circulated the draft protocols, but no comments have been received. Once comments are received, BCVWD staff will present the procedures at the August meeting, he noted, and then provide to legal counsel to respond back to State. Chair Vela noted there had been previous discussion.

Member Zoba asked that the subject of technology for well level measurement be addressed. Member Jagers recalled details of the prior discussion and indicated that the document was awaiting a methodology for consistency and to avoid overriding what others are doing, and incorporating movement toward electronic reporting. He requested responses as to agencies' comfort level with the approach and achievement of consistency across facilities, and whether there were other considerations.

Member Zoba requested additional time to review, and suggested obtaining input from the SGPWA.

In response to Chair Vela, Mr. Montoya indicated there was no issue with waiting until August to finalize the procedures.

Chair Vela tabled the item.

D. Consideration of a Request for Proposals to Provide Engineering Services to the Beaumont Basin Watermaster

Recommendation: Authorize the release of the Request for Proposals

Member Hart reminded the Board of previous discussion. He noted that it has been a while since the contract for engineering services had been subject to competition and it may be time to send out another RFP. The proposed scope of work is

straightforward and is similar to the original with few modifications, he stated.

Mr. Swanson asked about target date for beginning work and noted that there is a short timeline for receiving proposals. He suggested a later special meeting to review proposals and commented on the grading rubric and process timeline.

Swanson recalled the earlier comment on a few tasks that appear to conflict with the administration contract, and suggested that the not-to-exceed nature of the contract should be able to eliminate that conflict by bringing in a second set of eyes when needed. He noted that one firm should be responsible for the data. He also suggested including the potential for extension of the contract and commented on some RFP details.

Mr. Hart clarified the timeline. He pointed to the scoring summary and indicated the intent for committee discussion of the top few candidates. Multiple firms may be considered as there may be times when additional assistance is needed, he noted. He suggested an initial three-year term with two one-year extensions.

Chair Vela supported advancing the RFP issue date. He suggested that the overlap between the scopes of work could be later refined while this focuses on finding the right firm to submit a proposal. He also noted the advantage of having more than one consultant available.

Mr. Swanson commented on task details and suggested inclusion of the upcoming re-evaluation of the safe yield.

Mr. Montoya confirmed that there is no legal requirement for provision of hard copy proposals. He recommended having a contract term that does not result in amendments to a contract that is several years old: a three-year or five-year term that the Board can extend.

Member Zoba suggested amendments to the scope. He noted that ALDA is under contract for the 2022 Annual Report. Mr. Zoba suggested that the scope include work to prepare the 2023, 2024 and 2025 annual reports, and include work for re-determination of the Safe Yield in 2024. He suggested pushing the deadline to receive proposals to the Fall.

Chair Vela commented on waiting for Dudek under contract to administer this RFP. Mr. Hart commented that he did not want the RFP to slide too much.

After further discussion of the timeline, consensus was to move forward and target October for decision making and December approval. Mr. Zoba indicated interest in seeing the RFP again before issuance. Mr. Jagers pointed out that Dudek may be a respondent to the RFP and would not be able to administer their own contract.

Mr. Montoya recommended reducing the required number of hard copies of the annual report to be submitted. He noted that the consultant will need to hit the ground running in order to meet the April 1 deadline.

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Chair Vela to approve the RFP subject to the clarifications.

AYES:	Hart, Swanson, Armstrong, 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. 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. The next regular meeting of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
- b. Future Meeting Dates:
 - i. October 5, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
 - ii. December 7, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Vela adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Jagers', is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Jagers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster

