

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 3, 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>Dan Jagers</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>South Mesa Water Company</i>	<i>David Armstrong</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:

Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Madeline Blua, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Nyles O'Harra, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Mike Kostelecky, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Mia Preciado, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Lance Eckhart, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Steve Stuart, Dudek
Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Vela led the pledge.

IV. Public Comments:

None.

V. Consent Calendar

A. Resolution 2022-06: 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. June 1, 2022 Regular Meeting

C. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through July 20, 2022

D. A Comparison of Production versus Extraction Credits through June 2022

It was moved by Member Jaggars and seconded by Member Armstrong to approve Consent Calendar items A – D.

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

VI. Reports

A. Report from Engineering Consultant – Hannibal Bandon, ALDA Engineering

Mr. Bandon reported that the annual 2021 Consolidated Engineering Report has been submitted as final. An email link to download the file was sent to committee members.

Bandon reported issues with vandalism at Summit Cemetery. The probe and communications cable were stolen. A couple more cables and transducers are not working properly, and he is working with Ms. Ares to reorder components.

A spreadsheet mistake on Beaumont Cherry Valley Well 2 is being corrected and the new figure will be reported at the next meeting. Chair Vela asked if it would impact the data in the annual report; Mr. Bandon responded that it would have a minor impact on storage as reported

water levels were lower than they should have been. All will be revisited in 2023 when the safe yield review is conducted, he added.

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

No report.

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

Mr. Montoya pointed to the Memoranda included with the agenda packet and said he is working with Dudek to modify their contract proposal. The focus was on tying the work activities to the discreet items in the contract and further tying payment to an amount up to their anticipated budget. He said he also reviewed their standard provisions and they're fine under California law. The agreement was finalized and sent to Mr. Jagers for execution.

Jagers advised it has been executed.

VII. Discussion Items

- A. Introduction to Dudek, and Discussion and Prioritization of Assignments

Recommendation: Direct staff as desired

Chair Vela introduced Steven Stuart of Dudek, newly engaged consultant. Mr. Stuart thanked the Committee and acknowledged the work with Mr. Montoya to adjust the proposal for the work desired.

Chair Vela pointed to the Topics for Future Meetings and indicated that items may be identified based on this discussion.

Member Jagers suggested the role of Dudek will be to move forward some of the projects as an extension of the Watermaster, helping formulate an approach to issues identified and making recommendations.

The Committee tasked Dudek with the following:

- A. *RFP for engineering services. Member Hart said this is intended to be brought back for discussion at the October 5 meeting. It was advertised today, he noted. Chair Vela said it is intended for Dudek to take over the process, working with Member Hart, compiling the proposals, potentially setting up an ad hoc committee, and*

determining how to evaluate the proposals. Jagers suggested each agency add a link to the City of Beaumont's procurement to their respective websites.

- a. Develop / provide a scoring / matrix sheet for each of the Committee members*
 - b. Prepare to make a recommendation for award of contract at the October 5 meeting*
 - c. Determine whether interviews are recommended*
 - d. Call a special meeting if needed*
- B. Groundwater Water Well Level Measuring Procedures. Chair Vela advised that Member Jagers has prepared the draft document and it needs to come back to the Committee for final approval, with incorporation of comments from Member Zoba.*
- C. Procurement policy. Member Hart indicated the project was started but was shelved in favor of the RFP for engineering services. It needs to be finalized in order to move forward.*
- D. Coordinator / Facilitator for future workshops. Chair Vela indicated this was part of the impetus for administrative services. Dudek would either be the coordinator or assist with finding a coordinator to facilitate the various topics that will make up a series of workshops. He suggested preparing a strategy based on meeting minutes or previous agendas. Member Ares indicated she is struggling with the difference between this activity and the role of Dudek; Vela acknowledged the gray area. Member Jagers recollected some history and noted the purpose was to assure there was an approach that was fair to all. A facilitator was considered, then the workshops were stalled, and Dudek was brought in. The intent was to start with that condition to see if Dudek could spur forward movement. It may not need facilitation as much as a straightforward approach offering the opportunity for all to comment, with Dudek putting together a presentation and acting as a go-between with the Committee members and the engineering firm. Vela agreed and suggested a first step would be to summarize the topics of interest and develop a framework of next steps.*
- E. Evaluation of Storage Issues in the Basin. Chair Vela noted this item is related to the Coordinator / Facilitator / Workshop task.*
- F. Recycled Water Policy. Jagers noted that the YVWD meeting agenda included discussion on aquifer storage and recovery wells, and it appears to be the intent of YVWD to recharge recycled water. The policy is of interest to the City and BCVWD, he said.*

Ms. Ares said there are regular meetings on the topic in which Mr. Stuart is welcome to participate to get up to speed.

G. Development of a methodology and policy to account for groundwater storage losses in the basin / groundwater management. Member Jagers advised that there is discussion of what was supposed to be taken out of storage and what the balances are, and it sounds like there is an update to the Well 2 condition that may change the look of storage on the east side of the basin. Tracking this and gaining and understanding will help focus on an approach, Jagers noted. The expectation would be to work with Mr. Blandon and Mr. Harder to move the projects forward this year, and figure out where it is headed in the future.

Member Armstrong noted that he has had a great working relationship with Mr. Stuart and believes he is the right person for the job.

Chair Vela indicated that the other items listed in Topics for Future Meetings are more mid-term objectives and said he would like to see them wrapped up at some point.

Mr. Stuart said that as he becomes more familiar, he will communicate and follow up to move items forward.

Jagers redirected the discussion to the Engineering services RFP. The final date for return of proposals is September 16. Jagers expressed concern with the review and scoring of proposals and recommended consideration of an award of contract at the October 5 meeting, as it will be close to the end of the year and time will be needed for onboarding. Hart assured that is the goal, and Vela agreed. Armstrong reminded that the re-evaluation of the safe yield is due, and Montoya pointed out the annual report is due in April, so the earlier the approval the better. After discussion, a timeline was determined, and tasks enumerated.

VIII. Topics for Future Meetings

- A. Responses to the Request for Proposal for Engineering Services
- B. Draft Groundwater Water Well Level Measuring Procedures
- C. Procurement Policy
- D. Engagement of Coordinator / Facilitator to lead future Workshops
- E. Evaluation of Storage Issues in the Basin (tabled from 12/2/2021 meeting)

- F. Development of a methodology and policy to account for groundwater storage losses in the basin / groundwater management
- G. Incidental discharge
- H. Development of a Recycled Water Policy
- I. Development of a return flow accounting policy

Chair Vela invited public comment. Mr. Lance Eckhart of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) advised that a coordinator / facilitator was a move in the right direction, and this is a formal process for a workshop type of atmosphere in determining the operations of the Basin. "We are all in this together," he stated.

Eckhart pointed to the importance of the evaluation of storage issues, developing an operational range, looking at storage losses and said that SGPWA went through similar discussions with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, of which Dudek was a part. He encouraged the Watermaster Committee to have the discussions and include the SGPWA, and to move forward the importation and storage of water as aggressively as possible. Chair Vela stated that he did not expect the SGPWA not to participate.

IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members

Member Jagers advised that BCVWD is providing some water to the City of Banning via co-owned wells and provided some water to Tukwet Canyon Golf Course while one of their wells was being repaired this past month.

BCVWD has left the big producing Well 29 off since December in an effort to pump down the previous few years' mounds, Jagers indicated. Pumping in the recharge area is being done as much as possible to avoid a mound and move the recharge westerly. This is in preparation for a potential wet year to avoid potential imbalance in the system.

Chair Vela pointed out a vacancy for the City of Banning on the Committee. He said he will submit a resume and request for appointment of Nathan Smith, the City of Banning Deputy Public Works Director and City Engineer to Mr. Montoya.

The City of Banning is working on installing a new well, Well C8 within the Beaumont Basin boundary, north of Wilson, west of Highland Home Road at the southeast boundary within the Antelope development. It is partially grant funded and is awaiting State approval, likely four to six months away from beginning construction, Vela reported.

The City of Banning is also working to reestablish Well M12 which had suffered a catastrophic failure three to four years ago. An RFP is out for well design,

and it could be 12 to 18 months from construction, Vela said. He noted that the City is obtaining water from BCVWD primarily due to the development of this well, and development within the City is the most active it has been in the last 15 years. Part of the project includes an interconnection facility to BCVWD at Meline and Highland Springs which is under construction.

Jaggers reminded that the Watermaster requires new wells to have two monitoring locations, and notification. He suggested the agencies provide a letter to document the plans and said he would have a draft at the October 5 meeting. Member Ares pointed to required notification to Riverside County, also. Vela recognized that an acknowledgement letter from the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) would be needed.

X. Announcements

- a. The next regular meeting of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
- b. Future Meeting Dates:
 - i. December 7, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
 - ii. February 1, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
 - iii. April 5, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Vela adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Attest:



Daniel Jaggers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster