

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 5, 2023**

Meeting Location:

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

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair David Armstrong called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

II. Roll Call

<i>City of Banning</i>		<i>ABSENT</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 Beaumont Basin Watermaster (BBWM).

Thierry Montoya was present as BBWM legal counsel.

Steve Stuart of Dudek was present as BBWM administrator.

Members of the public who registered and / or attended:

Matthew Palavido, Dudek
Nyles O’Harra, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Allison Edmisten, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Mike Kostelecky, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Lance Eckhart, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
John Covington, Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Kevin Walton, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Robert Ybarra, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Mickey Valdivia, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Thaxton Van Belle, City of Beaumont
Cenica Smith, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Evan Ward, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Derek Hoffman, Fennemore

III. Pledge of Allegiance: Vice Chair Armstrong led the pledge.

IV. Public Comments: *Member Jagers advised of an error in the title for Agenda Item F. The recommendation should indicate the amount of \$1,300.*

V. Consent Calendar

Vice Chair Armstrong pulled Item C for discussion upon request of Member Jagers.

A. Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2023 Regular Meeting

B. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through March 22, 2023

It was moved by Member Hart and seconded by Member Jagers to approve Consent Calendar items A and B.

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

C. A Comparison of Production versus Extraction Credits through February 2023

Member Jagers pointed to the report and asked for confirmation on the water transfers. He asked if the report included the transfers from Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District to the City of Banning for January and February. Mr. Blandon explained that said transfer is reported annually in the January report and the adjustment was made at the end of the year; however, staff will be providing the information on a monthly basis moving forward.

Mr. Jagers advised that for January and February, BCVWD's production numbers suggest that about 155.35 acre-feet were transferred. Once that is done, a footnote might be appropriate, he stated.

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Hart to approve Consent Calendar item C.

AYES:	Ares, Armstrong, Hart, Jagers
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Vela
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.

Mr. Harder reported that a data request was sent out on February 1 as part of the safe yield reevaluation and model update. Some data from San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) has been received. The project is at the last step and if there is any information on new wells constructed or pumping tests since 2012 within the model domain that includes the adjudicated area and just outside, it would help inform the model and it would be appreciated in the next couple of weeks.

- C. Report from Administrative Consultant – Steve Stuart, Dudek

Mr. Stuart updated the Committee on information received for the well survey. South Mesa Water Company has responded. He is seeking documentation from a licensed surveyor on survey elevations or well points/ reference points. He will re-send the email as a reminder, then move forward with assessing the information and determining whether to move forward with contracting the services of a licensed surveyor to fill in any data gaps.

Mr. Jagers reported that BCVWD has reached out to a surveyor to perform the work and the cost appears to be reasonable.

Mr. Stuart advised he will be working with Tom Harder and Hannibal Blandon to put together an agenda for a July workshop, for committee review at the June meeting and in time for public notice / invitation. The workshop would focus on storage issues in the basin and looking at possibilities in enhancement of management of the basin such as establishing management zones.

Mr. Jagers asked that the overlayers be invited to the workshop and indicated he would share the List of Interested Parties.

D. Report from Legal Counsel – Thierry Montoya - Frost, Brown, Todd

Mr. Montoya reported receipt of a Public Records Act request from West Yost seeking records that Mr. Harder likely retains. This is agendaized as Item VII – F as it will take work to pull the records and Mr. Harder should be compensated for the effort.

Item VII – C is a request from Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District to transfer some amount of water rights formerly owned by Sunny Cal / Danny Thomas Ranch, and there is some clarification on the issue.

South Mesa Water Company has an alternate candidate, Montoya announced, and Mr. Armstrong introduced Brittany Lim who is the SMWC alternate on the Yucaipa SGMA.

VII. Discussion Items

A. Certification of Groundwater Production, Imported Water Spreading, and Change in Storage in the Beaumont Groundwater Basin during Calendar Year 2022.

Recommendation: Certify groundwater production, imported water spreading, and change in storage in the Beaumont Groundwater Basin during CY 2022.

Member Jagers reminded that upload of the data was required by April 1 and BCVWD has done so.

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Ares to certify groundwater production, imported water spreading, and change in storage in the Beaumont Groundwater Basin during CY 2022 and approved by the following vote:

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

B. 2022 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report – Presentation of Draft Report

Recommendation: Presentation only. No action required.

Mr. Anibal Blandon of ALDA Engineering presented the draft consolidated annual report. He highlighted the following components:

- *Nine resolutions were adopted by the BBWM in 2022; eight of them were for authorizing public meetings to be held in person and via teleconference.*
- *Resolution 2022-09 amending Section 3 of the Rules and Regulations*
- *No legal rulings related to the Judgment in 2022*
- *FY 2023 approved budget is \$246,800; expenses in 2021 and 2022 were approximately \$110,000*
- *Historical precipitation from 1998 to 2022 averaged 13.4 inches, significantly lower than the 100-year average of 16.68 inches*
- *In 2022, precipitation was only 6.79 inches, the second lowest ever*
- *Groundwater production by appropriators in 2022 was 17,345 acre-feet, about 900 af higher than the five-year average*
- *Overliers are on a slight upward trend and produced a total of 2,135 af in 2022 which was higher than the five year average of 2,001 af but less than the production right of 6,517 af*
- *The highest use overlayers are Sharondale Mesa HOA, Cal Oak Valley Golf and Resort, Plantation on the Lake, and Tukwet Canyon Golf Club. None of the overlayers are at risk of pumping more than their allocations*
- *Imported water spreading in 2022 totaled 1,811 af, mostly by BCVWD*
- *Overall, since 2003, 127,000 af have been spread primarily by BCVWD and the City of Banning*
- *City of Beaumont treated wastewater discharges were 14 percent lower than the peak in 2020*
- *In 2022, there were no transfers of water between appropriators*
- *Conversion of underproduction to 2022 credit totals 4,296 af*
- *A total of 183.05 af have been permanently transferred from Oak Valley Partners to YVWD*
- *In 2022, 11,055 af were produced from storage (which is an accounting number)*
- *Overall, 290,000 af were allocated to storage, of which only 96,000 remain in storage at the end of 2022*
- *Underproduction by overlayers to be allocated to appropriators in 2027 totals 4,382 af*

Members commented on the record rainfall so far in 2023 and lower anticipated production for the year.

Mr. Tom Harder discussed the 2022 operating safe yield. He described the hydrogeology and potential Basin management zones, and decline in groundwater levels from December 2021 to December 2022. He noted a year-to-year decline in storage of about 10,600 af which matches precipitation conditions and increased pumping.

Member Jagers observed that BCVWD did not pump Well 29 at all in 2022 in an attempt to balance the Basin and pump down the mound created in 2017-2019. He also noted it would be interesting to see the effects of a lot of grading activities in the area of Calimesa and Fairway Canyon on water recharge.

Mr. Harder reported long term declines in groundwater levels at several wells and advised that the Singleton Ranch well has been destroyed.

Annual operating safe yield is based on production, change in storage, and groundwater recharge (normally 11,000 to 12,000 af), Harder explained. Imported water deliveries in 2022 totaled only 1,800 af, he stated, and the operating safe yield for 2022 was around 7,000 af, contrasted with 7,900 in 2021. The long-term safe yield per the previous estimate using the model was 6,700 af.

In response to comment by Member Jagers, Mr. Harder noted that the plan to survey groundwater reference point elevations was based on a number of issues with some of the monitoring wells that affected the change in storage. Some of the previous years' operating safe yield numbers are not as reliable, he added. The model and long-term safe yield will be updated, he advised.

When the water table is drawn down, water that would otherwise have left the Basin is captured, Harder continued, which may be why the operating safe yield is higher than it had been. When water is mounding, safe yield can go down, he added.

Member Jagers expressed hope that the safe yield would increase.

Member Armstrong asked if the management zones would affect storage accounts. Mr. Harder explained all would have to add up to the whole; it is just a matter of managing different areas differently.

Member Jagers reported that it has been observed that high groundwater based on this year's wetness is now percolating in areas via artesian flows in the southwest portion of the Basin.

Mr. Blandon presented the data on water quality and offered the following recommendations:

- Develop policy to account for groundwater storage losses, new yield, and recycled water recharge (carried for several years, hopefully to be addressed at a workshop in July)*
- Develop protocol to increase accuracy and consistency of data reporting*
- Implement a meter maintenance program to reflect accurate production*

- *File final Annual Report with the Court in June once approved*

Mr. Blandon requested comments by Friday, May 12 in order to be addressed at the June 7 meeting. Comments will be included as an Appendix to the Final Report.

C. Transfer of Water Rights to Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District

Recommendation: No recommendation

Mr. Stuart advised that via donation from a developer, the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District (BCVRPD) is acquiring six parcels formerly collectively known as the Sunny Cal North on the 2006-02 resolution. At the time, the Sunny Cal Egg and Poultry Company transferred 300 acre-feet per year of water rights to Sunny Cal North. After the 2013 revision of the safe yield that number became 232.4 af per year, which is acknowledged in the letter. He also acknowledged that the area of the Sunny Cal North property is 123 acres, which includes the 122 acres of Sunny Cal North plus one acre of the I-10 Logistics.

The numbers check out, Stuart reported. He requested more time to investigate the supporting documents and deeds which note that portions of the parcels are not part of Sunny Cal North.

Legal Counsel Montoya advised that there is still uncertainty and when approved, it should be done by resolution as has been in the past. The resolution will include an explanation of transfer, identify the APNs and the amount of water that is transferred from who to whom. He emphasized the need to create a clear public record.

Vice Chair Armstrong tabled the item to be brought back as a resolution at the June meeting. Mr. Jagers recommended assuring alignment with the adjusted safe yield.

D. Update on Well Survey Project and Request for Proposals for Licensed Surveyors to Survey Wells in the Beaumont Basin Monitoring Network

Recommendation: No recommendation.

Vice Chair Armstrong reminded the Committee of previous discussion.

Mr. Stuart indicated he is seeking more information from YVWD, BCVWD, City of Beaumont, and City of Banning.

If data is needed from City of Beaumont wells, they can be included in the BCVWD survey, Mr. Jaggars noted.

E. Development of Data Management System

Recommendation: Consider the proposal from Dudek to develop a GIS-based Data Management System for the Beaumont Basin

Mr. Matthew Palavido of Dudek demonstrated a web-based application consisting of a GIS / map-based interface for information on wells.

Member Jaggars reminded that the five BBWM members will share the costs of approximately \$9,179 each plus ongoing maintenance costs of \$13,695 annually. There are no escalators, Mr. Palavido noted. Most of the annual cost is for the ESRI licensing, which is typically escalated every five years or so and ESRI just escalated their licensing fee this year.

Members discussed taking this item to their Boards. It will be brought back again when the City of Banning is in attendance.

F. Approval of Expenditures related to Public Records Act Request

Recommendation: Approve the expenditure of \$1,300 to Thomas Harder & Company to prepare and furnish public records to the Santa Ana River Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA)

Member Jaggars explained that some records may not be readily available and suggested discussion of preauthorization of a not-to-exceed amount to facilitate timely response to PRA requests. Mr. Harder indicated that would be helpful and said he could produce the requested records in about one week.

This request is related to the reassessment of SAWPA's groundwater activities, Jaggars continued. Member Hart questioned the designation of a PRA request and said if it is not, then the requester should be footing the bill for the efforts required.

Mr. Harder explained the content of the request for groundwater levels, which will take some effort to put together but is not significant. Mr. Jaggars recommended the shortest path to provide the information in support of SAWPA's groundwater management monitoring activity and in the spirit of cooperation.

Counsel Montoya clarified that SAWPA is entitled to the documents, and this is a question of reimbursement of Mr. Harder's time. Mr. Hart indicated support.

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Hart to approve the expenditure of \$1,300 to Thomas Harder & Co. to prepare and furnish public records to the Santa Ana River Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) and was approved by the following vote:

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

Mr. Harder will send out the requested information.

VIII. Topics for Future Meetings

- A. Monitoring of future west side well sites and methodologies, and potential collaboration with USGS
- B. Procurement Policy including thresholds for RFP process
- C. Evaluation of Storage Issues in the Basin (tabled from 12/2/2021 meeting)
- D. Development of a methodology and policy to account for groundwater storage losses in the basin / groundwater management
- E. Incidental discharge
- F. Development of a Recycled Water Policy
- G. 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 June 7, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
- b. Future Meeting Dates:
 - i. August 2, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
 - ii. October 4, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
 - iii. December 6, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

Vice Chair Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

Attest:



Daniel Jagers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster