

**Record of the Minutes of the  
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the  
Beaumont Basin Watermaster  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, June 5, 2024**

**Meeting Location:**

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

**I. Call to Order**

*Chair Art Vela called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.*

**II. Roll Call**

<i>City of Banning</i>	<i>Art Vela</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>City of Beaumont</i>	<i>Robert Vestal</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>Joseph Zoba</i>	<i>Present</i>

*Hanibal Blandon was present as engineer for the Beaumont Basin Watermaster (BBWM).*

*Thomas Harder was present as hydrogeologist for 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:*

Jennifer Ares, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Madeline Blua, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Erin Anton, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Mike Kostelecky, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Erin Anton, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Allison Edmisten, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Brittany Lim, South Mesa Water Company  
Lance Eckhart, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency  
Matt Howard, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency  
Ron Duncan, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency  
Kevin Walton, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency  
Larry Smith, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency  
James Bean, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District  
Evan Ward, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District  
Khalid Sebai, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District  
Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District  
Robert Rasha, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

John Covington  
Thaxton van Belle, City of Beaumont  
Dustin Christensen, City of Beaumont

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Public Comments:** None.

**V. Consent Calendar**

- A. Meeting Minutes (note the April 3 meeting was cancelled)
  - a. April 17, 2024 Special Meeting
- B. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through May 20, 2024
- C. A Comparison of Production Rights versus Production through April 2024

*It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Armstrong to approve Consent Calendar items A, B and C.*

AYES:	Armstrong, Jagers, Vela, Vestal, 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  
*No report.*
- C. Report from Administrative Consultant – Steve Stuart, Dudek – *Mr. Stuart provided an update that YVWD and BCVWD provided surveying results for their respective wells in the Beaumont Basin. This information will be incorporated into the Beaumont Basin Data Management System (DMS). Mr. Stuart also provided an update on the development of the DMS and reminded the Committee members that, on March 6, Mr. Palavido provided them with login information to access and test the DMS site. Mr. Stuart requested feedback from the Committee members by the end of June. After that, Mr. Palavido will provide documentation to the Committee members instructing them how to input data into the DMS.*

- D. Report from Legal Counsel – Thierry Montoya – Frost, Brown, Todd  
*No report (Mr. Montoya was not present/online at this time to provide a report).*
- E. Report from BBWM Treasurer – Joe Zoba – Financial Status Report  
*Mr. Zoba directed the Committee’s attention to page 29 that listed task orders that will be closing at end of this fiscal year where unspent funds will be returned back to an account(s) for those that participated in the task orders.*

**VII. Discussion Items**

A. Consideration of the Watermaster Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25

Recommendation: Approve the Budget as presented and invoice each committee member accordingly.

*Mr. Zoba noted that the way the Watermaster works is any time that an item is approved by the participating members they share the cost. This fiscal budget includes administrative items, including bank fees, the annual audit and legal expenses, which come out of this budget. The budget is \$29,675. If this is approved, then each agency will share in the administrative cost.*

*It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Jagers to approve Budget.*

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

B. 2023 Consolidated Annual and Engineering Report

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee Considers Approving the 2023 Annual Report after Comments Received on the Draft Report are presented and Discussed.

*Mr. Blandon presented a summary of comments received on the draft report. The Watermaster had a previous discussion about reporting in calendar year vs. reporting to the State for the water year. A new section was created in the annual report titled, "Certification of Groundwater Production and Imported Water Use during Water Year 2023". Imported water deliveries documented in Table 3-10 of the annual report, but discrepancy in SGPWA delivered based on Point of Delivery vs. Retail*

*Agencies. Change in Storage documented in new figure, 3-17. Change in storage from October 2022 to October 2023 is 3,643 acre-feet.*

*Mr. Jagers pointed out that SGPWA delivered water to their storage account, and then BCVWD purchased that amount. This transaction could explain the discrepancy between the SGPWA deliveries.*

*Comments received by BCVWD and City of Banning; no comments received by City of Beaumont, South Mesa, and YVWD.*

*Main concern by BCVWD was the absence of documentation of water services provided by YVWD to specific parcels as a result of the OVP transfers. Mr. Jagers noted that the Committee approved previously that water service would be reported parcel by parcel on an annual basis. This is reflected in the proposed revisions to the rules and Regulations. Mr. Jagers is not disputing the overall transfer.*

[Note that Legal joined at 11:13 a.m.]

*Mr. Blandon requested clarification from the Committee on how to report the OVP transfers of 478.25 acre-feet to YVWD to finalize the annual report. Mr. Jagers noted that there was no submittal of data on parcels receiving water service from YVWD. Mr. Jagers thought that an accounting of parcels served should be provided, even if the service was below the amount previously transferred. BCVWD's comments included two questions: (1) are we following this format moving through time? and (2) are we reflecting it in this report? Mr. Jagers proposed that the report be amended to include 2023 conversions to parcels that received service from YVWD and report a total aggregate of parcels served to date. Mr. Zoba noted that the annual report documents conditions in the basin for the year, including transfers from Overlyers to Appropriators. There was no transfer of Overlying Water Right from OVP to YVWD in 2023, and so the 2023 report being silent on that is reflective of this. To satisfy Mr. Jagers' concern, Mr. Zoba proposed that the 2023 annual report include a statement that confirms no additional Overlying Water Right was transferred to YVWD from OVP in 2023.*

*Mr. Jagers proposed to approve the draft report as noted with the additional comments proposed by Mr. Zoba.*

*Public comments: Lance Eckhart, general manager of SGPWA, noted that the report stated there was a lack of monitoring data at the intersection of Brookside and Beaumont Ave., and that SGPWA is recharging a lot of water there this year. SGPWA would like to work with the Watermaster to add some monitoring sites in that area. Mr. Jagers noted that BCVWD is looking into the possibility of installing a production well in the northwest corner of Noble Creek Recharge*

*Facility and asked Mr. Eckhart if that well would also serve for monitoring purposes. Mr. Eckhart reiterated that SGPWA is willing to work with the Watermaster to address the data gap as more imported water is brought into the area.*

*It was moved by Member Jaggars and seconded by Member Armstrong to approve the annual report by including the additional statements.*

<b>AYES:</b>	Armstrong, Jaggars, Vela, Vestal, Zoba
<b>NOES:</b>	None
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	None
<b>STATUS:</b>	Motion Approved

### C. Update on the Safe Yield Reset of the Beaumont Basin

Recommendation: for information and discussion

*Thomas Harder presented an update on the Safe Yield Redetermination for the Beaumont Basin. Mr. Harder noted that the Safe Yield is to be redetermined every 10 years per the Judgement. Originally, the Safe Yield was 8,650 acre-feet per year (AFY). A redetermination in 2013 defined the Safe Yield at 6,700 AFY. Safe Yield is being redetermined in 2023 for the next 10-year period. Thomas Harder & Company (TH&C) performed an uncertainty analysis by looking at different combinations of parameters in the basin and analyzed multiple realizations. This gave a range of Safe Yield estimates for the basin. Based on that range and plotting the estimates on a probability plot, the 50% probability was 7,100 AFY. TH&C recommends that the Safe Yield be adjusted to 7,100 AFY for the next 10-year period. Mr. Harder stated that they are looking forward to any input from the Committee on the technical memo and results of the Safe Yield redetermination at their earliest convenience.*

*Mr. Zoba requested that TH&C include a table in the report that summarizes how the Overlying Water Rights are affected by the change in the Safe Yield. Mr. Vela asked Mr. Montoya where does the Court action to apply this to the Judgment take affect? Perhaps this remains in draft form until the Court takes action? Mr. Montoya recommended the draft should remain in draft form for the time being. Mr. Jaggars noted that the draft report should be shared with the Overlyers for their review before the Watermaster Committee approves and adopts the change in Safe Yield. Mr. Zoba noted that the Judgement only requires that the Watermaster adopts the redetermination of the Safe Yield and files it with the Court. The Judgement does not require the Court to approve the redetermination of the Safe Yield. Mr. Montoya concurred that the redetermination only be filed with the Court, but supported Mr. Jaggars' recommendation to disseminate the draft*

*report to the Overlyers before filing. Mr. Jagers recommended defining a period of review and comments by the Overlyers before the Watermaster files the report. Mr. Vela concurred with a 45-day review period.*

*Public Comments: Mr. Eckhart noted in Section 3.3 in the report on imported water forecast and highlighted other sources of imported water outside the Table A allocations and that there could be other potential sources like Sites. Mr. Eckhart wanted to make sure the Watermaster was aware that the regional water portfolio is larger than the Table A allotment and that the Watermaster has a complete picture of the available imported water supply. Mr. Harder noted that they identified imported water supplies that they were aware of in the report.*

*Mr. Harder will revise the draft report per comments by the Committee today, including a new table summarizing the changes in the Overlying Water Rights as a result of the redetermination of the Safe Yield. Mr. Harder will turn around the revised draft to the Committee members in time to discuss by the August meeting.*

#### D. Update on Revising the BBWM Rules and Regulations

Recommendation: for information and discussion

*Mr. Stuart presented an update on revising the Rules and Regulations. Two versions of the recommended revisions to the Rules and Regulations: a red-lined version showing the edits, and a clean version with the recommended changes incorporated into the Rules and Regulations. New definitions added to the Rules and Regulations: "Storage Account" and "Storage Party".*

*Regarding Section 2.13, Interventions, last sentence reads, "Interveners shall have no water rights under the Judgement (unless acquired from an Appropriator Party)." No mention of this in the Judgement. Does this last question still apply? Mr. Montoya replied that there is no reason to have that last sentence in the Rules and Regulations. The stipulated Judgement deals with the rights of parties that have claims to water rights to the basin. An intervener, an unidentified third party, if they want to make any claim the burden is entirely upon the intervener to file a motion to intervene with the Court. Mr. Vela concurred with Mr. Montoya to remove the last sentence. Mr. Zoba suggested to remove the entire section on intervention. Mr. Montoya suggested that the Rules and Regulations say as little as possible on intervention. Mr. Jagers requested time to review the Judgement before making a final decision, but concurs with striking out the last sentence.*

*Mr. Stuart noted that the last sentence in Section 4.3 on Losses or Spills from the basin reads, "Supplemental Water stored pursuant to Groundwater Storage Agreements shall be lost prior to Basin water (i.e.,*

*unused operating safe yield) held in Storage by a Party to the Judgement.” Mr. Stuart inquired if this statement referred to the physical loss of water at these boundaries of the basin, and if that is the case then we need to know where the Stored Water was introduced to the basin as recharge and the migration of that water to the boundaries of the basin. Mr. Stuart asked the Committee members if his interpretation of this sentence is correct, or do we want to strike this sentence from the Rules and Regulations? Mr. Jagers noted that the agencies work to store water and build up their respective storage accounts, and that when we start looking at how we aggregate losses he is concerned that we start differentiating and striking the last sentence is probably best because it allows us to work together for the maximum health of the basin. Mr. Zoba stated that we should understand losses from the basin. We have a great model, so let’s get some information in front of us and see what water molecules are leaving the basin and make an educated decision on this topic. Mr. Zoba suggested that the language not be stricken but remain. Mr. Vela concurred with Mr. Zoba with using the model to help develop and implement a policy on water losses. Mr. Jagers noted that the basin has always had losses, and would be interested in knowing what the losses were at the time of the Judgement and to differentiate between current losses to historical losses. Mr. Stuart mentioned that he will leave the sentence as it is, but will work with Mr. Harder on simulations with particles to see what the travel time is from the spreading basins to the basin boundaries.*

*Mr. Stuart posed a question on the definition of “Stored Water” in the Judgement, which reads, “means Supplemental Water stored in the Beaumont Basin pursuant to a Groundwater Storage Agreement with the Watermaster.” Should “Stored Water” include New Yield Water? New Yield Water is created through the actions of a project and will add a new yield that is accessible to the Party that created that New Yield. This will allow New Yield Water to be identified as a source of water in a Groundwater Storage Agreement, to which the Party creating the New Yield will have a Storage Account to account for that New Yield, and will be available for recapture, transfers, etc. Mr. Jagers noted that we all will be looking at developing other sources of water and is a proponent for analyzing everything. Mr. Vela doesn’t mind adding New Yield to the definition.*

*Mr. Stuart, in reviewing the Rules and Regulations and documenting recommended revisions, realized that the Watermaster Forms will need updating and/or revisions. In particular, Forms 7 and 8 appear to be asking the same thing. We are not differentiating sources of water, and so Form 7 doesn’t seem needed anymore. Recommend striking Form 7 and just use Form 8 to document the transfer of water between Appropriators. Mr. Vela noted from an administrative perspective that there has been so much discussion on Form 7 activities and would hate to have a new Form 7 that is completely different and whether we vacate Form 7 and move on to a new Form 9. Mr. Stuart reiterated that at this time he is looking for feedback*

*from the Committee members, including feedback on how to proceed with the Form 7. Mr. Jagers noted that we have resolutions in place that track along some of these things, that if we are going to tie it all up we have to go back and pick all these up and handle it holistically.*

*Mr. Stuart provided a timeline for receiving comments from the Committee on the recommended revisions. Mr. Stuart will address any comments at the July 10 and August 7 meetings. Goal is to finalize the revisions by the end of 2024. Mr. Jagers requested that Mr. Stuart provide digital copies of the Watermaster Forms that he is reviewing to the Committee members in the next week or two so that all members are reviewing the same documents.*

*Mr. Stuart referred back to the discussion on the transfer of Overlying Water Right from Oak Valley Partners to YVWD. The Rules and Regulations were revised to reflect the policy on documenting such transfers. Mr. Stuart reminded the Committee that one Form 5 was received and filed, which was dated in 2018, and in that Form 5 OVP agreed to transfer all of its Overlying Water Right to YVWD. As parcels are being developed and water service is brought to these parcels, the Committee agreed that YVWD would provide annually the amount of water that was served, a map showing the parcels that were served, and a table listing the parcels as they are defined today and their correlating APN at the time of the Judgement. Then, whenever the service exceeds the amount of water already transferred, YVWD would file the information documenting the water service. Mr. Stuart presumed that YVWD did not serve more than 478 AF in 2023, and so no documentation was required since no transfer was done. Only when the water service exceeds the amount already transferred, then documentation is required to note the transfer.*

*Public Comments: Mr. Eckhart noted that Section 4.3 is concerning with the statement that Supplemental Water is lost before Basin Water. Mr. Eckhart referred to the period of temporary surplus when a hole was developed to create space for imported water. Mr. Eckhart doesn't see how imported water that was brought in for that created storage could be lost first. In addition, the Basin losses could be considered an upstream obligation to a downstream basin. When thinking about basin losses to the east, coordination with the GSA to the east should be done as consideration in determining losses from the Basin. Mr. Eckhart addressed data gaps and looking to install monitoring wells in the area where there is active recharge via spreading basins. SGPWA is looking to install monitoring wells at the eastern boundary of the Basin to fill in the data gap there. Mr. Eckhart suggested that the Watermaster walk through these recommended changes at a paced, deliberative manner along with workshops to fully vet how these rules may affect the basin and the various entities to holistically manage supplies. Mr. Eckhart doesn't recommend the Watermaster adopt*

*full scale changes to the Rules without going through a transparent process that works through the issues with the region's water managers.*

E. Analysis of Future Hydrogeologic Scenarios Using the Model

Recommendation: for information and discussion

*Mr. Harder noted from previous special meetings the discussion on undesirable results in the Basin and what those may look like. Mr. Harder presented a proposal, for discussion only, for three scenarios to be evaluated against a baseline which was included in the Safe Yield analysis. Scenario 1 is a worst case scenario, a very, very dry scenario and includes assumptions for Overlyer and Appropriator pumping, plus injection of water by YVWD; scenario 2 would be an intermediate not as dry scenario; and scenario 3 less drier. Mr. Harder is requesting feedback from the Committee on running the simulations as proposed. Ideas for output may be looking at losses from the Basin, and what if Sites Reservoir water was available as an imported water supply. Mr. Harder suggested the Committee address this topic again at the July Special Meeting.*

*Public Comment: Mr. Eckhart wanted to make sure that all projects to increase artificial recharge to the Basin be considered in these scenarios. Mr. Eckhart pointed out that DWR's delivery capability report lays out the estimated water supply for the region. This is the foundation for imported supplies for SGPWA and is our realistic scenario.*

F. Consideration of Amendment to Task Order No. 4 for Preparation and Attendance at Special Committee Meetings

Recommendation: Approve an amendment to Task Order No. 4 for a sum not-to-exceed \$12,825.00.

*Mr. Harder noted that additional three special meetings were approved by the Committee, and so Mr. Harder is requesting additional funds to prepare for and participate in the three additional special meetings.*

*It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Jaggars to approve an amendment to Task Order No. 4 for a sum not-to-exceed \$12,825 by the following vote:*

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

## G. Update on Annual Water Budget Analysis for Proposed Beaumont Basin Study Areas

Recommendation: Presentation only. No action required

*Mr. Harder noted that this is another information item. Mr. Harder acknowledges that the basin is different on the west side compared to the east side. Most of the Overlyer pumping is on the west side of the Basin. We originally looked at the middle fault of the Beaumont Plains Fault zone as the divider between the west and east. By including well BCVWD-24 in the west side of the Basin, this tended to skew the water budget. So, Harder used the fault trace west of the middle trace to be the boundary between the west and east sides of the Basin. Mr. Harder did a water budget for the West Beaumont study area and the East Beaumont study area. Mr. Harder showed the results of a water budget for the west side using the numerical model, which indicated an average annual loss of 789 AFY in storage. This provides an idea of what needs to be done to overcome the losses and make this part of the Basin whole.*

*The average annual change in storage in the east side of the Basin is estimated at a positive 4,396 AFY. These results should help inform on how to manage the Basin. Mr. Zoba inquired about the losses to the east of the Basin, and how we need to account for these losses and that supplemental water may be what's lost prior to native water due to the increased hydraulic gradient caused by recharge in the east side of the Basin. Mr. Jagers inquired about the model drains in the west side of the Basin domain in the narrow alluvial channels between the non-active model "islands". Mr. Harder pointed out that the USGS identified springs in that area of the Basin. TH&C was having some numerical instability in that area, so to stabilize the model they added drains. The drains are a modeling feature that basically takes water out of the model. In this particular case, it's a drain return. It takes water out of the model and dumps it back into the channel. Mr. Jagers asked if the water is returned back to the basin. Mr. Harder responded that no, the water is returned out of the basin.*

**VIII. Topics for Future Meetings**

	Item	Date Listed
A	Development of a Recycled Water Policy	3/27/2019
B	Development of a return flow accounting policy	3/27/2019
C	Development of a methodology and policy to account for groundwater storage losses in the basin / groundwater management	3/27/2019
D	Procurement Policy including thresholds for RFP process	8/17/2021
E	Incidental discharge	10/6/2021
F	Monitoring of future west side well sites and methodologies, and potential collaboration with USGS	10/5/2022
G	Discussion on what to do when an Appropriator goes negative	10/4/2023 and 11/1/2023
H	Development of a Policy to Document and Account for Emergency Potable Water Transfers from Appropriator to Overlying Party	4/17/24 (tabled)

**IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members:** None.

**X. Announcements**

2024 Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, July 10 at 11 a.m.	Special Meeting
Wednesday, August 7 at 11 a.m.	Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 4 at 11 a.m.	Special Meeting
Wednesday, October 2 at 11 a.m.	Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 4 at 11 a.m.	Regular Meeting

**XI. Adjournment**

*Chair Vela adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.*

Attest:



\_\_\_\_\_  
 Daniel Jagers, Secretary  
 Beaumont Basin Watermaster