

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Special Meeting
Wednesday, September 4, 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 11:00 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>Absent</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
Beaumont Basin Watermaster (BBWM).*

Steve Stuart, Dudek, BBWM administrator

Thierry Montoya, BBWM legal counsel

Members of the public who registered and / or attended:

David Armstrong, South Mesa Water Company
Ron Duncan, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Kevin Walton, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Lance Eckhart, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Mickey Valdivia, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Jennifer Ares, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Mike Kostelecky, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Matt Porras, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Nyles O’Harra, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Dustin Christiansen, City of Beaumont
Alison Edmisten, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Thaxton Van Belle, City of Beaumont
Larry Smith, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Matthew Palavido, Dudek
Jim Van de Water, Thomas Harder & Co.
Robert Rasha, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Lynda Kerney, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
James Bean, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

III. Pledge of Allegiance: Chair Vela led the pledge.

IV. Public Comments: None.

V. Workshop / Discussion Items

- A. Update on Distribution of Safe Yield Redetermination Technical Report to Overliers

Member Jagers indicated that staff had worked to verify and update the List of Overliers and Interested Parties. On or about August 26-27, a total of 44 communications were sent via email or regular mail. Comments were requested by September 16 and will be forwarded to the consultant.

- B. Update on New U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Monitoring Wells in Coordination with the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA)

Steve Stuart of Dudek described the proposed monitoring sites. USGS would finalize the locations and install equipment in the second or third quarter of 2025. Chair Vela pointed to proposed Location 1 and explained that the City of Banning recently drilled Well C8 .4 miles west. There is no expected interference.

- C. Proposal from Thomas Harder & Co. to Investigate Basin Losses and Evaluate Future Hydrogeologic Scenarios of the Beaumont Basin

Jim Van de Water of Thomas Harder & Co., reminded about prior discussion on stress analysis and loss analysis. So far, the west side and east side of the basin is defined, he said, and pointed to a plausible hydrogeologic issue, and possible limits to how much appropriators can draw from their storage accounts without causing undesirable results.

The Scope of Work (SOW) from Harder hinges on the safe yield reset, Van de Water continued, and will use the existing model. He described the questions to answer, modeling, assumptions, and capability of the model.

Discussion focused on needs from the model / analysis and assurance of accurate data.

Chair Vela asked if one analysis feeds into the other, or if the stress analysis would lead to the loss analysis. Mr. Van de Water said a loss analysis could be done right now using particle tracks, but the model would not consider dry conditions.

Chair Vela asked if the Committee was interested in the project, and whether there should be focus on the loss analysis. Member Jagers

indicated he saw value in the perspective and said an assessment would help understand and create a multi-year strategy.

Lance Eckhart, General Manager of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency, noted that it would be important to reflect the water portfolio; the SOW inputs do not reflect reality. Mr. Eckhart cautioned against a modeling exercise of multiple scenarios that do not reflect the imported water supply. He pointed to the Department of Water Resources State Water Project delivery capability report and described further inputs for consideration in the model.

Member Zoba emphasized identifying what questions are to be answered, such as how have losses increased or decreased over the life of the adjudication. That would lead to a policy on how to manage the losses. What does the Basin look like if storage accounts were depleted, he continued. He described the Basin management actions of YVWD and noted that some of the current Rules are not realistic. Member Zoba recommended reducing the SOW to consider only two or three scenarios for losses and stress analysis and review the results.

Chair Vela cautioned that the SOW could get away and expressed concern about looking like SGMA. It should provide guidance, if anything. Member Zoba emphasized that adjudication of the Basin came about because of potential damages caused by one pumper on another, and stated his concern was whether someone could be damaged by another's activity just by following the rules.

Mr. Eckhart emphasized management strategies and understanding of the Basin. He suggested moving into Basin operation and learning how to operate it effectively. Mr. Stuart added that overlies have a right to the safe yield, and it should be looked at who is most vulnerable to declining water levels and how to protect those users.

Member Jagers recalled that the Watermaster role is to understand strengths and weaknesses and learn how to leverage the Basin. He suggested the possibility of sharing wells and facilities where needed, and negotiating deals to preserve the west side, with actions complementary to preserve the Basin.

Member Zoba recommended putting together five to 10 questions by the next meeting and then choosing two to answer using the model. Chair Vela asked what would be needed for the model to help inform the development of a loss policy. Member Vestal asked if the results of the loss analysis could be obtained to refine the steps for running the stress analysis. The Committee requested the consultant bring back a proposal to tackle the loss question.

D. Proposal to Renew Annual ESRI Subscriptions and Services for the Beaumont Basin Data Management System

Mr. Stuart reminded that development of the Data Management System (DMS) was presented to the Watermaster Committee in June 2023. The proposal included subscribing to ESRI licenses that were good for one year, and those licenses have expired. This proposal is to renew those ESRI licenses for another year and includes labor hours for Dudek personnel to manage the DMS over the next year. Mr. Jagers stated the Watermaster should get annual submittal of the data sets in case the relationship with ESRI expires, and a repository for the activities in case of discontinuation. Chair Vela directed the information be sent to BCVWD as the Recording Secretary, to be made available to all members.

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Jagers to renew the annual ESRI online subscriptions and Dudek support services for the Beaumont Basin Data Management System from August 3, 2024 to August 2, 2025 for a sum of \$15,824.46 and send invoices to each Watermaster Committee member for 20% of the approved amount. Approved by the following vote:

AYES:	Jagers, Vela, Vestal, Zoba
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	South Mesa Water Company
STATUS:	Motion Approved

E. Scheduling of Future Special Meetings

The Committee set the following Special Meeting schedule:

- Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 11 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 11 a.m.

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Zoba to approve the above schedule. Approved by the following vote:

AYES:	Jagers, Vela, Vestal, Zoba
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	South Mesa Water Company
STATUS:	Motion Approved

VI. 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	Discussion on Policy to Document and Account for Emergency Potable Water Transfers from Appropriator to Overlying Party (Tabled from 4/17/24 meeting)	4/17/2024
I	Table to be included in the Safe Yield Technical Memorandum showing the recalculated safe yield allocation to overlayers	9/4/2024

VII. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members:

Chair Vela noted the roundtable / workshop format of this meeting. Attendees advised it was difficult to hear others.

VIII. Announcements

2024/2025 Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, October 2 at 11 a.m.	Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 4 at 11 a.m.	Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 15 at 11 a.m.	Special Meeting
Wednesday, February 5 at 11 a.m.	Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 5 at 11 a.m.	Special Meeting

XI. Adjournment

Chair Vela adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Attest:



Daniel Jagers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster