

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 2, 2024**

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 11:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

<i>City of Banning</i>		<i>Absent</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:

Art Vela, City of Beaumont (via teleconference as a member of the public)

Brittany Lim, South Mesa Water Company

Nyles O’Harra, Yucaipa Valley Water District

Jennifer Ares, Yucaipa Valley Water District

Lance Eckhart, San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Ron Duncan, San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Kevin Walton, San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Larry Smith, San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Jim Van de Water, Thomas Harder & Co.

Matt Ford, Thomas Harder & Co.

Kenyon Potter, City of Beaumont

d.lee

Clay Sorenson, West Yost

Matt Baillie, West Yost

Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

James Bean, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

Robert Rasha, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

Lynda Kerney, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Public Comments: None.

V. Consent Calendar

- A. Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2024 Regular Meeting – as Revised
- B. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through September 16, 2024
- C. A Comparison of Production Rights versus Production through August 2024

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

AYES:	Armstrong, Jagers, Vestal, Zoba
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
No report.
- C. Report from Administrative Consultant – Steve Stuart, Dudek – *At the July 7, 2024 Special Meeting, the Committee approved upload of meeting videos to the website, but the videos are not yet posted. The online data management system is operational, and Committee members are encouraged to log in, browse the site, and provide feedback.*
- D. Report from Legal Counsel – Thierry Montoya – Frost, Brown, Todd
Counsel Montoya reported on response to a Public Records Act request from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

VII. Discussion Items

- A. Update on the Redetermination of the Safe Yield in the Beaumont Basin
Recommendation: For information and discussion

Tom Harder of Thomas Harder & Co. reminded that the Safe Yield had been updated to 7,100 acre-feet (af). Comments were received on the draft report submitted in May and a draft final was resubmitted in July. In August, a table was added indicating how the 7,100 af was to be allocated among the overlayers. The draft was transmitted to the overlayers in August and one comment was addressed. Mr. Stuart requested feedback in order to finalize the document.

Member Jagers advised that BCWVD staff had worked to update the list of overlying parties and interested persons.

This Report will be placed on the December 4, 2024 meeting agenda for approval.

- B. Analysis of Beaumont Basin Storage Losses using the Model

Recommendation: For information and discussion

Tom Harder discussed the analyses presented, scope of work and cost estimates to evaluate significant and unreasonable impacts in the Basin; using the model to stress test the Basin. At the Sept. 4, 2024 Workshop, it was understood that the Committee's direction was to narrow the focus to losses. The scope of work and cost estimate was revised and is in the meeting packet.

Mr. Harder reviewed questions to be answered with the analysis.

- C. Approval of costs and work of Thomas Harder & Co for preparation of data in response to California Public Records Act Request

Recommendation: Approve the proposal from Thomas Harder & Co for preparation of data in response to California Public Records Act Request

Tom Harder explained the request for files from the City of Beaumont related to an analysis of San Timoteo Creek and discharges from the wastewater treatment plant. Thomas Harder & Co. would be happy to provide the data, but Mr. Harder stated that the model is not set up to do what the City is asking, and changes would be needed. It would take some

time to pull those files together. The cost estimate for that work is \$1,300, which is consistent with the previous data request.

Member Jagers moved approval of the request. Second by Member Vestal.

Member Zoba expressed concern that the request is for data that does not apply to the City's likely questions and is outside of the Basin. He also pointed to the implication that the Watermaster blesses whatever analysis is done as it relied on BBWM data, when this is outside the study area. He asked about legal protection of the BBWM and suggested the data was exempt from the PRA as it could be considered in draft form.

Member Jagers suggested a disclaimer from legal counsel may be an additional caveat about the study area.

Counsel Montoya advised limiting documents to those responsive to the request. If the City is asking for something outside of BBWM jurisdiction, there is no obligation to provide it.

Mr. Montoya indicated he was not comfortable producing records of data outside the Basin and will review the response. Documents in draft format are not public records, Montoya advised, and Mr. Harder said it would be final when the BBWM approves the final report.

Vice Chair Armstrong called the question and Member Jagers amended his motion to include review by legal counsel.

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Vestal to approve the proposal from Thomas Harder & Co. for preparation of data in response to California Public Records Act Request.

AYES:	Armstrong, Jagers, Vestal
NOES:	Zoba
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Vela
STATUS:	Motion Approved 3-1-0

D. Discussion on Proposed Revisions to Rules & Regulations
Recommendation: No recommendation

Mr. Stuart presented proposed modifications to the Rules and Regulations.

- Adjustment of overlying water rights as a result of a redetermination of the safe yield, and further adjustment if the overlier transfers a water right to an appropriator*

- *Time for creating a table that summarizes the readjusted overlying water rights due to the redetermination of the safe yield after a 45-day review period, and a 30-day period for the Committee to respond*
- *Negative storage account – should a storage party encounter a negative storage account and what that means for basin management and effect*
- *Accounting for Basin losses*

Mr. Stuart cautioned the Committee to consider the impact of the revisions on management of the basin. These will be addressed in further public meetings.

Mr. Stuart presented a table summarizing overlying water rights and transfers to appropriators. Mr. Jagers clarified that the Oak Valley Partners transfer appears in the footnotes to the table.

VIII. Topics for Future Meetings

Vice Chair Armstrong suggested reviewing these items at the next meeting when Chair Vela is present.

	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

IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members: None.

X. Announcements

2024

Wednesday, December 4 at 11 a.m. Regular Meeting

2025

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

Vice Chair Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Attest:



Daniel Jagers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster