

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 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 11:03 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>

Hannibal 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:

*Brittany Lim, South Mesa Water Company
Allison Edmisten, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Erin Anton, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Jennifer Ares, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Micha Knox, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Brett Granlund, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Ron Duncan, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Matt Ford, Thomas Harder & Co.
Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Carmen Healey, Thomas Harder & Co.
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
 - a. September 4, 2024 Special Meeting
 - b. October 2, 2024 Regular Meeting
- B. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through November 18, 2024
- C. A Comparison of Production Rights versus Production through October 2024

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

AYES:	Armstrong, Jaggars, Vela, Vestal, Zoba
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None
STATUS:	Motion Approved 5-0

VI. Reports

- A. Report from Engineering Consultant – Hannibal Blandon, ALDA Engineering
Mr. Blandon reported that the well probe at Banning M8 is not recording properly. He will visit the site after the meeting.
- B. Report from Hydrogeological Consultant – Thomas Harder, Thomas Harder & Co. (TH&Co)
Mr. Harder reminded that the Water Year began in October 2024. TH&Co has begun looking at groundwater levels and storage change for the required submittals to the Department of Water Resources in April. Storage numbers will be presented at the February meeting to finalize the submittal.
- C. Report from Administrative Consultant – Steve Stuart, Dudek – *Meeting videos going back to June are now available on the BBWM website.*
- D. Report from Legal Counsel – Thierry Montoya – Frost, Brown, Todd
Counsel Montoya reported on response to a Public Records Act request from the City of Beaumont. He advised that the data produced by TH&Co was for the exclusive use of the BBWM and is based on the Basin’s unique characteristics. Therefore, he had prepared a hold harmless agreement so the City of Beaumont would indemnify and hold harmless the BBWM and Mr. Harder as to any claim that the data fails to confirm or support whatever use Beaumont seeks to apply.

Mr. Montoya also reported that he and Steve Stuart examined and modified the draft resolution language applicable to the safe yield determination in terms of when the resolution would become effective, legally and to clarify that safe yield adjustments would be applied, not retroactively, but going forward over the next 10-year, safe calculation.

VII. Discussion Items

- A. Consideration of Thomas Harder & Co. Proposal to Investigate Basin Losses from the Beaumont Basin

Recommendation: Approve the Scope of Work as submitted by Thomas Harder & Co. and expenditure not to exceed \$64,380

Tom Harder of Thomas Harder & Co. reminded the Committee of past discussion and direction on the item. Member Jaggars pointed out a written public comment received from the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) (handout). Mr. Harder assured that Task no. 2 in the Proposal is to coordinate with the SGPWA and he saw no reason to hold it up; the concerns will be addressed as part of the process.

Member Jaggars pointed out the identification of pre-overdraft, post overdraft, and supplemental recharge, along with outflows to the east which can be addressed during the process.

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Jaggars to approve the Scope of Work as submitted by Thomas Harder & Co. and expenditure not to exceed \$64,380.

AYES:	Armstrong, Jaggars, Vela, Vestal, Zoba
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None
STATUS:	Motion Approved 5-0

- B. Update on City of Beaumont Request for Files related to the Beaumont Basin Numerical Model

Recommendation: For information purposes only

Tom Harder noted the earlier report from Legal Counsel Montoya (Item VI-D) and stated the indemnification letter has been sent to the City of Beaumont for signature. The files are compiled and as soon as it is signed, they will be released.

- C. Consideration to Retain Dudek to Provide Professional Administrative and Technical Support Services to the Beaumont Basin Watermaster in Calendar Year 2025

Recommendation: Extend the contract with Dudek for Professional Administrative and Technical Support Services for the 2025 calendar year

Steve Stuart of Dudek presented the proposal for calendar year 2025. This will be the third year of the contract. Chair Vela indicated that the Committee has accomplished more, and the work is appreciated.

It was moved by Member Jaggars and seconded by Member Zoba to approve the extension of the contract with Dudek for Professional Administrative and Technical Support Services for the 2025 calendar year.

AYES: Armstrong, Jaggars, Vela, Vestal, Zoba
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None
STATUS: Motion Approved 5-0

- D. Task Order No. 8: Thomas Harder & Co. Proposal for 2025 Engineering Services and Preparation of the 2024 Annual Report

Recommendation: Approve Task Order No. 8 in an amount not to exceed \$101,930

Mr. Harder presented the proposal for the work for next year to prepare the annual report in conjunction with ALDA. The cost estimate is slightly higher, he explained: the meeting budget was increased due to needed preparation time. Chair Vela noted this amounts to an invoice to each Watermaster member of about \$20,386.

It was moved by Member Jaggars and seconded by Member Zoba to Approve Task Order No. 8 in an amount not to exceed \$101,930 for 2025 engineering services and preparation of the 2024 Annual Report.

AYES: Armstrong, Jaggars, Vela, Vestal, Zoba
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None
STATUS: Motion Approved 5-0

- E. Adoption of Resolution 2024-01 Adopting the Final 2023 Reevaluation of the Beaumont Basin Safe Yield Report and Redetermination of the Safe Yield of the Beaumont Basin, and Authorization for Submittal to the Court

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2024-01 as presented and authorize BBWM legal counsel to submit the Report to the Riverside County Superior Court

Mr. Harder indicated the final safe yield reset report is in the agenda packet and was posted on the website. He pointed out the only change being revision of Appendix D, the table of the allocation of the safe yield to overlayers.

Member Jaggars commented that he reviewed the safe yield and found the graphics and projections of well levels to be interesting and supportive of the Watermaster's management of the Basin. He noted that overall, the Basin appears to be reasonably stable over the last few decades compared to other districts he has seen. Jaggars expressed appreciation for the work done and said it reflects well on the historical and future management of the basin.

It was moved by Member Jaggars and seconded by Member Zoba to Adopt Resolution 2024-01 as presented and authorize BBWM legal counsel to submit the Report to the Riverside County Superior Court.

AYES:	Armstrong, Jaggars, Vela, Vestal, Zoba
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None
STATUS:	Motion Approved 5-0

The Committee heard comments by Mr. Blandon and discussed the possibility of revising the effective date of the Safe Yield. Mr. Montoya confirmed that the Committee had decided it would be effective 2024 moving forward, not retroactive, and advised that was the right decision. The Committee reviewed the 4th "whereas" in the resolution and Mr. Stuart noted the judgment requires only reevaluation of the safe yield every 10 years, and it is now effective today and scheduled to be reevaluated in 2033. The 2023 Annual Report does not need to be revised.

VIII. Topics for Future Meetings

Steve Stuart noted that items A – E were slated to be tackled in the first six months of 2025. Member Zoba suggested open discussion at the next meeting

of items that are or are not moving forward, and whether the committee wants to proceed.

	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 (now in progress)
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:

Chair Vela reported that the City of Banning had hired a new Deputy Water – Wastewater Director and he would likely submit a request to replace the City’s alternate (currently Nathan Smith).

X. Announcements

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

Chair Vela adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Attest:

Daniel Jagers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster