

**Record of the Minutes of the  
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the  
Beaumont Basin Watermaster  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, February 5, 2025**

**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:*

Allison Edmisten, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Erin Anton, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Mike Kostelecky, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Micah Knox, Yucaipa Valley Water District  
Mickey Valdivia, San Geronio Pass Water Agency  
Matt Ford, Thomas Harder & Co.  
Jim Van de Water, Thomas Harder & Co.  
Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District  
Lauren Healey, Thomas Harder & Co.  
Matt Howard, San Geronio Pass Water Agency  
Lance Eckhart, San Geronio Pass Water Agency  
Sarah Wargo, San Geronio Pass Water Agency  
Larry Smith, San Geronio Pass Water Agency  
Kevin Walton, San Geronio Pass Water Agency  
Thaxton Van Belle, City of Beaumont  
Shah Nawaz, City of Banning  
Robert Rasha, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District  
Lynda Kerney, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District  
Sean Walls  
D. Lee

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Public Comments:** None.

**V. Consent Calendar**

A. Meeting Minutes

The Special Meeting slated for January 15, 2025 was cancelled

a. December 4, 2024 Special Meeting

B. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through January 19, 2025

C. A Comparison of Production Rights versus Production through December 2024

*It was moved by Member Jaggars and seconded by Member Zoba 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 there were stuck probes at Banning M-8 and BCVWD 25 wells. He will attend to them after the meeting.*

B. Report from Hydrogeological Consultant – Thomas Harder, Thomas Harder & Co. (THC) – No report.

C. Report from Administrative Consultant – No report.

D. Report from Legal Counsel – Thierry Montoya – Frost, Brown, Todd  
*Counsel Montoya reported that the BBWM was in compliance with the California Public Records Act and had provided the requested data to the City of Beaumont. There is no reason or obligation for the Watermaster to follow up on whether the documents have met the satisfaction of the City or its consultants.*

**VII. Discussion Items**

- A. Reorganization of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee - Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

Recommendation: Either reaffirm the existing officers or conduct nominations for the appointment of new officers of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster

*It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Vela to reaffirm the current slate of officers for 2025:*

<b>Chairperson</b>	Art Vela	City of Banning
<b>Vice Chair</b>	David Armstrong	South Mesa Water Company
<b>Secretary</b>	Dan Jaggars	Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joseph Zoba	Yucaipa Valley Water District

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

*Mr. Montoya had addressed this under Item VI – D, above. Member Jaggars reiterated that the request had been fulfilled, and Member Vestal acknowledged that the information had been received.*

- C. Update on Thomas Harder & Co. (THC) Investigation into Basin Losses

*Mr. Harder reminded the Board of approval at the December meeting to begin the scope of work and reviewed the tasks.*

*Task 1 Quantification of subsurface outflow: Mr. Harder presented a map depicting inflow and outflow of the Basin. Major outflow is on the southeast at Banning, and on the southwest through San Timoteo. The same conditions occur whether or not there are managed recharge conditions in the Basin, the question is how much. He said he will have numbers at the next meeting.*

*Task 2 Develop Imported Water Forecasts: Mr. Harder provided a table of historical annual water deliveries through 2022 and shared an analysis and assumptions for forecasted imported water deliveries. Harder suggested using a greater range in State Water Project allocations in the analyses. He noted that THC met with the San*

*Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) to obtain input and is soliciting further input. The goal is to have scenarios at the March meeting.*

*Member Zoba pointed out the average wet years may be overstated and suggested a frequency analysis to come up with the range, such as 80 to 100 percent of the time, the State Water Project will deliver 70 percent. Mr. Harder said he will consult SGPWA to determine what is the best way to represent the forecast.*

*Committee members provided input and discussed the SGPWA water supply portfolio and data to be included. Mr. Harder acknowledged concern about overestimation of supply when estimating the Safe Yield and requested guidance. He assured the Committee that the data would be vetted and SGPWA would be consulted to develop alternative Imported Water Forecasts, three of which will be presented to the Committee at the March meeting.*

*Lance Eckhart, general manager of SGPWA, noted that everything has changed. The last three years are more indicative of how things will operate in the future. There is a Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency adjacent to the east, and Desert Water Agency (DWA) has asked about the underflow component to the lower desert. SGPWA will need to model and measure outflow and needs to know the underflow input to the San Gorgonio Pass Basin from the Beaumont Basin. He cautioned against misalignment with the other model, and encouraged not rushing in order to be in synch with the other model.*

*Mr. Eckhart also noted the additional water supply sources, meaning that lack of SWP water is as much of a reality moving forward. The management structure is of meeting annual obligations of the BBWM to get it back to zero and get the Basin to the point where there is three to five years of drought storage.*

*Mr. Eckhart also advised of fault lines in the Brookside area, which will affect where recharge water moves in the Basin and how pumping is managed.*

*Banning Heights Mutal Water Company and BCVWD have certain diversion rights that aggregate into the outflows, Jagers noted. He said this likely could have an impact on what is available to each District and recommended making sure DWA and others downstream are not counting water that could be diverted.*

D. Discussion on Proposed Revisions to the BBWM Rules and Regulations

*Mr. Stuart presented the redline document. The intent is to come back in March for consideration of adoption.*

*Stuart identified the sections that could impact the management of the Basin and groundwater resources: negative storage accounts and*

*accounting for Basin losses, which should be thoroughly discussed before inclusion. He noted proposed revisions to the forms.*

*Chair Vela noted the suggestions capture the intent of the Watermaster. Members will submit comments to Mr. Stuart for compilation and presentation at the March meeting.*

E. Update on Development of Water Year Storage Change Estimates for the Beaumont Basin

*Mr. Harder reminded that the Storage Change Estimates are based on the Water Year to align with the SGMA requirements. The report is due on April 1. He presented the draft September 2024 contour map but noted there are several wells for which data has not yet been received. Once that data is received, the information will be presented at the next meeting.*

*Mr. Jaggars confirmed that two or three of the missing wells are golf course wells (Tukwet Canyon) and suggested obtaining the data from the Morongo Tribe. The goal is to get the information by Feb. 12.*

F. Consideration of Proposed Thomas Harder & Co. / Alda Engineering Task Order No. 10 for Groundwater Level Monitoring Services in 2025

*Mr. Harder advised that this contract should have come to the Committee in December but was overlooked. It is for the annual work performed by Alda Engineering to prepare the annual groundwater monitoring and manage the transducers. It is identical to the prior year, he noted.*

It was moved by Member Jaggars and seconded by Member Vela to Approve Task Order No. 10 with Thomas Harder & Co. and scope of services in an amount not to exceed \$28,120 and invoice each member of the Watermaster Committee for 20 percent of the amount payable.

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

G. Evaluation, Discussion, and Determination of Future Agenda Items

Mr. Stuart guided a discussion of the topics, all of which are still relevant. Following thorough discussion, the Topics for Future Meetings table was updated as shown below in Item VIII.

**VIII. Topics for Future Meetings**

	Item	Date Listed
A	Development of a Recycled Water Policy including Incidental Discharge	3/27/2019
B	Development of a return flow accounting policy	3/27/2019
C	Monitoring of future west side well sites and methodologies, and potential collaboration with USGS	10/5/2022
D	Discussion on what to do when an Appropriator goes negative	10/4/2023 and 11/1/2023
E	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
F	Procurement Policy including thresholds for RFP process	8/17/2021

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

**X. Announcements:**

2025 Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, March 5 at 11 a.m.	Special Meeting
Wednesday, April 2 at 11 a.m.	Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 4 at 11 a.m.	Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 6 at 11 a.m.	Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 1 at 11 a.m.	Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 3 at 11 a.m.	Regular Meeting

**XI. Adjournment:** *Chair Vela adjourned the meeting at 12:19 p.m.*

Attest:

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 Daniel Jagers, Secretary  
 Beaumont Basin Watermaster