

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Special Meeting
Wednesday, March 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 11:00 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>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:

Thaxton Van Belle, City of Beaumont
Allison Edmisten, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Erin Anton, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Jennier Ares, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Micha Knox, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Mickey Valdivia, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Lance Eckhart, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Emmett Campbell, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Matt Howard, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Sarah Wargo, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Kevin Walton, San Gorgonio 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.
Yasmeen Nubani
Daniel Slawson, 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. Workshop / Discussion Items

A. Consideration of 2024 Water Year Annual Change in Storage for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Reporting

Recommendation: Approve the October 2023 to September 2024 estimate of the change in groundwater storage

Tom Harder of Thomas Harder & Co. advised the Committee that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requests the change in storage in the Basin for the Water Year, October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 to be submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). He presented the draft analysis.

Mr. Harder described the areas where groundwater levels declined or increased and calculated 312 acre-feet, which is less than had been anticipated. Year over year, the decrease cancels out the increase, he explained.

Chair Vela asked about the increase near the lower Basin, and Mr. Harder theorized that Tukwet Canyon had not been pumping as much as previously. He recalled prior conversation about the drop in levels on the west side.

Member Jagers pointed to the decline around Well 29 and noted the transducer has been out: data has not been recorded. Mr. Blandon indicated manual measurements had been taken. Jagers assured that Well 29 pumping had been managed and said he suspected that first year data may not be indicative of trends over time. Harder expressed confidence, but acknowledged that the data can be counterintuitive, and noted that recharge does not show up in the Basin for a length of time.

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Jagers to approve the October 2023 to September 2024 estimate of the change in groundwater storage.

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

B. Discussion and Consideration of Proposed Scenarios to Evaluate Basin Losses

Mr. Harder provided three scenarios of forecasts for State Water Project (SWP) deliveries.

He explained communication with the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) and the determination to go back to the historic DWR allocations as a basis for wet/dry scenarios. He presented the basis of forecasts of imported water deliveries for 2024 forward, and three preliminary scenarios for Table A water. He noted limitations of the methodology, as the dry year allocation seemed low. In response to a question from Chair Vela, Harder stated he was open to conversation with SGPWA and inclusion of other sources in their water portfolio. SGPWA General Manager Lance Eckhart provided suggestions.

Harder advised that the infiltration rates of the basins offer more than enough capacity. If the detail is desired, it needs to be determined in which of the basins the water would be spread. Mr. Jagers acknowledged the information showed water in some basins but not others, when all are being exercised. Chair Vela asked about the use of basins on the west side and Harder said none were included. The YVWD ASR operation was discussed. Member Zoba stated it would not impact anything. Matthew Ford of THC and Co. indicated the ASR wells are included in the model beginning in 2026.

Member Jagers noted that the water supply portfolio is reasonably robust in the near term and pointed to the operations of the SGPWA on the water market. He said he liked the approach.

Chair Vela brought up the future Sites Reservoir and pointed out that it would impact deliveries only during the average and dry years. He noted the physical constraints to delivery in wet years.

Mr. Harder will revise the scenarios.

C. Discussion of Comments on Proposed Revisions to Watermaster Rules and Regulations

Steve Stuart of Dudek presented the comments received from Committee members.

Mr. Stuart explained that the annualized safe yield replaces the operating safe yield and is calculated with the same methodology as the

change in storage. It is not required by the judgment but is informative and can help guide understanding of the safe yield from year to year. The Committee can determine whether or not to leave it in the Rules. Chair Vela recalled the terminology in the judgment and Mr. Stuart acknowledged they are different, and the definition of annualized safe yield should be added.

Mr. Stuart highlighted the proposed introduction of a new term, the overlying appropriative right to track water transferred from an overlying party to an appropriator, which is subject to adjustment upon redetermination of the safe yield.

Mr. Stuart discussed the question of return flow constituting supplemental water in the new yield and suggested going through the process of quantifying that water and determining how to account for and categorize it. Member Jagers pointed to the assessment of the unused overlier reallocation and need for balance. If not balanced, over time, the overlies are allocated more water, Jagers stated. Return flow is included in the numerical model, Stuart noted.

The Committee discussed a proposed new assessment of 1.5 times the current SGPWA supplemental water purchase for the depletion of a storage account. Funds would be divided equally between appropriators as an annual "rental." Chair Vela called for a more focused discussion prior to considering adding the suggested rule.

Mr. Stuart requested feedback from other Committee members for further discussion and to continue the process.

Member Jagers pointed to the suggestions related to water level monitoring procedures and noted that individual agencies should consider them best management practices. He also noted the section related maintenance of measuring devices and noted the BBWM is supposed to be performing the maintenance. He suggested the addition of language to assure responsibility for accuracy. Mr. Stuart suggested rather than responsibility, the Watermaster validate the accuracy through documentation.

VI. 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

VII. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members:

Member Jagers pointed to communication from YVWD regarding Oak Valley Development Water Use; this should be memorialized. Member Zoba indicated it would be part of the annual report.

VIII. Announcements

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

IX. Adjournment

Chair Vela adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Attest:

 Daniel Jagers, Secretary
 Beaumont Basin Watermaster