

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 2, 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.

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
Jennifer Ares, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Micah Knox, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Nyles O’Harra, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Brett Granlund, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Brittany Lim, South Mesa Water Company
Lance Eckhart, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Kevin Walton, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Matthew Howard, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Emmett Campbell, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Shah Nawaz, City of Banning
Matt Ford, Thomas Harder & Co.
Jim Van de Water, Thomas Harder & Co.
Lauren Healey, Thomas Harder & Co.
Evan Ward, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Robert Rasha, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Lynda Kerney, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Wes Miliband, Miliband Water Law

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Public Comments:

Attorney Wes Miliband, representing the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, provided written correspondence and requested the Committee agendaize a discussion on the transfer of overlying rights.

V. Consent Calendar

A. Meeting Minutes

- i. February 5, 2025 Regular Meeting
- ii. March 5, 2025 Special Meeting

B. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through March 18, 2025

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Jagggers to approve Consent Calendar items A and B

AYES:	Armstrong, Jagggers, Vela, Zoba
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Vestal
STATUS:	Motion Approved 4-0

C. A Comparison of Production Rights versus Production through February 2025

It was moved by Member Jagggers and seconded by Member Zoba to approve Consent Calendar item C with correction to the Storage Account Balance table as of December 2024 (not 2023)

AYES:	Armstrong, Jagggers, Vela, Zoba
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Vestal
STATUS:	Motion Approved 4-0

VI. Reports

A. Report from Engineering Consultant – Hannibal Blandon, ALDA Engineering

Mr. Blandon reported the problems at BCVWD well 25 have been solved and new probes will be installed. Banning M-8 continues to have problems and will be monitored on a monthly rather than hourly basis.

11:18 a.m. Committee Member Vestal arrived.

- B. Report from Hydrogeological Consultant – Thomas Harder, Thomas Harder & Co. (THC) – No report.
- C. Report from Legal Counsel – Thierry Montoya – Frost, Brown, Todd – No report.
- D. Financial Status Report – Period Ending February 28, 2025 – BBWM Treasurer Joe Zoba pointed to the report showing the fund balance status, budget status, and open and closed task orders. There were no questions.

VII. Workshop / Discussion Items

- A. Update on the Analysis of Losses in the Beaumont Basin - Thomas Harder & Co.

Recommendation: None. For information and discussion

Thomas Harder of Thomas Harder & Co. (TH&Co) presented an update on the progress of the Beaumont Basin loss analysis following the March Special Meeting. Harder recapped that the project is a forward-looking groundwater modeling effort intended to forecast potential basin losses under varying hydrological conditions. Since the March meeting, TH&Co engaged in detailed correspondence and a meeting with San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) staff to refine imported water delivery scenarios.

Harder described the revised modeling approach based on three hydrologic scenarios: Baseline, Dry, and Wet. For each scenario, imported water deliveries were forecasted using historical Department of Water Resources (DWR) Table A allocation percentages corresponding to identified proxy periods. The Baseline scenario assumes an average hydrological period (2005–2014), Dry reflects about 10% below average conditions, and Wet reflects about 10% above average conditions. Detailed tables were shown to illustrate how these historical conditions and allocation percentages were used to generate assumptions about available imported water supplies and basin capacity over a 50-year forecast period.

The presentation detailed the model inputs, including the assumptions around the Brookside West Basins becoming operational in 2030, adjustments for basin capacity versus theoretical supply, and additional water sources such as Article 21, Nickel, Yuba, and Sites Reservoir supplies. Harder noted that under long-term average conditions, the basin would receive approximately 13,792 acre-feet annually, with lower averages for Dry conditions (11,033 AF) and higher for Wet conditions (16,292 AF).

Importantly, supplies were capped at 27,000 AF in any given year to reflect physical limitations.

Committee members expressed appreciation for the thorough work and coordination. Jagers noted that the modeling effort appeared robust and provided a solid foundation for anticipating boundary conditions for future imported water supplies. In closing, Harder outlined the next steps: finalizing the historical model runs with/without managed recharge, setting up and analyzing the forecasted recharge scenarios, conducting particle tracking analyses, and preparing to present results at a proposed July 2025 workshop.

B. Certification of Groundwater Production, Imported Water Spreading, and Change in Storage in the Beaumont Groundwater Basin in Water Year 2024

Recommendation: Certify groundwater production, imported water spreading, and change in storage in the Beaumont Basin in Water Year 2024

Anibal Blandon of ALDA presented the annual report of amount of production, groundwater production, the amount of important water deliveries and the changing groundwater storage done on a water year basis and reported to the DWR by April 1. He reviewed the figures in the report (water year):

- *Total production: 14,650 acre-feet (af)*
- *Metered production: 14,637 af (exceeding 99 percent of total production)*
- *State Water Project deliveries: 15,387 af*
- *Total water use: 14,650 af*
- *2024 change in storage for the water year: +312 af*

Blandon said this information was submitted to the BBWM Committee on March 20 and he understood it had been submitted to the DWR website. A copy of the final annual report will be submitted, also.

The Committee took no action: there was no vote to certify the report.

C. Independent Accountant's Financial Report of Agreed-Upon Procedures for the Beaumont Basin Watermaster

Recommendation: Receive and file the Independent Accountant's Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2024

Treasurer Zoba presented the Report: Beginning the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the BBWM had an unrestricted fund balance of \$324,597. During

the year, the Watermaster collected \$197,730 in revenues and expended \$462,303 as contracts out with consultants. As of June 30 on 2024 the water master had an unrestricted net position of \$60,024.

It was moved by Member Jaggars and seconded by Member Armstrong to receive and file the Independent Accountant's Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2024

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

D. Consideration of the Watermaster Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26

Recommendation: Approve the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 and invoice each Committee member for administrative expenses

Treasurer Joe Zoba reminded that costs are usually split between the five Committee member agencies. The Watermaster has not, however, recently been invoicing for administrative costs, which has tended to drive down the fund balance for legal fees which are not collected on a regular basis. This year's budget includes \$27,500 for legal expenses, reserve funding of \$20,000, and the annual audit for \$2,250. The recommended budget would necessitate invoicing each member for \$9,935 for routine administrative expenses.

Member Jaggars pointed out that the ESRI data management cost is recurring annually, and Member Zoba noted that it was a task order expense but could be included as an administrative cost. For the current contract year, the expense will come from reserves and will be addressed in next year's budget.

It was moved by Member Jaggars and seconded by Member Zoba to Approve the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 and invoice each Committee member for administrative expenses

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

E. Presentation of Draft 2024 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report

Recommendation: None. Presentation only; no action required

Hannibal Blandon of ALDA, Inc., in association with Thomas Harder & Company, presented the Draft 2024 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report to the Committee. He highlighted key sections of the report, including resolutions, groundwater production, financials, basin conditions, water transfers, spreading, and water quality for the 2024 calendar year . The presentation also reviewed the Operating Safe Yield (OSY) estimates and provided a comparison of groundwater production trends among agencies and overlayers.

Member Armstrong questioned the Watermaster's engineering costs of \$375,000, noting a concern that basin studies have been ongoing since the 1930s. He recommended reducing redundant expenditures. Blandon clarified that the high cost was primarily due to the legally required ten-year Safe Yield re-evaluation, along with support work such as the basin loss analysis.

Committee members engaged in detailed discussions regarding precipitation trends, groundwater production fluctuations, and the impact of mass grading projects on production numbers. Jagers remarked that peak production figures could reflect construction cycles and encouraged a holistic view of production trends. Blandon acknowledged the value of including broader context in future reports, such as production compared to total water supply sources.

In reviewing groundwater storage accounting and flow directions, Tom Harder pointed out the Annual Report's section on the Operating Safe Yield (OSY) may no longer be meaningful due to inconsistencies in interpreting losses and changes in storage. Harder acknowledged that the OSY is not mentioned in the Judgement and is not informative for the Watermaster. Harder proposed removing the OSY section from the annual report. Member Zoba recommended retaining the OSY section but supplementing it with a historical table to monitor trends and better understand anomalies.

Chair Vela and Member Jagers agreed that while the OSY should be maintained for consistency and continuity, it must be accompanied by clear narrative explanations to prevent misinterpretation, especially when negative OSY values appear. Jagers further suggested that any perceived losses of water from the basin could be addressed in the future through physical recovery and redelivery efforts, highlighting potential operational strategies.

Based on the consensus of the Committee, the consultant was directed to retain the OSY section, provide historical data in tabular form, and add narrative language to explain and qualify results where necessary. Harder and Blandon confirmed they would implement these changes in the next draft.

Blandon provided a summary of groundwater quality observed from 2020 to 2024 at wells owned by the appropriators and overlayers. Chair Vela inquired about the status of new Chromium-6 regulations effective October 2024. Blandon confirmed that data reflecting the new standards were not yet available but agreed to add a note acknowledging this fact in the final report. Additionally, Committee members requested that the missing 2024 wastewater recharge data from the City of Beaumont be obtained and included in the final report. Blandon agreed to forward the outstanding data request to City representatives and coordinate follow-up.

Regarding next steps, Blandon requested formal written comments from the Committee members by May 16, 2025, to allow incorporation of edits before the June 4, 2025 regular meeting. Blandon committed to issuing reminders and providing an updated draft ahead of the meeting to facilitate Committee review and potential approval. There was also agreement that, if necessary, a second draft could be circulated in June, with final approval delayed until August.

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

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 12:28 p.m.

Attest:



Daniel Jagers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster