

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 1, 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 11:04 a.m.

II. Roll Call

<i>City of Banning</i>	<i>Art Vela</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>City of Beaumont</i>	<i>Dustin Christensen</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>Jennifer Ares</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 was present as Administrator of the BBWM.

Members of the public who registered and / or attended:

Thaxton Van Belle, City of Beaumont

Shah Nawaz, City of Banning

Erin Anton, Yucaipa Valley Water District

Mike Kostelecky, Yucaipa Valley Water District

Allison Edmisten, Yucaipa Valley Water District

Brett Granlund, Yucaipa Valley Water District

Brittney Lim, South Mesa Water Company

Lance Eckhart, San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Kevin Walton, San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Sarah Wargo, San Geronio Pass Water Agency

John Covington, Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Lauren Healey, Thomas Harder & Co.

Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

James Bean, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

Cenica Smith, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

Lynda Kerney, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

Robert Rasha, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

Stetson Engineering

D. Lee

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Public Comments: None.

V. Consent Calendar

A. Meeting Minutes

- i. August 6, 2025 Special Meeting

B. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through September 15, 2025

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

D. Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee 2026 Meeting Schedule

It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Jagers to approve the Consent Calendar items:

AYES:	Armstrong, Ares, Christensen, Jagers, Vela
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 September 30 was the end of the 2024-25 water year. Data is being collected to present to the Committee in February a draft of the required letter to the State with the conditions of the Basin.

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

C. Report from Administrative Consultant – Steve Stuart, Dudek – No report

D. Report from Legal Counsel – Thierry Montoya – Frost, Brown, Todd – *Mr. Montoya reminded that he was asked by Chair Vela to look at the issue of whether injection wells installed in the Basin raise a Watermaster oversight issue. With no information on particular wells or specific water quality issues, Mr. Montoya generally examined the amended judgement and identified provisions that could impose BBWM oversight in a general sense. More information would be needed on wells and water quality.*

VII. Discussion and Possible Action Items

Chair Vela called Item D out of order.

- D. Discussion of Beaumont Basin Watermaster Responsibilities, Powers, and Duties regarding Basin Oversight related to proposed recycled water recharge projects and Yucaipa Valley Water District and the City of Beaumont

Recommendation: None. Information / discussion only

Member Jagers explained that he placed the item on the agenda due to increasing activity by the Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) and the City of Beaumont related to proposed recharge and Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells. He stated that the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD) overlies most of the basin and that advancing projects in the basin warranted a presentation to the Watermaster. Jagers noted that YVWD had been asked to provide a discussion of its ASR wells but had not yet done so. He described reviewing recent YVWD staff reports and CEQA materials and expressed concern that recent project actions appeared to differ from what was described in earlier CEQA documents.

Jagers summarized his understanding of YVWD's recent board actions, stating that wells released for construction in 2024 and 2025 appeared to exceed the scope of the original Phase One CEQA plan, which anticipated one test injection well and one monitoring well. He observed that three injection wells were constructed, and additional extraction wells were being pursued. Jagers stated his interest in receiving updated information explaining the changes and allowing others an opportunity to comment. He also referenced elements from YVWD's August board agenda, including actions related to the "Calimesa Crystal Vault" and bond authorizations.

Jagers emphasized the BBWM responsibility to provide basin management. He stated that advanced treated recycled water projects represented significant financial investments and that basin health must be maintained for future generations. He described BCVWD's long history in the basin and noted interest in the City of Beaumont's recharge activities as well. All such activities should occur transparently and within public forums.

Jagers reviewed Watermaster responsibilities including basin administration, approval of producer activities, water quality and supply management, well policy, replenishment, monitoring, and groundwater storage agreements. He identified storage agreements as a central concern and stated that BCVWD and the City of Beaumont have storage agreements with recharge provisions, whereas YVWD's agreement does not have the recharge box checked. Jagers stated that, based on his reading of the judgment and Rules and Regulations, YVWD would need to apply for a modification to its storage agreement if it intends to conduct recharge.

Jaggers expressed concern that construction and bidding activities were moving forward without prior Watermaster review or application submission. Allowing projects to proceed without Watermaster oversight could limit the Watermaster's ability to manage the basin. He also stated that overlies and nearby well owners, such as golf courses and existing water systems, may be affected and ought to have an opportunity to understand the potential impacts.

Jaggers further noted that BCVWD had notified the Watermaster in October 2023 regarding its own work on two wells, citing that transparency is essential for all agencies. He reiterated that CEQA documentation for YVWD's project appeared to rely on categorical exemptions that may not reflect current project activities. He asserted that these issues warranted open discussion and early involvement by the Watermaster.

In closing, Jaggers stated that he was not opposed to recharge or ASR projects but wanted to ensure that basin health, regulatory compliance, and fair treatment of all basin parties, including overlies, were maintained. He emphasized constructive input, early coordination, and a clear understanding of proposed activities before major investments are finalized.

Member Armstrong stated that he shared Jaggers' concerns and noted that, as a well owner, he could be directly affected. He described contacting the State Water Resources Control Board regarding YVWD's project and receiving conflicting information about whether recycled water or potable water would be injected. Armstrong agreed that the Watermaster had a responsibility to seek information and ensure no adverse impacts occur.

Committee members, including Chair Vela, emphasized that Watermaster responsibilities include receiving applications for recharge of supplemental water and that early information could help alleviate uncertainties. Vela stated that while a complete data set may not yet be available, an initial presentation from YVWD would still be beneficial to the Watermaster and the public.

Public comment: John Covington, representing the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, pointed out that overlies lack representation on the Watermaster Committee and have historically experienced a lack of transparency. He described past interactions with the Watermaster related to an overlie project and expressed concern that current recharge discussions again appeared to move forward without adequate inclusion of overlies.

Public comment: YVWD Board Member Brett Granlund responded that YVWD holds transparent board meetings and that its general manager takes direction from the YVWD Board rather than the Watermaster. He stated that YVWD would provide information and presentations once necessary data and finalized project details are available. Granlund remarked that no Watermaster Committee members had previously requested meetings with him directly.

Legal counsel Thierry Montoya advised that questions regarding CEQA compliance should be addressed carefully and urged YVWD to present information clarifying the project and resolving concerns. He also noted that allegations of CEQA deficiencies should be verified and addressed as needed.

Member Jennifer Ares stated that YVWD cannot yet provide the information being requested because testing and consultant data are still pending, and that a full report will be brought to the Watermaster once that information becomes available. She emphasized that the project is subject to required approvals and multiple checks and balances, and that YVWD maintains transparency through its public meetings.

Participants expressed a desire for future presentations and discussions to ensure basin oversight responsibilities are met and that all basin stakeholders have adequate information about potential recharge activities.

Member Jaggars moved that the Watermaster Committee formally request the Yucaipa Valley Water District:

- Submit an application for groundwater recharge, utilizing the recycled water in accordance with Beaumont Basin Watermaster rules and regulations section five: Recharge as they stand now
- Provide a presentation on the subject project at the next regularly scheduled meeting or a special meeting

Member Armstrong seconded.

Member Ares pointed out that the recommendation on the item is for discussion only and posited that there can be no motion. Legal Counsel Montoya concurred. Jaggars informally requested this item be brought back in 30 days.

No action was taken. A legal update was requested for the next meeting and was placed on the Topics for Future Meetings list.

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

Recommendation: None. Information / discussion only

Consultant Tom Harder of Thomas Harder & Company (TH&Co) provided an update on the ongoing analyses. He stated the technical memorandum is complete except for the policies, which warrant review by Engineer Blandon and Administrator Stuart. He said it is expected the draft policy will be presented at the December meeting.

- B. Update on Proposed Revisions to the BBWM Rules and Regulations

BBWM Administrator Steve Stuart reminded the Committee about progress on the revisions. Rules, terminology, and forms needed updating, to bring those up to speed with everything that the Watermaster Committee has been talking

about and deliberating on for the last couple of years. Revisions were presented last year, and comments have been received from members except the City of Beaumont. Some comments were contradictory or in conflict, he noted. Once received, the comments will be compiled into a redline version for discussion. Member Christensen indicated he would follow up.

C. Consideration to Retain Dudek to Evaluate and Develop Management Strategies for when Groundwater Storage Accounts are Negative

Recommendation: Enter into agreement with Dudek to evaluate and develop a policy to account for return flows in the Beaumont Basin for a sum of \$27,400 and send invoices to each Watermaster Committee member for 20% of the approved amount

BBWM Administrator Steve Stuart reminded about discussion of this item at the previous meeting when the Committee was unable to take action. He described the proposal:

- Revisit the methodology of calculating return flows back to the basin and expanding more on that.*
- Examine legal precedent for the appropriateness to take a claim to the return flows*
- Capture of water accounting for it in storage accounts*
- Further updating the information from the 2019 and 2022 Thomas Harder studies on return flows into the basin*
- Preparing a technical memorandum that lays out how to move forward*

Stuart estimated the time frame for completion to be from six to nine months.

Member Jagers indicated support and pointed out this is to help understand the health of the Basin over time, taking into consideration the new Making Conservation a California Way of Life reductions.

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Vela to enter into agreement with Dudek to evaluate and develop a policy to account for return flows in the Beaumont Basin for a sum of \$27,400 and send invoices to each Watermaster Committee member for 20% of the approved amount.

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

D. *Item D was heard earlier in the meeting.*

VIII. Topics for Future Meetings

	Item	Date Listed
A	Development of a Recycled Water Policy including Incidental Discharge	3/27/2019
B	Monitoring of future west side well sites and methodologies, and potential collaboration with USGS	10/5/2022
C	Discussion on what to do when an Appropriator goes negative	10/4/2023 and 11/1/2023
D	Discussion on Policy to Document and Account for Emergency Potable Water Transfers from Appropriator to Overlying Party	Tabled 4/17/2024
E	Procurement Policy including thresholds for RFP process	8/17/2021
F	Presentation on YVWD Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project (discussed 10/1/2025 / requested for 12/3/25 / to be presented February 2026)	6/11/2025
G	Legal Counsel update / opinion on the YVWD Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project	10/1/2025

IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members: None.

Chair Vela said he would provide legal counsel with a request for the appointment of Shah Nawaz as the City of Banning’s alternate, replacing Nate Smith.

X. Announcements

A special meeting in November 2025 was considered but not calendared.

2025 Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, December 3 at 11 a.m. Regular Meeting

2026 Meeting Dates:

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

Wednesday, April 1 at 11 a.m. Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 3 at 11 a.m. Regular Meeting

Wednesday, August 5 at 11 a.m. Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 7 at 11 a.m. Regular Meeting

Wednesday, December 2 at 11 a.m. Regular Meeting

XI. Adjournment

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

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Jagers', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and extends to the right beyond the line.

Daniel Jagers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster