

**Record of the Minutes of the  
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the  
Beaumont Basin Watermaster  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, February 4, 2026**

**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>Mark Swanson</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>South Mesa Water Company</i>	<i>David Armstrong</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Yucaipa Valley Water District</i>	<i>Joe 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 was present as Administrator of the BBWM.*

*Members of the public who registered and / or attended:*

Daniel Slawson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

James Bean, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

Jennifer Ares, Yucaipa Valley Water District

Micah Knox, Yucaipa Valley Water District

Brett Granlund, Yucaipa Valley Water District

Shah Nawaz, City of Banning

Michael Plinski, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

Thaxton Van Belle, City of Beaumont

Erin Anton, Yucaipa Valley Water District

Allison Edmisten, Yucaipa Valley Water District

Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District

Matt Ford, Thomas Harder & Co.

Lauren Healey, Thomas Harder & Co.

Lance Eckhart, San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Emmett Campbell, San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Larry Smith, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency  
Mickey Valdivia, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency  
Larry Smith, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency  
Lynda Kerney, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District  
Robert Rasha, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Public Comments:** None.

**V. Consent Calendar**

- A. Meeting Minutes: December 3, 2025 Regular Meeting
- B. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through January 14, 2026
- C. A Comparison of Production Rights versus Production through January 27, 2026
- D. Receive and File Notice of Ruling: City of Banning's Alternate Watermaster Representative (Shah Nawaz) dated December 22, 2025

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

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

**VI. Reports**

- A. Report from Engineering Consultant – Hannibal Blandon, ALDA Engineering *No report.*
- 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 – FBT Gibbons: *No report*

**VII. Discussion and Possible Action Items**

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

*It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Armstrong to reaffirm the current slate of officers for 2026:*

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

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

*11:19 a.m. – Member Vestal arrived at the meeting*

- B. Overview of the Calimesa Crystal Vault Project: An Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) / Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) Project Utilizing Advanced Purified Water from the Henry Wochholz Regional Water Recycling Facility

Member Joe Zoba, General Manager of YVWD, presented an overview of the Calimesa Crystal Vault Project, an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) initiative utilizing advanced purified recycled water for groundwater injection within the western portion of the Beaumont Basin.

Zoba explained YVWD’s motivation for advancing the project, reviewing historic State Water Project (SWP) variable allocation trends as well as a declining rolling 10-year average. Although current reservoir conditions are favorable and the State is not presently in drought status, allocation percentages remain lower than in past comparable hydrologic years, he noted. He attributed these changes to regulatory, operational, and environmental constraints affecting statewide water management. This uncertainty reinforces the need for locally controlled, drought-resilient water supplies, he posited.

Member Zoba described YVWD’s integrated water management system, including its drinking water treatment plant and wastewater treatment facility. He explained that YVWD has progressively expanded reverse osmosis treatment capacity to manage salinity and improve overall water quality, and that these investments have contributed to improving groundwater quality trends in the Yucaipa and Calimesa areas over time.

He then outlined the regulatory framework governing recycled water recharge projects under Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, emphasizing the multi-barrier treatment requirements and water quality standards applicable to subsurface injection projects. The proposed ASR project would utilize full advanced treatment, including microfiltration, reverse osmosis, advanced oxidation, and ultraviolet disinfection, producing what Zoba described as ultra-pure water prior to injection.

To illustrate comparative water quality, Member Zoba presented a conceptual ranking of various water sources based on relative chemical and microbial constituents. He stated that full reverse osmosis-treated recycled water ranks among the lowest in constituent levels; cleaner than treated drinking water and significantly cleaner than native groundwater or untreated imported supplies. He emphasized that the injected water would contain extremely low total dissolved solids and non-detectable levels for many regulated contaminants. He further stated that, over time, introduction of this higher-quality water would dilute naturally occurring constituents such as nitrate and hexavalent chromium in the local groundwater system.

Member Zoba described the District's initial evaluation of surface spreading for recharge in the Oak Valley area. Based on subsurface conditions that limited vertical percolation and directed flow westward, YVWD shifted to a subsurface injection strategy.

Three ASR injection wells have been drilled near Interstate 10 in the Calimesa area to depths of approximately 1,000 feet, Zoba reported. Testing demonstrated injection and production capacities exceeding the initial target of approximately 2,500 acre-feet per year. Modeling indicates travel times between injection wells and a primary recovery well ranging from approximately six months to over one year, depending on well configuration.

Member Zoba stated that the volume of water injected would be tracked and later recovered in equivalent amounts through designated extraction wells. Operations would not increase overall production beyond injected volumes and historical pumping levels, and the project is intended to function within existing storage and accounting frameworks, he explained.

In addition to the injection wells, Zoba described the Salinity and Groundwater Enhancement (SAGE) Project, which will expand reverse osmosis capacity at the wastewater treatment facility to allow full advanced treatment of recycled water flows. The project includes construction of new advanced water purification infrastructure. He also described installation of on-site solar generation, battery storage, and backup generation to power the treatment facility.

Mr. Zoba stated that the Calimesa Crystal Vault Project is intended to provide a drought-resilient local supply, reduce reliance on imported water, and improve groundwater quality within a defined area of the basin. He indicated that the project is consistent with the Judgment and the Watermaster's rules and regulations, operates within a put-and-take

accounting structure, and will not result in adverse impacts to other Watermaster parties. He requested that the Committee receive and file the report and adopt a minute order acknowledging the project's consistency with the Judgment, its basin-wide benefits, and that no financial contributions are requested.

Chair Vela acknowledged the detailed report and commended YVWD for advancing the project.

Member Jagers recognized the increasing need for advanced treatment as populations grow and imported water supplies fluctuate, but emphasized the importance of thorough permitting, basin management coordination, and careful evaluation of potential impacts to nearby wells and groundwater gradients. He requested continued information sharing regarding modeling assumptions, permitting timelines, and regulatory documentation to ensure due diligence and coordination between adjacent agencies. While supportive of the project's objectives, he stated he was not prepared to adopt the requested minute order declaring the absence of adverse impacts without further technical review and documentation.

Member Armstrong asked about the status of the Title 22 engineering report and regional board coordination and inquired about safeguards in the event of plant upset or water quality concerns. He sought assurance that operational "off-ramps" would allow the agency to halt injection if necessary to protect the basin. Zoba explained that the permitting process involves Division of Drinking Water and Regional Board oversight, with stringent monitoring and the ability to divert flows from the advanced treatment process if water quality is in question. Member Armstrong indicated he was not yet comfortable supporting a minute order declaring no adverse impacts until regulatory reports and water quality documentation are reviewed.

Chair Vela requested clarification regarding testing and compliance requirements for injected water and confirmed that non-compliance would require cessation of injection. Mr. Zoba described real-time monitoring, extensive operational requirements, and the ability to discontinue injection if standards are not met. Chair Vela expressed support for the project but suggested that staff review of technical documents would be appropriate before adopting a formal finding regarding basin impacts.

Director Larry Smith of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) suggested that, if a minute order were considered, modifying language to reflect a "presumed" consistency might provide reassurance given the project's novel nature. SGPWA General Manager Lance Eckhart acknowledged regional supply challenges and noted that broader portfolio management efforts supplement State Water Project allocations. Mr. Harder requested access to data from recently drilled deep wells, observing that additional basin information would be valuable for technical evaluation.

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Jagers to receive and file the report on the Calimesa Crystal Vault Project: An Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) / Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) Project.

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

### C. Presentation: Update on Proposed Revisions to the BBWM Rules and Regulations

Steve Stuart reported that the Rules and Regulations have been under review for modernization for some time. He explained that committee members previously provided comments on draft revisions, and the current packet included both redline and clean versions reflecting those comments, along with a matrix summarizing the feedback and corresponding revisions. He stated that most substantive edits incorporated committee input and were presented for final review.

Mr. Stuart raised several legal and procedural questions, particularly whether certain proposed changes would require court review and approval under the stipulated judgment governing the Basin. He noted that one revision introduced a new term, “overlying appropriative water right,” which does not appear in the judgment. He asked whether adding new terminology or modifying certain provisions would trigger the need to seek court approval and potentially amend the judgment.

Legal Counsel Montoya provided context regarding the stipulated judgment, explaining that the Riverside County Superior Court retains continuing jurisdiction over the Basin. He stated that any rule inconsistent with the judgment, or any modification to the judgment’s language, would require filing a proposed further amended judgment, court approval, and issuance of an order to show cause allowing interested parties to object. He emphasized that the Watermaster cannot unilaterally adopt rules that contradict the judgment.

The Committee discussed a specific example concerning responsibility for installation and maintenance of water measuring devices. Mr. Stuart explained that the judgment assigns responsibility for installation and maintenance to the Watermaster, whereas prior draft revisions suggested that appropriators would bear those costs. Mr. Montoya reiterated that adopting language inconsistent with the judgment would require formal court proceedings. Committee members expressed a preference to avoid reopening the judgment if possible and instead maintain consistency with its existing language.

Member Jagers cautioned that once the judgment is reopened, it could invite broader reconsideration of other provisions, and he recommended preserving the existing framework while exercising the Watermaster's reasonable discretion where appropriate. Mr. Montoya clarified that the judgment grants the Watermaster discretion to make reasonable administrative decisions that do not alter substantive rights, but that any new or inconsistent provisions must be carefully justified as falling within that discretionary authority.

The Committee discussed proposed terminology addressing transfers between overlying producers and appropriators. Member Zoba stated that the new language was intended to clarify accounting methodology and document existing practices rather than alter rights. Mr. Montoya advised that new language, even if clarifying in nature, must be evaluated carefully to ensure it does not exceed the Watermaster's authority under the judgment.

By consensus, the Committee directed Mr. Stuart and Mr. Montoya to confer and return with a revised final draft of the Rules and Regulations that remains consistent with the stipulated judgment and does not require formal amendment, while documenting the basis for any discretionary provisions.

Finally, the Committee discussed Watermaster transfer forms, including Forms 7 and 8, and whether documentation of signature authority should be required when water rights transfer requests are submitted. Chair Vela and Member Jagers emphasized the importance of verifying that signatories have proper authority to bind their respective entities and suggested that public agencies provide board-level authorization, such as a resolution, to ensure a clear public record. Mr. Stuart indicated that revisions to the forms could be made to require documentation of signature authority at the time of submission.

#### D. Presentation of 2025 Water Year Change-in-Storage Analysis

Mr. Harder presented the 2025 Water Year Change in Storage Analysis, explaining that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires submission of an annual groundwater conditions report by April 1. He stated that staff prepared groundwater contour maps for fall 2024 and fall 2025, along with a change-in-storage map reflecting an approximate 1,200 acre-feet positive increase between the two periods. Mr. Harder advised that the item was provided for review and consideration, and requested that any comments or proposed revisions be submitted by March 1 to allow time for incorporation into the annual report. Member Jagers commented that the contour maps were informative and stated that BCVWD would make use of the offered review period. Chair Vela concurred on behalf of the City of Banning, and stated that if no comments were received by March 1, Mr. Harder had authority to proceed with submission; or, any feedback received would be reported back at a subsequent meeting.

E. Consideration of On-Call Task Order Request by Thomas Harder & Co. to Address Unforeseen Data Requests and Other Unauthorized Tasks

Mr. Harder requested approval of a separate on-call task order in the amount of \$25,000 to address unforeseen data requests and coordination efforts not included in existing scopes of work. He explained that such tasks may include responding to agency data requests, model and data coordination, and related activities, and noted that the amount was a placeholder consistent with prior on-call authorizations. In response to questions from Jaggars, Harder confirmed that any work outside an approved scope would be brought to the Committee for approval, and that the on-call amount would function as a funding source from which individual task requests could be drawn.

It was moved by Member Jaggars and seconded by Chair Vela to approve an on-call task order in the amount of \$25,000 for unforeseen data requests and other unauthorized tasks, with expenditures exceeding \$5,000 requiring consultation with the Committee Chairperson and subsequent ratification to accommodate as-needed on-call services.

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

F. Request for Model Files from the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Mr. Harder presented a request from the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SGPGSA) for model files from the Beaumont Basin Groundwater Flow Model to support development and coordination of its overlapping groundwater model. The request included compilation of model files and participation in coordination meetings to review and clarify technical information. Harder estimated the cost to compile and transmit the requested datasets at approximately \$1,500, with an additional \$3,500 estimated for conference calls and technical coordination, for a total estimated cost of \$5,000.

Member Jaggars recommended approval with flexibility to allow the work to proceed efficiently while maintaining fiscal oversight.

Chair Vela inquired whether similar requests in the past had resulted in charges to requesting entities. Jagers and Harder recalled that prior model file compilations had been funded through Watermaster task orders. Jagers commented that, philosophically, requests from public agencies such as overlapping GSAs should be supported as part of cooperative groundwater management, whereas requests from private parties might warrant consideration of cost recovery to avoid potential gift-of-public-funds concerns.

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Armstrong to authorize the work by Thomas Harder and Co. to fulfill the SGPGSA request on a time-and-materials basis in an amount not to exceed \$5,000, with flexibility between the estimated task components.

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

#### G. Update on Basin Loss Analysis and Consideration of Thomas Harder & Co. Contract Amendment to Basin Loss Analysis Task

Mr. Harder requested approval of a contract amendment to incorporate revised forecasted groundwater production into the model scenarios. He recalled that at the December 3, 2025 meeting, forecast results showed significant projected depletions in storage accounts based on previously assumed pumping forecasts. The pumping projections attributed to BCVWD were higher than recent historical production. Harder stated that updated forecasts had been obtained and that, in order to complete the loss analysis using realistic and current projections, the model inputs for groundwater production in the three forecast scenarios must be revised and the simulations rerun. He noted that this additional work was outside the original scope and proposed a time-and-materials amendment in an amount not to exceed \$18,720 to revise the reporting.

Member Jagers commented that the original forecasts had been based on Urban Water Management Plan datasets and that subsequent review and recent analysis (including a comprehensive capacity charges study) clarified that updated projections were appropriate. He stated that it was important to ensure all participating agencies' pumping forecasts were aligned and realistic. He expressed support for coordinating with the other major stakeholders, including YVWD and the City of Banning, to confirm their projected production inputs. He further suggested final coordination with the regional planning effort by SGPWA to ensure consistency before completion of the updated analysis.

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Armstrong to authorize Thomas Harder & Co. to update the Basin Loss Analysis using final pumping inputs from Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District, South Mesa Water Company, the City of Banning, and Yucaipa Valley Water District, and to approve the associated contract amendment in an amount not to exceed \$18,720.

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

#### H. Consideration to Purchase and Install Additional Pressure Transducers at Six Monitoring Wells

Mr. Bandon reported that, as part of the ongoing groundwater modeling work, Mr. Harder identified the need for additional groundwater monitoring locations near the spreading basins. He referenced a map showing the existing monitoring wells, including shallow and deep aquifer wells, and explained that additional monitoring points are recommended to the north, east, and south of the spreading grounds to improve data coverage. The request before the Committee was limited to funding for the purchase of monitoring equipment only, with no allocation for consulting services. A quote for approximately \$8,600 was provided, and authorization of \$10,000 was requested to account for the preliminary nature of the estimate and potential minor cost variations.

Chair Vela sought clarification that the requested amount included purchase and installation, and Mr. Bandon confirmed that installation and ongoing maintenance would fall under an existing contract approved in December. He noted that the increase in monitored wells—from approximately 14 or 15 to 21—could have future budget implications, which would be addressed separately. Member Zoba inquired about the reason for rounding up the amount. Mr. Bandon explained that the wells had previously been monitored in the 2000s, but the equipment was removed more than a decade ago and the sites had remained idle for approximately 15 years. He stated that field verification of current well conditions, depth-to-water measurements, and cable length requirements would be conducted to determine final equipment specifications.

It was moved by Chair Vela and seconded by Member Zoba to approve a not-to-exceed amount for the purchase and installation of the additional pressure transducers.

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

**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 from 4/17/24 meeting)	4/17/2024
E	Procurement Policy including thresholds for RFP process	8/17/2021

**IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members:**

*Member Jaggars reported that BCVWD is finalizing the construction documents for Well 30 and will submit a letter to the Watermaster. Another well is planned near the recharge facility, he advised.*

**X. Announcements**

*A proposal for a change in meeting dates will be presented at the April 1 meeting.*

**2026 Meeting Dates:**

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 12:52 p.m.*

Attest:



Daniel Jagers, Secretary  
Beaumont Basin Watermaster