



**BEAUMONT-CHERRY VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
560 Magnolia Avenue, Beaumont, CA 92223**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – ENGINEERING WORKSHOP
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

***Meeting held via teleconference pursuant to
California Government Code Section 54950 et. seq. and
California Governor's Executive Order N-29-20***

Call to Order: President Covington

President Covington began the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Williams.

Invocation was given by Director Slawson.

Announcement of Teleconference Participation

Director of Finance and Administration Yolanda Rodriguez clarified that this meeting is conducted via teleconference pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953, and under Executive Order N-29-20 and N-33-20 of the Governor of California.

The teleconference capabilities of this meeting have been identified in the Notice and Agenda for this meeting, pursuant to the Brown Act and the Governor's Executive Order. Under the Governor's Executive Order and the Gathering Guidelines of the California Department of Health due to the danger of COVID-19, the teleconference locations are not publicly accessible. The public's right to comment and participate in the meeting is being assured via teleconference capabilities.

The Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD) will use sound discretion and make reasonable efforts to adhere as closely as reasonably possible to the provisions of the Brown Act, and other applicable local laws regulating the conduct of public meetings, in order to maximize transparency and provide the public access to meetings.

Roll Call:

Directors present:	Covington, Slawson, Williams
Directors absent:	Hoffman, Ramirez
Staff present:	General Manager Dan Jagers Director of Finance and Administration and Recording Secretary Yolanda Rodriguez Senior Engineer Mark Swanson Senior Finance and Administrative Analyst William Clayton

	Assistant Director of Operations James Bean Administrative Assistant Erica Gonzales
Legal Counsel	James Markman

Members of the public who registered their attendance: From the San Geronio Pass Water Agency: Ron Duncan, President and Michael Thompson, Director. Dan Haskins, Christina Taylor, Hamid Roknian.

Director of Finance and Administration Yolanda Rodriguez verified that all members of the Board of Directors have indicated that they are able to hear the other directors clearly on the teleconference. No directors expressed any reason to believe, based on voice recognition or otherwise, that those persons representing themselves to be directors are not truly so.

Public Comment:

Michael Thompson, Director, San Geronio Pass Water Agency indicated interest in discussion on Item 4.

1. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Item 5: Vote for Regular Special District Member (Eastern Area) and Alternate Member for the Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission: General Manager Jagers advised that candidate information for Danny Martin, Rancho California Water District was received for Item 5 subsequent to publication of the agenda.

2. Beaumont Master Drainage Plan Line 16 Facilities Design, Funding Requirements and Timeline - Update

General Manager Jagers reminded the Board of the request to bring this item back with final numbers. He indicated there are still some items in flux related to discussion between the Riverside County Flood Control District and the Riverside County Transportation Department related to maintenance of storm drain laterals.

Jagers shared a cost estimate and noted this is an ongoing report. The intent is to bring back the drawings with final cost for discussion along with a revised Memorandum of Understanding for consideration.

Mr. Jagers drew attention to an 1,100 to 1,200-foot pipeline that BCVWD may be asked to maintain and pointed out an error in calculation on page 7 of the staff report. The current cost estimate stands at \$2.8 million for BCVWD, he noted. Due to the COVID-19 activity the final report is taking longer, Jagers advised.

Senior Engineer Mark Swanson pointed to the additional items in the cost estimate. He explained there are two north-south streets where there is proposed pickup of flows that drain toward the center of the street. Riverside County Transportation has some issues with this design and reconstruction is being considered, which accounts for some of the additional cost. Also, he continued, there are proposed catch basins at a cost of \$372,485 included in the estimate. There is a need for in-person meetings that are not an option at this time, he explained.

General Manager Jagers noted that there is potential for a reduction in the estimate for catch basins.

President Covington pointed to the roadway drainage issue and noted that houses on Winesap south of Lincoln Street used to flood during rain events because the street crowned to the sides. Riverside County Transportation added the depression to the center of the roadway, and he asked Mr. Swanson to remind them that there was a purpose for the roadway draining to the center and not to the edges.

President Covington also noted the BCVWD water line relocations due to conflict with MDP Line 16. Mr. Swanson said staff is working with the 63 percent plans as they are and is identifying potential conflicts with the idea to replace only the portions necessary in order for the project to move forward. He said he anticipates a full report to the Board at the May meeting.

Mr. Jaggars acknowledged the roadway issue and reminded that funding was included for capital reserve replacements in that area. He explained the proposed roadway design and indicated it should not affect the downstream homeowners.

In response to President Covington, Mr. Jaggars noted that the environmental work is substantially complete. Covington noted that the Board hoped to see plans at an Engineering Workshop, but this may be challenging via teleconference. Mr. Jaggars added that in May, it is hoped to re-open public meetings or to procure a different vehicle for meetings so plans could be presented on screen.

3. Request for Extension of Water Service “Will Serve Letter” for Previously Approved Development: Tract 32850, a proposed 30-acre, single-family residential development located at Assessor’s Parcel No. 421-110-014 in the City of Beaumont

Public Comment: Mr. Dan Haskins with Land Engineering Consultants explained the applicant’s request for another Water Letter Extension. At last year’s extension approval, the applicants were involved in the sale of the property to Richmond American Corporation. In the process of the grading permits the Riverside County Conservation Authority requested a fairy shrimp survey which is estimated to take up to 18 months. The project is active and moving forward, he noted, and requested another year extension, adding that another one-year extension may be required due to the permitting process.

General Manager Jaggars explained that due to the nature of this item, he did not exercise his authority to make an extension and chose to involve the Board for transparency and due to the permitting process and the number of previous extensions. Mr. Swanson added that Mr. Haskins advised staff in February of the need for extension. President Covington acknowledged the General Manager’s discretion for extensions.

In response to Director Williams, Mr. Jaggars explained that the Will-Serve Letter (WSL) is part of the due diligence in the development process and loss of an active WSL may change the project outlook. He said he understands that Richmond America is still interested in the project. Director Williams asked for clarification. The project owner, Hamid Roknian, advised that all wheels are turning toward securing the permit and breaking ground. However, he continued, the duration of the fairy shrimp study has put everything on hold. The developer is standing fast and ready to go pending completion of the environmental study. Upon completion, he said, the City will issue a permit to break ground. The WSL is vital to the project, he explained.

President Covington asked about the extension date. Mr. Jagers explained the June expiration date was intended to get the project through the fairy shrimp study.

The Board approved the seventh Extension of Water Service "Will Serve Letter" for Previously Approved Development: Tract 32850, a proposed 30-acre, single-family residential development located at Assessor's Parcel No. 421-110-014 in the City of Beaumont by the following roll call vote:

MOVED: Williams	SECONDED: Slawson	APPROVED 3-0
AYES:	Covington, Slawson, Williams	
NOES:	None.	
ABSTAIN:	None.	
ABSENT:	Hoffman, Ramirez	

4. Reduction of Pass-Through Rate for San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency State Project Water

SGPWA Board President Ron Duncan advised that the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) Board thoroughly discussed the item and although some recommendations were made, the item was tabled. Director Thompson recommended a dollar amount, explained Duncan, but there was no motion or second. The idea to extend relief due to the COVID-19 pandemic failed due to lack of a motion. It will be discussed on a future agenda, Duncan stated. General Manager Jagers added that the item was tabled without a date of return.

Jagers noted that the SGPWA discussion centered on whether there was an opportunity to extend some activity from the SGPWA to provide for some COVID-19 relief. This likely began with GM Jagers' examination of SGPWA material identifying that some of the projected costs included in the agency's Resolution 2019-02 achieved more than anticipated and generated approximately half a million dollars in additional revenue, he explained. Jagers indicated he thought there might be an opportunity to return some of those monies.

The SGPWA also discussed whether the BCVWD would match their commitment, which may not be legally possible, as BCVWD is subject to Proposition 218 where the SGPWA is not. The SGPWA General Manager has since presented information that suggests the agency may be in negative revenue areas this year. Jagers indicated the analysis shows a full funding of the Nickel water purchase where the rate still suggests 50 percent payment, and a general fund contribution. Jagers said he appreciated the SGPWA Board's discussion and provided some detail. Unless one of the SGPWA Board members decides to bring back the item, the concept is tabled.

President Covington said he appreciated the work of President Duncan and the robust dialogue of the SGPWA Board of Directors. It seemed that some directors were interested in additional information and any information provided in a public forum would be most helpful, Covington said. He noted that when the rate was set at \$399 last April, it was based on figures developed by staff or by Taussig and that it seems the SGPWA rate study was never completed.

President Covington pointed to dialogue from the previous managers meetings at SGPWA where the agency's customers provided potential scenarios for the water rate and how it might roll out, but which never caught traction. He said he believes the

water rate Resolution adopted by the SGPWA Board said they would come back a year later to look at and adjust the rate. Covington thanked GM Jagers for providing the letter to the SGPWA and the Agency for placing the item on its agenda.

It is up to the SGPWA to bring back the item on a future agenda, Covington stated. Any information needed from the BCVWD will be provided in a timely fashion, he said.

5. Vote for Regular Special District Member (Eastern Area) and Alternate Member for the Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission

Mr. Jagers explained the vote and the purpose of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). He read the request for support for candidate Danny Martin which was received after publication of the meeting agenda and noted the request for support for candidate Nancy Wright which was included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Jagers reviewed the ballot and instructions. Discussion ensued.

By consensus, the Board ranked the candidates for the Local Agency Formation Commission as follows:

Special District Member (Eastern Area)	
1	Nancy Wright
2	Debra Canero
3	Karen Borja

Alternate Member	
1	Robert Stockton
2	Steve A. Pastor
3	Danny J. Martin
4	Scott Sear
5	Arthur Shorr
6	Dale Qualm
7	Karen Alexander

6. Yucaipa Valley Water District April 14, 2020 Agenda Item VI. D. Consideration of Initiating Sphere of Influence and Annexation Proceeding for Various Properties to the Yucaipa Valley Water District (Merlin Properties, APN 413-290-041 & 042)

Public Comment: Michelle Staples, Attorney for the Merlin project team noted that the team is on the teleconference.

General Manager Jagers indicated that this item on the Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) agenda was brought to his attention by YVWD General Manager Joe Zoba. The property owner indicated interest to develop the properties and to annex into the YVWD service area, he explained. Mr. Jagers said he and President Covington attended the April 14 meeting via teleconference.

Mr. Jagers advised that BCVWD has researched and the intent of this item is to memorialize the action and factfinding to date. Mr. Jagers said he requested the YVWD delay the item but the YVWD Board did move forward and adopted the Resolution of annexation on April 14. The next opportunity for any action, Jagers noted, would be the LAFCO annexation process. Mr. Zoba has requested a meeting, Jagers noted, and the intention is to bring all parties together on the same page. He said he has also reached out to the Beaumont City Manager.

Much of the action in 2008 took place at a time when BCVWD may not have paid much attention to the item, Jagers advised.

The offer from YVWD is for sewer, recycled water and potable water services to the property, Jagers explained. The previous housing tract has a stub-out to feed the Merlin property so although the request from the property owner came this year, it appears there had been plans in the recent past to service this property. BCVWD would have liked to clear this up in advance, but is willing to participate, Jagers noted.

According to Mr. Haskins, the project engineering consultant, the City of Beaumont indicated that because it would take significant facilities and impact the wastewater discharge permit, the City was not interested in serving the property, Jagers noted. Jagers said he anticipates meeting with Mr. Zoba and should have a final report at the May 13 regular Board meeting.

President Covington commented that this started some time ago and it is interesting how projects sit idle then ramp up almost overnight. He said it is well defined in the staff report by YVWD that this project makes more sense to be served by YVWD for the fact of the sewer connection and he said he looks forward to conversations in May. Covington suggested consideration when one public agency requests tabling of an item by another public agency. He noted that BCVWD and YVWD are close neighbors and there will likely be some definitive issues coming before the Boards as projects move forward in that odd area. He said he looks forward to more transparency and collaborative working environment in the future.

In response to Director Slawson, GM Jagers advised that the nearby Plantation project is on wells and is an overlier with rights to the Beaumont Basin. It seems like a natural fit, he added, with YVWD having development to the west.

7. Update: Status of Local Emergency regarding the Impact of the Respiratory Illness Pandemic COVID-19 pursuant to Resolution 2020-07

General Manager Jagers reminded the Board that this status report is to be made every 21 days.

While it was raining, and as the COVID-19 spread rates were monitored, the field staff methodology was changed to have half the field staff sequestered at home and on call for two alternate weeks, Jagers explained. Necessary activities included response on Sunday to service the post office to minimize impact to their business.

The landscape maintenance contract soon expires and is out on Request for Proposal, Jagers advised. Site maintenance is a good way to utilize one individual staffer at a site for good social distancing and to perform work that is beneficial to the District. Mr. Jagers said he advised President Covington last week that all active field staff members would be returned to active work. Face masks and social distancing of six to ten feet are required at all times, he explained. Based on information provided by the Riverside County Department of Public Health, it appears that Riverside County has done a good job of "bending the curve," he said. The decision to bring field staff back full time was based on things the District needs to accomplish and data shows that health organizations in Riverside County are not overrun, Jagers continued.

The front office is still closed, and it seems to be going well, Jagers advised. Customer Service representatives have been deployed remotely and have computers

and cell phones available. The intent over the next few weeks or months, he said, is to wait for other less critical facilities to give it a test run and maintain as much safety and social distancing as possible for all staff. It appears that office staff does not need to be brought in to service customers at the moment, Jagers stated, and the preference is to maintain the office closure for another week or two.

When calling in to the District, a customer leaves a message and a customer service representative calls back, Jagers explained. This seems to be working well. Engineering staff is deployed from home but comes in on occasion for activities that cannot be accomplished remotely. A schedule is set across the organization and every department has an area where only one staff member is present at a time. The directive is to come to the District only to do work that cannot be done remotely, then depart. Employees are working hard, he assured the Board, and they receive some ancillary benefit as the schools are closed and this provides additional support during this time of need, Jagers added.

At the moment, Jagers said, field staff has plenty to do. If there is lack of work or there is need to perform work that is not socially-distanced the intent is to come to the Board and identify another solution. This will also show how field staff may be impacted by any decline in development activities around the region, Jagers pointed out. He reminded the Board about the grant received for the AMR/AMI activity and added that any slowdown in development activity there are plenty of other grant-related activities for which staff can be utilized.

Jagers provided information from the current report from the Riverside County Department of Public Health and indicated the figures were much less than initially predicted.

Director Williams thanked staff for their flexibility during this time, for being helpful and doing a great job. Director Slawson thanked everyone and asked them to stay safe. President Covington echoed the appreciation for the administrative and field staff.

Director of Finance and Administration Yolanda Rodriguez provided further detail on office staff activities. Feedback from customer service is that citizens have been very understanding, she said. The goal is to return any phone message the same day, Rodriguez indicated. The Facebook account is also monitored, she said.

President Covington asked if every call goes to voice mail, or if in any instance a live person answers. Ms. Rodriguez explained the system is the same voice recording as before except if a caller selects to speak with a customer service representative they can leave a voice mail message and the system advises that someone will call them back before the end of the day. In the case of an emergency, staff calls back within an hour and can respond right away, she said.

Jagers noted that Beaumont City Manager Todd Parton advised that the city has a kiosk for payments but was also working with businesses such as Stater Bros. to identify a way to accept payments if this continues. BCVWD indicated interest in the City's findings and is considering ways to make payments convenient if the situation is extended. President Covington stressed the importance of partnering with other agencies and understanding what others are doing.

8. Legislative Update

Senior Engineer Mark Swanson noted that all news at the federal level is COVID-19 related. He pointed out that AB 2182 and SB 1089 relate to the District's concerns about the Public Safety Power Shutdowns (PSPS). This legislation would provide an exemption for the District as a critical facility. If emergency backup generators are used there would be an exemption from certain air quality regulations such as time limitation and usage, testing and maintenance.

GM Jagers added that staff is also tracking bills involving economic stimulus related to COVID-19 and items of interest will be brought back to the Board.

9. General Manager's Report

General Manager Jagers shared some notes from the SGPWA meetings attended.

BCVWD has suspended deliveries of State Project water in order to minimize staff exposure to COVID-19. Given new assessment of risk of water loss, Mr. Jagers recommended resuming deliveries at a low flow rate, so it does not have to be actively managed by staff. He explained realistic available water supply and expected delivery rates and said he would advise the SGPWA tomorrow.

Mr. Jagers provided an update on the California Water Fix.

Jeff Davis, General Manager of the SGPWA, recently provided an update on the Sites Reservoir Project, Jagers noted. The intent is to revise and recirculate the environmental documents of the project related to rightsizing, Jagers explained. Costs have been reduced to make the project more feasible. Davis expects to bring a request for participation to the SGPWA in May, Jagers noted, and the BCVWD would need to make a decision at the same time. Jagers said he would analyze the new information and suggested inviting Mr. Davis to make a new presentation to the Board.

Mr. Jagers advised that all departments are working diligently to move forward the AMR/AMI project and alternative solutions are being identified for conversion of the meters. Additional work is being identified to keep staff working through the uncertain economic times.

Staff is working on finalizing the contract for fencing at the Noble Creek Recharge Facility and working through the final alignment. To date, 3,119 AF has been delivered to Noble Creek.

Jagers updated the Board on the status of Well 4A, Well 21, and Well 29. Total production for March 2020 from both basins was 623 AF: 536 from the Beaumont Basin and 87 AF from the canyon basin, he reported.

President Covington asked if the District was well-positioned to meet the summer demand. Mr. Jagers said yes, and reminded that there are grading activities ongoing, and the District will turn them off if necessary. Drilling must be finished on Wells 1A and 2A and will be reported in the next month or two.

President Covington pointed to the PSPS events and asked about generator service. Mr. Jagers assured that work has been done in preparation for those events. Swamp coolers are available at larger well facilities to keep the motors cool, he added, and all are being serviced by production staff.

Assistant Director of Operations James Bean concurred and advised that maintenance activities are ahead of schedule and supplies have been stocked in case of interruption in deliveries. Staff has touched base with Southern California Edison (SCE) to keep abreast of the plan for the summer as PSPS appear to be the new normal, Bean said. SCE will try to notify the District one or two days in advance.

Mr. Jagers provided a comparison of production over the last three years. Moving into the summer as people are sequestered at home, Jagers stated, staff is monitoring usage trends but is not anticipating any problems.

President Covington acknowledged the PSPS events and noted critical sites may need external power and suggested renting generators for availability on standby and transfer switches.

10. Topics for Future Meetings:

None added.

11. Announcements

All the following meetings will be held via teleconference unless otherwise indicated. President Covington read the following announcements:

- Collaborative Agencies Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 6 at 5:00 p.m. *(teleconference information TBD) President Covington indicated this meeting is uncertain.*
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting: Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
- Personnel Committee Special Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
- District offices will be closed on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day
- Engineering Workshop: Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
- Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 10 a.m.

12. Adjournment

President Covington adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.



Director John Covington, President
to the Board of Directors of the
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

ATTEST:



Director Lona Williams, Secretary
to the Board of Directors of the
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District