



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

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

***Meeting held via teleconference pursuant to  
California Government Code Section 54950 et. seq. and  
California Governor's Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-33-20***

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**Call to Order:** *President Slawson began the meeting at 6:00 p.m.*

**Pledge of Allegiance:** *Led by President Slawson*

**Invocation:** *Given by Director Ramirez*

**Announcement of Teleconference Participation**

Director of Finance and Administrative Services Yolanda Rodriguez clarified that this meeting is conducted via teleconference pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953, and under Executive Orders 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, 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, Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson, and Williams (6:09 p.m.)  |
| Directors absent:  | None  |
| Staff present:     | General Manager Dan Jagers<br>Director of Finance and Administrative Services Yolanda Rodriguez<br>Senior Engineer Mark Swanson<br>Assistant Director of Operations James Bean<br>Director of Information Technology Robert Rasha |

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
|               | Senior Finance and Administrative Analyst William Clayton<br>Human Resources Coordinator Sabrina Foley<br>Civil Engineering Assistant Evan Ward<br>Administrative Assistant Erica Gonzales |
| Legal Counsel | James Markman  |

Members of the public who registered attendance: Larry Smith and Robert Ybarra from the San Geronio Pass Water Agency, and Rene Miyasato-Gee from the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Director of Finance and Administrative Services 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:** None.

### 1. Adjustments to the Agenda:

General Manager Dan Jagers reported that the Personnel Committee meeting will be held on March 22, 2021. Director of Finance and Administrative Services Yolanda Rodriguez indicated that the Future Agenda Item Reinstatement of fees waived due to COVID-19 was addressed at the last meeting.

*The Board adopted the adjustments to the agenda by the following vote:*

|                |                                      |              |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| MOVED: Ramirez | SECONDED: Hoffman                    | APPROVED 4-0 |
| AYES:          | Covington, Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson |              |
| NOES:          | None.                                |              |
| ABSTAIN:       | None.                                |              |
| ABSENT:        | Williams                             |              |

### 2. Consent Calendar:

*The following Consent Calendar items were approved with one motion:*

- a. Review of the January 2021 Budget Variance Reports
- b. Review of the January 31, 2021 Cash/Investment Balance Report
- c. Review of Check Register for the Month of February 2021
- d. Review of February 2021 Invoices Pending Approval
- e. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2021
- f. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 25, 2021
- g. Report of District Vendor Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2021
- h. Correspondence – Receive and File – Required Correspondence from FY 2020 Independent Audit Firm

|                  |                                      |              |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| MOVED: Covington | SECONDED: Hoffman                    | APPROVED 4-0 |
| AYES:            | Covington, Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson |              |
| NOES:            | None                                 |              |
| ABSTAIN:         | None                                 |              |
| ABSENT:          | Williams                             |              |

*Director Williams joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.*

### **3. Proposed Human Resources Department Vision, Mission, and Values Statement**

Human Resources Coordinator Sabrina Foley explained that adoption of a Human Resources Department Vision, Mission, and Values Statement was a recommendation of the human resources consultant. The draft statement was reviewed and recommended for adoption by the Personnel Committee.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none.

*The Board adopted the Human Resources Department Vision, Mission, and Values Statement by the following vote:*

|                  |  |              |
|------------------|--|--------------|
| MOVED: Covington | SECONDED: Ramirez                              | APPROVED 5-0 |
| AYES:            | Covington, Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson, Williams |              |
| NOES:            | None   |              |
| ABSTAIN:         | None   |              |
| ABSENT:          | None   |              |

### **4. Discussion of San Geronio Pass Water Agency Report on 2021 Water Year Conditions and Department of Water Resources Water Allocation**

General Manager Dan Jagers noted that the San Geronio Pass Water Agency is providing more information on water conditions and the SGPWA General Manager Lance Eckhart provided detail at a recent SGPWA Board meeting. He shared the SGPWA PowerPoint presentation.

The Northern Sierra precipitation conditions are at 60 percent of average, and there is 1,332,000 acre-feet of water in storage for the State Water Project (SWP), Jagers reported, which is about a third of capacity. It looks like it will be a dry, year, he said.

Jagers reminded the Board of water loss last year from the San Luis Reservoir and indicated that was unlikely this year. The SGPWA will bring down about 1,000 acre-feet (af), including reserves if the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Parks District wants to hold the Fishing Derby at the BCVWD recharge ponds, but it may be held at the refurbished pond in Bogart Park, Jagers noted.

BCVWD ordered 10,000 af of imported water to meet demands including some increased storage to meet the needs of new residential construction, and an additional 2,500 if available at a reasonable price, Jagers explained. He said the total order is 12,920 af but said he did not believe that amount would be available. It does represent a desire by the SGPWA to obtain more water if it is reasonably priced, he noted, and the District would like to buy more water in the wet years when it is available, and the price is more attractive.

Mr. Jagers spoke with SGPWA General Manager Eckhart and explained BCVWD's philosophy on conjunctive use and noted the District's current storage is 39,000 af.

The available water order is currently at 10 percent, Jagers noted, with 17,300 af available. He said he believed the SGPWA is reviewing other available water and reminded the Board that the Agency has made deals with other entities in the past.

Because it is a dry year, BCVWD may not be purchasing the water anticipated, and may be taking water out of storage, Jagers advised.

Director Covington asked how much water has been put in the ground thus far this year. Mr. Jagers replied that the District began importing in February and has put 479 af into storage at 12 cubic feet per second (cfs) or a little less than 24 af per day. The SGPWA has recharged 81.5 af on behalf of the City of Banning, he said.

In response to Covington, Mr. Jagers confirmed that Banning has an agreement with BCVWD and the District has recharged for the City at \$60 per af, but said he believes the SGPWA is doing so at no cost and did the same for BCVWD in October. He noted that taxpayer funds pay for those facilities and activities, and the City is not obligated by the agreement to recharge with BCVWD.

President Slawson acknowledged the agencies working together and sharing materials. SGPWA Director Larry Smith said he is grateful that this information was brought to the BCVWD Board and said the consensus of the SGPWA Board is to continue to communicate and share information across the region. All have the same goal: to provide enough water for the constituents, he added.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none.

**5. Resolution 2021-04: Approving the Cooperative Agreement for Beaumont Master Drainage Plan Line 16 Project between Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District and Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District**

General Manager Jagers reminded the Board of previous discussion and said he believes concerns have been addressed. Senior Engineer Mark Swanson reviewed the agreement and addressed items previously noted as concerns.

Swanson pointed to the addition of Recital N to the agreement and noted that the Board and legal counsel had specified a need to be able to walk away if the price is too costly. The language is now satisfactory to legal counsel, he said. He explained other changes in the document including the removal of Section 3, item 2, the statement that had said that the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD) could back out at any time should funds not be available.

General Manager Jagers noted that legal counsel Jim Markman had one concern about the diversion of water related to any future claims. Former BCVWD General Manager Eric Fraser had repeatedly identified to RCFC&WCD that diversion of the stormwater was within the purview of BCVWD and its service area under Irrigation District law, Jagers advised. He said he believed there has been enough development in the community that has increased the output of stormflows that the overall increase due to development is contributing more water to San Timoteo Creek than was there historically. There is a strong case in the event of any future challenges, he stated.

Counsel Markman noted the problem is that Section 2, Paragraph 5, Line 10 of the agreement states that if there is interference with a water right, the risk is BCVWD's, not RCFC&WCD's even though they are building the greater share of the facility and an amount of stormwater will be captured. Since staff or the Board is not aware of any diversion or claim of water right or surface water right, Markman continued, he does not foresee a problem, but it was an alert.

Director Covington asked about claims through the Beaumont Basin Watermaster. Mr. Jagers acknowledged. Covington asked if the water would be metered, and Jagers responded that it would be metered as it goes into the recharge facility so it can be quantified.

Covington said he appreciated staff's work on responding to questions on this item over four years and acknowledged Mr. Markman's expertise. He said he agreed that all the Board's concerns had been resolved.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none.

*The Board adopted Resolution 2021-04 Approving the Cooperative Agreement for Beaumont Master Drainage Plan Line 16 Project between Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District and Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District by the following vote:*

|                |  |              |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| MOVED: Ramirez | SECONDED: Williams                             | APPROVED 5-0 |
| AYES:          | Covington, Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson, Williams |              |
| NOES:          | None.  |              |
| ABSTAIN:       | None.  |              |
| ABSENT:        | None.  |              |

**6. Status of Local Emergency regarding the Impact of the Respiratory Illness Pandemic COVID-19 pursuant to Resolution 2020-07**

General Manager Jagers reported positive trends in the community and gave an overview of current statistics. He recommended targeting mid-April for re-opening, noting that the schools are still trying to re-open.

In response to President Slawson, Mr. Jagers confirmed that the City of Beaumont is open 8 a.m. to noon.

Jagers said that at the Collaborative Agencies Committee meeting he learned that the Beaumont Unified School District will open with a morning online session then afternoon in-person school. He pointed out logistical challenges such as transportation and noted that he recommended the one-month outlook to allow employees to find the solution without having to call in sick.

Director Covington said he still supported a scientific approach to bringing back staff at a limited capacity and supported the model of the District still being cautious. The target date of mid-April makes sense, he said, and asked for an update at the April 14 meeting. Slawson concurred.

Mr. Jagers advised that key staff is still in the building every day and other staff alternates and is being as responsive as possible to maintain good service to ratepayers.

## **7. Reports For Discussion**

### **a. Ad Hoc Committees:**

Director Ramirez reported that the Communications Committee is looking at moving to a cafeteria plan with CV Strategies to focus their attention on print newsletters and continuing to offer support as needed regarding online communication. They will be most useful to the District in growing relationships with the Record-Gazette and the Press-Enterprise, he said. Other opportunities are being explored for presentation to the Board, he said.

### **b. General Manager**

Mr. Jagers reported that production is trending on average of the last three years.

Letters have been delivered to the City of Beaumont regarding the blanket permit request and waiver of fees for encroachment permits for paving and are under consideration by Mr. Hart, Jagers stated.

Initially, there were a few calls from the public regarding the fencing of the Noble Creek Recharge Facility but the people who were using it understand why it was done, Jagers noted. There have been a few cut locks and people entering the site, but no activity of significance, he said.

Mr. Bean added that there were instances of the fence being cut, and repairs are needed.

Mr. Jagers advised that public relations strategies will continue to be developed. The website has been search engine optimized, he reported.

Mr. Jagers reminded the Board of the District's purchase of a drone and shared a photo of the recharge facility. He reported that there may be a shutdown due to valve maintenance activity by San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. Staff is beginning to use the drone to video well sites and has identified repair work that would not otherwise have been visible, Jagers noted.

The drone has also flown the burn areas and an area of Wallace Canyon shows erosion, he noted. Staff will continue such monitoring after storm events, Jagers said.

Mr. Jagers advised that the District will be required to re-draw director division boundaries with the 2020 Census and noted that there has been growth on the west side of the District. Staff is beginning to query for contracting that work out to a demographer, he said.

Form 700s are due, Jagers reminded the Board.



Staff is working on strategies to resume more activities after pausing last year due to the uncertainties of funding, Jagers said. He noted there is a tremendous amount of work to do. Development has not slowed down as expected, but has done the opposite due to low interest rates, he advised. The opportunity for staff to work on other things has not happened and staff will propose solutions that may include consulting for some of the work such as recycled water implementation and construction administration, he advised.

c. Directors' Reports:

President Slawson reported that at the Riverside County Water Task Force meeting he heard a presentation about the State Water Project and Climate Change. He explained that a speaker from NASA discussed new satellite technology which read the saturation point of soil in the Bay-Delta.

d. Legal Counsel Report: None.

## 8. Announcements

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

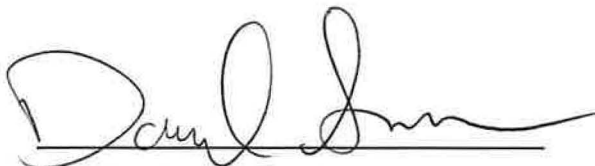
- Personnel Committee Meeting: Monday, Mar. 22, 2021 at 6 p.m.
- Engineering Workshop: Thursday, Mar. 25, 2021 at 6 p.m.
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting: Thursday, Apr. 1, 2021 at 3 p.m.
- Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee: Wednesday, Apr. 7, 2021 at 10 a.m.
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, Apr. 14, 2021 at 6 p.m.

## 9. Action List for Future Meetings:

- Water supply for BCVWD and the region
- Matrix for delivery of recycled water
- Update on the Delta Conveyance Project
- Legal perspective on the Delta Conveyance

## 10. Adjournment

*President Slawson adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.*



Director Daniel Slawson, President  
to the Board of Directors of the  
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

ATTEST:



Director Andy Ramirez, Secretary  
to the Board of Directors of the  
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District