



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

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – ENGINEERING WORKSHOP  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

*Meeting held only via teleconference and video teleconference pursuant to California Government Code Section 54950 et. seq. and under the provisions of Assembly Bill 361 and BCVWD Resolution 2022-02*

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**Call to Order: President Williams**

*President Williams began the meeting at 6:03 p.m.*

*Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Williams.*

*Invocation was given by Director Hoffman.*

**Announcement of Teleconference Participation**

Director of Finance and Administrative Services Kirene Manini, PhD, advised that this meeting is conducted pursuant to BCVWD Resolution 2022-01.

The teleconference capabilities of this meeting have been identified in the Notice and Agenda. The teleconference locations are not publicly accessible. The public's right to comment and participate in the meeting is being assured via teleconference capabilities and at the BCVWD Administrative Office Board Room.

**Roll Call:**

Directors present:	Covington, Hoffman, Ramirez, Williams
Directors absent:	Slawson
Staff present:	General Manager Dan Jagers Director of Finance and Administrative Services Kirene Manini, PhD Director of Operations James Bean Director of Information Technology Robert Rasha Civil Engineering Assistant Evan Ward Administrative Assistant Cenica Smith
Legal Counsel	James Markman

Members of the public who registered their attendance: Lance Eckhart, Larry Smith, Blair Ball, and Chander Letulle of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency.

**Public Comment:** None.

## **1. Adjustments to the Agenda:**

Director Covington suggested dropping the following routine items from the Engineering Workshop agenda:

- Item 6: Consideration of California Drought Conditions, District Urban Water Management Plan Drought Restrictions and BCVWD Resolution 2014-05 Regarding Issuance of Will-Serve Letters and Other Drought Response
- Item 7: Status of Local Emergency regarding the Impact of the Respiratory Illness Pandemic COVID-19 pursuant to Resolution 2020-07
- Item 8: Status of Declared Local Emergencies related to Fires
  - a. Impact of the Apple Fire pursuant to Resolution 2020-17
  - b. Impact of the El Dorado Fire pursuant to Resolution 2020-20
- Item 11: Topics for Future Meetings

President Williams and Director Ramirez agreed.

## **2. Presentation: Sites Reservoir Update by Lance Eckhart, General Manager, San Geronio Pass Water Agency**

Mr. Eckhart introduced San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) President Larry Smith and Treasurer Chander Letulle.

Mr. Eckhart began with the history of moving water from northern to southern California via the State Water Project (SWP) and the original proposal for Sites Reservoir (Sites). Sites has been part of Governor Gavin Newsom's Water Resiliency Portfolio and is gaining some political tailwinds, he said. Proposition 1 included \$840 million to go to Sites Reservoir, but is not nearly enough to get the project built. Local investors must step up to get the funding.

Sites is a 1.5 million acre-foot (af) off stream reservoir, Eckhart explained. Local agencies like SGPWA and BCVWD have been funding the engineering, environmental and permitting work to get the project ready and it is close to being ready to move into building. Eckhart shared a video about the project.

Eckhart reminded the Board that SWP water supply allocation to the State Water Contractors is predicated upon environmental restrictions. He updated the Board on new procedures to address the needs and said the Sites project is now an asset for environmental purposes and water supply.

Sites has 30 participants, including State, federal, and local investors which will operate the water supply. Eckhart noted the importance of the project serving a broad range and diverse group of people. He noted that the State and federal agencies now want a larger stake, as both are recognizing the environmental benefits of the project. Among the benefits is coordination with the Delta tunnel project, he noted.

SGPWA is buying storage space in the reservoir, as it is unknown how much water will actually be received, Eckhart continued. The reservoir fills during wet years, and the water is discharged during the dry. With a new concept of operations for the reservoir, the storage space offers flexibility and may be leveraged and traded to offset costs, get better yield over time, or provide shared capacity.

SGPWA has been importing a lot of water but clearly needs to increase its portfolio, as it has been unable to meet the water orders, Eckhart said. Sites is expected to yield an average of a little over 20,000 af per year. If there is extra water, it can be sold, he added.

The largest investors other than State and federal government are Metropolitan Water District, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD), and SGPWA, Eckhart reported. Other agencies are now interested in participating, he noted.

Money has been spent on permitting, design, outreach, water rights issues, lawyers and more since 2018, Eckhart continued. The last cash calls in 2022, 2023 and 2024 for the ongoing cost share agreement is for Phase 3, which should get the project to the point of construction. This means an additional BCVWD investment of \$1.6 million, and SGPWA \$4 million, then construction will begin, he said.

There is a lot of federal funding coming down, plus California has a budget surplus and this is an attractive project, Eckhart said. Additional funding may make this more affordable for local participants. SGPWA and BCVWD will need to work out arrangements and understand how to use the project together, he said.

Director Hoffman asked about environmental resistance. Eckhart acknowledged and explained that the agencies that manage the environmental issues recognize it has tremendous benefit and features adaptive management. The target online date is still 2024, and the project is on track, Eckhart affirmed.

Hoffman noted that some original investors had pulled out and left money on the table, and asked about the possibility of additional dropouts. Eckhart pointed out that inflation and the cost of construction is an issue and bonding has been delayed. However, stimulus funds will offset that, he noted. It is a balancing act. New investors want in, and some of the dropouts want to come back, he advised.

BCVWD anticipates what it is purchasing to help supply the additional growth in the area, Hoffman continued. He asked where the SGPWA portion would be utilized. Eckhart said it will be necessary to get the water here early, and sees a scenario where the aquifers may be full. As a large investor, the area is in a good position, Eckhart answered, and he advocated working together in the next couple of years to plan how to use the project effectively as a partnership. As a group, the management will be smarter and more prosperous, he noted.

Director Covington asked about future Sites obligations after 2024. Costs will be bonded, but the question is still open, Eckhart answered. It will not be cheap, he said, but advised he does not want to lose the position so must be very thoughtful about how the investment is to be used. He noted that the bond market is unknown, and grant funding is unknown, but it is a great project for the federal and State to continue to participate in.

Covington pointed to the bipartisan infrastructure bill and available funding, and asked if the Sites JPA is pursuing funding. Eckhart explained that the funding is being distributed via various sources (Bureau of Reclamation, the WIIN Act, etc.) and it is unknown how the money will be rolled out over the next five years. The Sites group is positioning the project and working aggressively to be an attractive project.

In response to Covington, Eckhart explained that SGPWA is a member of the JPA and reminded that former SGPWA General Manager Jeff Davis was the JPA chair. SGPWA continues to retain Davis's services to represent at the State level, but he is termed out this month, at which point there will be some changes in governance. SBVMWD is a likely candidate to take on a role, he noted. Local agencies will rotate the responsibility, Covington concluded.

Vice President Ramirez asked if there was more acceptance from Fish & Wildlife agencies on species going extinct, or adopting an approach of more balance. Eckhart pointed to research and collection of the right data, leading to a realization that if all work collectively more fish would be saved. The system is being evaluated holistically and creatively looking at what can and cannot be done, he said. There is massive investment in infrastructure but there are local silos with competing regulations and lack of communication between agencies, he noted. Response needs to be nimbler and more adaptive, he explained.

General Manager Jagers reminded the Board of the Sites Reservoir ad hoc committee and acknowledged the intent for collaborative approach and understanding with the SGPWA and its knowledge base. He assured Eckhart that BCVWD would be interested in partnering for the region's perspective. He indicated there is a finance agreement in process for the next phase.

### **3. 11<sup>th</sup> Street Water Line Replacement Project**

General Manager Jagers advised that staff is looking ahead at projects, identifying more frequent leakers, and ordering pipe designated in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to get the capital replacement projects moving. He reminded the Board about the recent B line activity.

Director of Engineering Swanson noted the project location west of Beaumont Avenue and 11<sup>th</sup> Street dead-ending into Elm. The existing pipeline is aged and has had multiple occurrences of leaks and repairs. The pipeline is either galvanized or a poly tube that staff would like to replace, and has been included in the CIP program. Since the City's slurry sealing of 11<sup>th</sup> Street, the new City ordinance and paving requirements of a 50-foot swath have come into play, he explained.

In the future, the goal of the District will be to relocate aging pipelines from alleyways into the streets, Swanson advised, therefore this project would include stubs for the future relocations. This would be a Request for Proposal project including the hiring of a consultant for assistance; smaller projects had been done in-house, he advised.

Swanson explained the project budget of \$1.4 million. He noted that a large cost for the pipeline is included, accounting for an issue encountered with the Antonell pipeline with the City requiring removal of the old pipeline, which increased the cost

of the project by \$34,000. Staff would like to work with the City to determine a way to address this requirement and identify an alternative to provide cost savings.

Swanson pointed to the \$227,000 cost for paving from centerline to the edge, as necessitated due to the City's recent repaving of the street. This is not typical, Swanson advised, but with the paving moratorium it will likely have to be done.

Jaggers added detail on the street repair for Antonell, and indicated this may not be the case for 11<sup>th</sup>; but a conservative estimate was included. As a minimum, staff would like to proceed with design and work with the City moving forward, he said. This street was included in the paving notification from the City, but the project moved forward fast.

Director Hoffman asked if the leaks were due to age and/or materials; Swanson affirmed. Hoffman acknowledged the City's concerns and asked if the new line would be in the same location. Swanson said the new line would be in the opposite side of the street, as the existing line needs to remain in place while construction is taking place, otherwise customers on that line would be out of water during the build. The old line would be abandoned after the new line is in place. If the old line must be removed, that means replacing the entire street, he explained.

Hoffman asked about connection of services, and Swanson noted that would be up to the contractor. Jaggers noted that typically, laterals are run, and meters swapped with a period of one to two weeks. He detailed some potential for negotiation with the City.

Director Covington asked about a prior project and pointed out that this project would start west of Beaumont Avenue. Swanson explained that the earlier 200-foot project was timed to get in front of the City's paving of Beaumont Avenue.

In response to questions from Director Covington, Jaggers and Swanson provided detail about the design plans and RFP process, and affirmed the City's requirements for paving to centerline: 12 ft x 25 ft each side of the hole, approximately the width of one lane. Covington commented on the City's ordinance and requested discussion be agendaized.

President Williams concurred and asked about other projects subject or not subject to the moratorium. Mr. Jaggers replied that the ordinance has adversely impacted a number of planned and in-process projects. Jaggers pointed to leaks and Swanson referred to another project on the CIP that is not yet affected by the ordinance, and said he hopes to coordinate with the City. Jaggers reminded the Board of other projects completed ahead of the City's work, and assured that staff is being proactive and trying to get ahead of known problems.

Williams referred to current supply chain issues and asked about the availability of project materials. Swanson noted that it may be the end of the year before the project is bid, and conditions then will be unknown. The contractor will be responsible for procurement, and will advise the District at that point. Covington posited that it would be advantageous for the District to now procure the almost 2,000 linear feet of pipe, fittings, and other materials to avoid delays. Jaggers suggested discussion of strategy to stockpile some materials and provided some pros and cons.

Vice President Ramirez suggested an ad hoc committee to address reconsideration of the paving moratorium with the City Council, which appears not to be of benefit to the residents of the City. Covington reiterated the need to agendize the discussion and concurred with the ad hoc committee recommendation.

#### **4. Facilities Maintenance Update**

General Manager Jagers introduced this as an ongoing item to communicate activities to the Board.

Director of Operations James Bean reminded that a Utility Maintenance Worker was hired last year and has been a valuable asset to the team. He updated the Board on projects completed, and advised about upcoming projects.

Jagers emphasized the intent to improve the look of District facilities in the community and to meet some of the desire to move to low maintenance facilities and sites. Bean pointed out the move toward drought-tolerant landscaping.

In response to Director Covington, Mr. Bean affirmed the work is being done by in-house staff. Covington added that the work is impressive.

Mr. Jagers added that metal, fire-resistant roofs are being considered for well sites in the canyon area, and a prototype is being evaluated.

President Williams invited public comment. There was none.

#### **5. Permanent Solutions for District Facilities Needs**

Mr. Jagers introduced the item to begin discussion in earnest and referenced the American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards book with benchmarks for labor and space. He noted the tie to workforce and succession planning.

This report addresses some options, Jagers continued. One of the near-term needs is the Field Office Building which has reached the end of its service life. He advised that the timeline for any solutions is realistically five years from completion if started today.

Jagers provided an overview of the facilities situation and previously discussed options. He pointed to an outline of projections for current and future staffing based on a buildout and considering the AWWA standards. The District currently has 36 to 40 full time employees; at buildout, and with recycled water activities and more, the number of staff could approach 90, Jagers advised. A comprehensive needs analysis was performed; there is a holistic problem, and it is in multiple places, Jagers advised. The holistic plan must meet needs in order to achieve the mark.

Swanson and Jagers provided detail on specific options including expansion of the administrative office, temporary unit at 12<sup>th</sup> and Palm, and new construction or modular unit on existing District land. Also for consideration is purchase of another parcel for construction, he added. He discussed construction costs, potential building code constraints, staffing accommodation, and layouts, and responded to questions from the Board.

Director Covington suggested consulting with the City building department prior to plans, and Counsel Markman advised that the City may not have jurisdiction over the District's building and/ or zoning.

Jaggers recommended next steps to pursue a more permanent or updated temporary solution for field staff as a high priority, and to figure out a solution and plan to determine if the Administration building is viable or whether a different solution should be sought.

Director Covington pointed out potential problematic regulatory situations with the City at the current site, and suggested looking for one larger module to solve both problems.

Director Ramirez emphasized use of the most economical construction methods, and reminded that he was not supportive of the costs of the previously discussed Engineering and Operations Center.

President Williams invited public comment.

Dr. Blair Ball offered a historic perspective on the construction of the current administration building. Because the District is a public agency, it did not go through the City of Beaumont building process, he said. General Manager Jaggers assured this would be vetted by legal counsel.

**6. Consideration of California Drought Conditions, District Urban Water Management Plan Drought Restrictions and BCVWD Resolution 2014-05 Regarding Issuance of Will-Serve Letters and Other Drought Response**

General Manager Jaggers drew attention to the report. There was no discussion.

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

General Manager Jaggers advised the Board that the staffing has returned to pre-pandemic levels (100 percent) to the office, after two weeks at 50 percent as COVID-19 case numbers began to come down. The doors are open to the public, he stated.

**8. Status of Declared Local Emergencies related to Fires**

- c. Impact of the Apple Fire pursuant to Resolution 2020-17
- d. Impact of the El Dorado Fire pursuant to Resolution 2020-20

No report.

**9. Update: Legislative Action and Issues Affecting BCVWD**

General Manager Jaggers drew attention to the report. There was no discussion.

## 10. Reports for Discussion

- a. Directors' Reports: None.
- b. Director General Comments: None.
- c. General Manager's Report

Mr. Jagers advised that imported water recharge will begin on March 7. The SGPWA is seeking opportunities for additional supply.

The CIP projects and maintenance projects continue to move forward. Staffing activities are underway, and the budget cycle is beginning in order to meet the desire of the Board to go dark in December.

- d. Legal Counsel Report: None.

## 11. Topics for Future Meetings:

- Water supply for BCVWD and the region
- Matrix for delivery of recycled water
- Legal Counsel report on changes in Proposition 218
- Legal update on drought conditions in the west
- Maintenance costs at 800-hp well sites

## 12. Announcements

*President Williams read the following announcements:*

- Collaborative Agencies Meeting: Wednesday, Mar. 2, 2022 at 5 p.m.
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting: Thursday, Mar. 3, 2022 at 3 p.m.
- Special Board Meeting: Monday, Mar. 7 at 5:30 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, Mar. 9, 2022 at 6 p.m.
- Personnel Committee Meeting: Tuesday, Mar. 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
- San Geronio Pass Regional Water Alliance: Wednesday, Mar. 23, 2022 at 5 p.m.
- Engineering Workshop: Thursday, Mar. 24, 2022 at 6 p.m.
- Beaumont Basin Watermaster: Wednesday, Apr. 6, 2022 at 11 a.m.

## 13. Adjournment

*President Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.*



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

ATTEST:



Director David Hoffman, Secretary  
to the Board of Directors of the  
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District