



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

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Wednesday, September 9, 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 and N-33-20***

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**Call to Order:** *President Covington began the meeting at 6:04 p.m.*

**Pledge of Allegiance:** *Led by Director Ramirez*

**Invocation:** *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, Hoffman (6:18 p.m.), Ramirez, Slawson, Williams
Directors absent:	None
Staff present:	General Manager Dan Jagers Director of Finance and Administration Yolanda Rodriguez Senior Engineer Mark Swanson Assistant Director of Operations James Bean

	Senior Finance and Administrative Analyst William Clayton Administrative Assistant Erica Gonzales Administrative Assistant Brandy Llanes Field Superintendent Knute Dahlstrom
Legal Counsel	James Markman

Members of the public who registered attendance: Dr. Blair Ball, San Geronio Pass Water Agency. From Pardee Homes: Jeff Chambers, Michael Heishman, and Greg Hohman.

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:** None.

## 1. Adjustments to the Agenda:

**EMERGENCY ITEM:** *Resolution 2020-\_\_\_: Ratifying and Proclaiming a District Local Emergency in Response to the Impact of the El Dorado Fire and Authorizing the General Manager and Director of Finance and Administrative Services to act as Authorized Agents on Behalf of the District*

General Manager Jagers advised of an Emergency Item in response to the impact of the El Dorado Fire. A staff report and associated items are available on the District's website, he noted. The fire activity began to impact the District on Saturday, September 5 and continues, Jagers explained. He has declared a local district emergency to be ratified by the Board.

President Covington announced that the emergency has come to the attention of the District subsequent to the posting of the agenda pursuant to California Government Code 54954 (2)(b) which requires a finding of immediate action. The Board may vote to add the item to the agenda. The fire broke out within the boundary of the Yucaipa Valley Water District and by September 7 the fire spread to wildlands within the boundaries of BCVWD, Covington explained. The GM proclaimed a local District emergency on September 9, he noted, which must be ratified by the Board within seven days.

*The Board made a finding of immediate need and the Emergency Item was added as Agenda Item 7 by the following roll call vote:*

MOVED: Ramirez	SECONDED: Williams	APPROVED 4-0-1
AYES:	Covington, Ramirez, Slawson, Williams	
NOES:	None.	
ABSTAIN:	None.	
ABSENT:	Hoffman	

## 2. Consent Calendar:

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

- a. July 2020 Budget Variance Report
- b. July 2020 Cash/Investment Balance Report
- c. August 2020 Check Register
- d. August 2020 Invoices Pending Approval
- e. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 12, 2020

MOVED: Slawson	SECONDED: Williams	APPROVED 4-0-1
AYES:	Covington, Ramirez, Slawson, Williams	
NOES:	None.	
ABSTAIN:	None.	
ABSENT:	Hoffman	

**3. Request for “Will Serve Letter” and Approval of Annexation for Tentative Tract Map No. 36307 (Riverside County Assessor’s Parcel Nos. 400-020-010, 400-020-025, 400-020-028, and 400-020-040) located on Oak Valley Parkway, west of Potrero Boulevard and east of Palmer Avenue in the City of Beaumont**

General Manager Jagers reminded the Board of discussion at a prior meeting. He noted one parcel has been added.

Mr. Mark Swanson reminded the Board that the development consists of 268 single family units, some open space, and a park site. After further examining the Tract Map, staff identified a small parcel at the northeast corner which should be included, although it may not take direct service but should go through the LAFCO process if it is not currently within the BCVWD boundaries.

*President Covington announced that Director Hoffman has joined the meeting at 6:18 p.m.*

Mr. Swanson pointed to the updated map and indicated the newly included parcel (Lot B) which appears to be an open space lot. GM Jagers noted that LAFCO avoids creating “islands” within service boundaries and there is some work to be done to review this parcel. This is not anticipated to be a burdensome item, he added.

Mr. Swanson reminded the Board that the City of Beaumont is doing a density transfer totaling 274 units and the developer intends to construct 268 as shown on the Tentative Tract Map. The map was previously lotted for 233 and there was no “Will Serve Letter” (WSL) as previously thought, Swanson reminded.

At the last meeting, the developer had indicated concern with the fees and costs associated with facilities across their frontage along Oak Valley Parkway, Swanson noted. Staff subsequently met with the developer and discussed necessary pipelines. Conversations are continuing, he said. In the conditions, staff added item 3A which indicates there will likely be participation on the part of the District that will be addressed in the Plan of Service.

President Covington invited public comment. There was none.

*The Board approved the request for water service "Will Serve Letter" for Tentative Tract Map (TTM) No. 36307 located on Oak Valley Parkway, west of Potrero Blvd. and east of Palmer Ave. and further identified as Riverside County Assessor's Parcel Nos. (APN) 400-020- 010, 400-020-025, 400-020-028, and 400-020-040 and annexation of APNs 400-020-025 and 400-020-028 by the following roll call vote:*

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

#### **4. Ongoing Security Options for Noble Creek Recharge Facility Phase I**

General Manager Jaggars reminded the Board of in-depth discussion at the April 8, 2020 meeting. He shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Phase I fencing project and reported that the fencing and gates are installed. The gates are closed and latched, but not locked, i.e. public access is not restricted, Jaggars advised.

Jaggars described the alignment of the fence and placement of gates. A final job walk will be done to finalize the project, he noted.

President Covington invited public comment. There was none.

President Covington requested comment from legal counsel. Mr. Markman indicated the property looks secure and improbable that a child could get into a pond, even with the gates not locked. This shows that the District has limited some liability exposure, he noted.

President Covington noted that this discussion began in 2017 with Director Diaz who was concerned about the access and activity at the property. He detailed some history of the discussions.

Director Ramirez said that although wrought iron fencing had been considered, the chain link was the most economical way to make the area safe.

Director Hoffman advised that he had watched the fence installation and the workmanship is quality, the materials are heavy duty, and it is meeting the needs of the Board's intention. He asked whether the small gates should be locked at nighttime, all the time, or just the small gates with big gates unlocked. He said several members of the community had expressed hope that they could have access during the daytime. There are options available through locking which will have to be researched, he indicated. The older method with padlock and key, but there may now be electronic systems that could be used on the gates, which would be at a cost. He requested considerations based on the citizens remarks.

Director Slawson asked when the gates would be locked.

President Covington acknowledged the research in the project. From the minutes of the April 8 meeting, he continued, it seemed the Board was in favor of locking the facility with no public access. Originally, the facility was supposed to be much more than it is today, he pointed out. He advocated locking the gates along

Beaumont Avenue and on Cherry Valley Boulevard. He suggested local outreach to Flood Control, utilities and others that may need access.

General Manager Jagers recommended not investing more in the fence until after the flood season as the watershed is burned and there is opportunity for non-typical mud and debris along the northerly fence line. Covington expressed concern with the burn in Noble Creek and potential flood events if the facility is open. He suggested locking it down for safety. Director Williams concurred and pointed to the potential for floodwaters inundating the facility endangering human lives.

Director Ramirez agreed with closure. Director Hoffman said he was flexible either way. Director Slawson said he is leaning toward locking it down, possibly excepting the pedestrian four-foot gate on Beaumont Avenue.

Dr. Blair Ball asked the Board to further consider access. He advocated for at least one gate to remain open for pedestrian access as a safe place for walking and exercising. He reminded the Board that he was a director when this facility was designed, and it was intended for the public to have access to. Since 2005, he said, there have been no drownings, no murders, no egregious activity, and these facilities belong to the public, he noted. He said he preferred the gate on Cherry Valley Boulevard to remain unlocked and suggested moving the latch higher so a smaller person could not open it. He requested the Board not make a decision at this meeting, as it wasn't an action item, it was more of a staff report and there are people who would like to continue to use the facility.

President Covington suggested he later meet with Dr. Ball and advocated moving forward. Covington posited that the Board had reached consensus and directed the General Manager to move forward.

## **5. Scheduling of Bogart Park Plaque Dedication**

General Manager Jagers said he spoke with Duane Burk, general manager of the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District (BCVRPD), which has installed the plaque at the park entrance and would like to schedule a photo opportunity with the BCVWD Board in October.

President Covington asked staff to poll the Board and set a date.

General Manager Jagers advised that Cal FIRE helicopters were using the pond and BCVWD has been participating with BCVRPD to get water to the firefighting efforts.

## **6. Status of Local Emergency regarding the Impact of the Apple Fire pursuant to Resolution 2020-17**

General Manager Jagers advised that post-Apple Fire preparations had been suspended while the El Dorado fire burned from Yucaipa into Cherry Valley. Expectations moving forward have now changed, Jagers explained. There is still

an emergency, he continued, and a lot has been done including protecting facilities, but there is more work to do now.

**7. EMERGENCY ITEM: Resolution 2020-20: Ratifying and Proclaiming a District Local Emergency in Response to the Impact of the El Dorado Fire**

General Manager Jagers advised that a local emergency was declared and asked the Board to ratify the declaration.

Jagers explained that a fire broke out on Saturday, September 5 and burned from Yucaipa El Dorado Ranch Park through the community of Oak Glen, some of Forest Falls, the San Bernardino National Forest, and the north end of Cherry Valley. The fire is continuing to grow, Jagers noted, and has burned within BCVWD boundaries.

Jagers advised that the fire has created additional mud and debris flow issues and has burned next to the District's northerly upper canyon house. The employee-occupant of the house returned early from vacation and worked with Cal FIRE to provide proactive weed abatement in the area. Jagers described additional burn areas and said he toured the area with President Covington. The fire continues to burn adjacent to the District's middle house and other facilities, Jagers said, but the fire crews are doing a great job of fighting.

BCVWD Assistant Director of Operations James Bean has been supporting Cal FIRE and identifying the location of District facilities to assure they are not destroyed, Jagers said.

President Covington asked for comments from Assistant Director Bean. Bean indicated there was a large fire burning directly behind in the Wallis Canyon area at Miravilla and Mile High Road in the Upper Mesa area. He estimated there were 15 engines inside Edgar Canyon with about six bulldozers and four or five hand crews on site.. The current danger is blowing embers, which could potentially catch near District well sites, he said. Staff is keeping close watch on flying embers, Bean said, and advised there is a significant burn scar. President Covington acknowledged the danger to the District's properties and applauded the efforts of staff.

In response to President Covington, Bean indicated that no District facilities had been lost. There was damage to a significant water main during the Apple Fire, he reminded, and repairs were made right alongside the flames in order to get the water supply back up and running.

Director Ramirez commended staff for protecting the District's assets. Director Williams concurred and urged staff to be safe.

Mr. Jagers shared a map of fire activity and burn scar and discussed areas of watershed and debris flow concern. He said he expects to come back to the Board with recommendations for additional areas of protection. Staff is working with the San Geronimo Pass Water Agency (SGPWA), Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Flood Control), the City of Beaumont and others, Jagers stated. Wells and tanks within the Little San Geronimo Creek drainage area are now more impacted, he explained, and there is increased risk at Noble



Creek Recharge Facilities Phase I and II due to two burned watersheds that feed down into the facility.

Jaggers shared photos and reviewed a debris flow incident in 2014. He said he expects that if there is significant rain, similar situations will occur – there is need for concern and thus is the reason for the declaration of emergency.

*The Board adopted Resolution 2020-20: Ratifying and Proclaiming a District Local Emergency in Response to the Impact of the El Dorado Fire and Authorizing the General Manager and Director of Finance and Administrative Services to act as Authorized Agents on Behalf of the District by the following roll call vote:*

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

**8. Review of District Staffing Activities and Cash Flows as related to the ongoing COVID-19 Local State of Emergency**

Director of Finance and Administrative Services Yolanda Rodriguez introduced the report and reminded the Board that staff is tracking activity of the ratepayers in light of the moratorium on disconnections. The number of accounts with balances over 90 days is increasing, she reported.

As of August 26, Rodriguez continued, 41 customers have requested payment plans. Total revenue loss from non-collection of inactivation fees, late fees and credit card processing fees is \$95,463 which will have to be written off eventually, Rodriguez explained.

President Covington opined that even with the losses, the situation is better than he had anticipated.

Rodriguez pointed to cash flow and said the District is doing fairly well this year and pointed to the increase in rates. The large payments to vendors, she noted were primarily to the SGPWA and Southern California Edison. There was also an expense of \$1.04 million for new meters, she noted.

As of August 27, the District's cash and investments totaled \$64.8 million, as compared to \$59.7 million in 2019, Rodriguez stated.

Ms. Rodriguez commended the efforts of customer service staff who has worked to provide payment plans for ratepayers.

President Covington invited public comment. There was none.

General Manager Jaggers said the District has held off filling vacant positions in an effort to minimize exposure. At this point, staff is moving forward with advertising the vacant position and has hired a couple of temporary positions related to the AMR / AMI grant activities and work coming up. More horsepower is needed in the field and probably in the office, he explained, and the District is

moving into the budget period. Covington acknowledged that the help will be needed in the field over the winter.

## **9. Status of Local Emergency regarding the Impact of the Respiratory Illness Pandemic COVID-19 pursuant to Resolution 2020-07 and Discussion of Lobby Access to Public**

Mr. Jagers said that many water districts are still running minimum staff. He said he reviewed the CDC's and State of California's opening tier system and noted that all tiers promote remote work for office staff. BCVWD has remote staff in Finance and Audit, and in Customer Service. He advised there is no plan at this time to recommend reopening at a point in time. The District is operating safely and has not lost any staff recently to COVID-19 exposure and the community seems to be getting a better grip on distancing, he added.

Working remotely to minimize office staff interaction is still something a lot of districts are doing, Jagers said. He discussed staffing and the trade-off between service to the public and keeping staff safe and said he believes there are ways to efficiently move things forward such as restricted access.

Director of Finance and Administrative Services Yolanda Rodriguez added that office staff shifts are staggered as with a small staff, the District cannot risk business interruption. Customer phone calls are returned right away, she assured the Board, and staff is making it work. President Covington asked about reactions of the public. Ms. Rodriguez responded that the public has so far been understanding and there has been no negative feedback. The main concern, she continued, is the setup of the front office lobby requires people to cross paths and it must be determined how to make re-opening work.

President Covington stated that staff would take the lead in formulating a plan. He noted this conversation would be continuing in November, and would the office be closed for a year before some kind of opening of the lobby. He requested staff consider what this will mean for the future.

## **10. Reports For Discussion**

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

President Covington asked about activity of the Recycled Water Committee. Director Slawson said there had been none recently. Mr. Jagers reported that the City is moving forward and will have an update at the Regional Board on Friday. BCVWD took the initiative to begin writing the agreement and it is now in draft form, but has taken a back seat to the fires, he explained. It will be sent to the City and he expects talks will begin soon thereafter. President Covington indicated the Friday meeting will be important, and he will also attend.

Director Ramirez noted that the Communications Committee has stayed within budget and Director Williams has provided valuable feedback on outreach to the community online and on the welcome packet.



Transparency continues to improve every day, he said, and thanked Director Williams and CV Strategies.

b. General Manager

Mr. Jagers reported that 24 cfs is continuing to be delivered to the recharge facility. He said this will be shut off if there are upcoming rains in order to allow the impounded water to decline. The District is moving forward with the SGPWA, Flood Control and others to devise a plan of attack for the winter. Focus is on getting prepared, hiring staff and other activities, he said.

c. Directors' Reports:

Director Slawson reported that the San Geronio Pass Water Alliance met for the first time since January. Attendance was poor, he said. Mr. Jagers and Jason Uhley advised the group about potential flood damage. Work will also be done on the website, Slawson reported.

President Covington acknowledged the dedication of Knute Dahlstrom who was on vacation when the El Dorado Fire broke out and drove back to immediately operate a dozer to cut fire lines.

President Covington said he attended the SGPWA Board meeting on Tuesday. They are looking at hiring a consultant to look at their tax base and at hiring Raftelis to look at potential rates such as a capacity fee. New GM Lance Ekhardt seems to have hit the ground running and will do a good job, Covington said.

d. Legal Counsel Report: None.

## 11. Announcements

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

- Engineering Workshop: Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
- Personnel Committee Meeting: Monday, September 28, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting: Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.
- Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee Meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 10 a.m.
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 6 p.m.
- Collaborative Agencies Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (*in-person meeting at Beaumont Library; also available via Zoom*)

## 12. Action List for Future Meetings:

Water Supply for the region  
Update on Bogart Park

## 13. Convened in Closed Session: 8:02 p.m.

- a. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54947  
Title: General Manager

Reconvened in Open Session: 8:21 p.m.

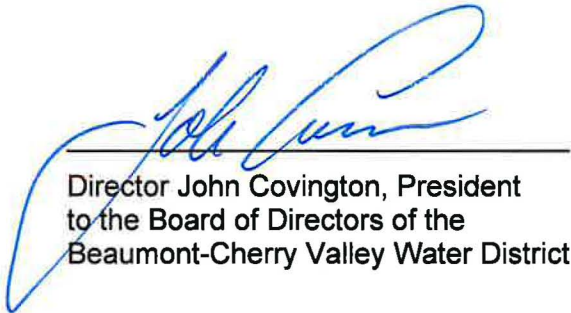
**14. Report on Closed Session**

*President Covington announced there was no reportable action taken during Closed Session.*

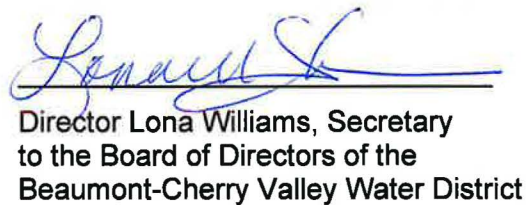
**15. Adjournment**

*President Covington adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.*

ATTEST:



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



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