



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

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**

*Meeting held in person at 560 Magnolia Ave., Beaumont, CA  
pursuant to California Government Code Section 54950 et. seq.*

**Call to Order:** *President Covington opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.*

*Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Williams.*

*Invocation was given by Director Slawson.*

**Announcement and Verification of Remote Meeting Participation Pursuant to  
AB 2449 or GC 54953(b)**

*Director Slawson attended via teleconference under the Just Cause provision.*

**Roll Call:**

Directors present:	Covington, Hoffman, Slawson, Williams
Directors absent:	Ramirez
Staff present:	General Manager Dan Jagers Director of Engineering Mark Swanson Director of Operations James Bean Director of Information Technology Robert Rasha Assistant Director of Finance and Administration Sylvia Molina Human Resources Manager Ren Berioso Finance Manager Bill Clayton Engineering Assistant Evan Ward Development Services Technician Lily Tienda Temporary Water Utility Worker Kyle Anders Executive Assistant Lynda Kerney
Legal Counsel	Tilden Kim

Members of the public who registered attendance: Lance Eckhart, Kevin Walton and Larry Smith of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency, and Nyles O'Harra of Yucaipa Valley Water District.

**Public Comment:** None.

**1. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Mr. Jagers requested the President move forward Item 7.

## 2. Reports / Presentations / Information Items

At the request of President Covington, Assistant Director of Finance and Administration Sylvia Molina provided a report on item 2c: *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting*.

*The Board received and filed the following reports:*

- a. *Chandler Asset Management Quarterly Economic Report*
- b. *Townsend Public Affairs, Inc. Monthly Update*
- c. *Acknowledge Receipt of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for BCVWD's 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*

*by the following roll-call vote:*

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

## 3. Consent Calendar

*Consent Calendar items 3a through 3f were approved with one motion by the following roll-call vote:*

- a. *Review of the December 2023 Budget Variance Reports*
- b. *Review of the December 31, 2023 Cash/Investment Balance Report*
- c. *Review of Check Register for the Month of January 2024*
- d. *Review of January 2024 Invoices Pending Approval*
- e. *Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2024*
- f. *Status of Declared Local Emergencies Related to Fires*
  - i. *Impact of the Apple Fire pursuant to Resolution 2020-17*
  - ii. *Impact of the El Dorado Fire pursuant to Resolution 2020-20*

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

*President Covington called Item 7 out of order.*

## 7. Consider Letter of Support for the San Geronio Pass Water Agency's WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

General Manager Dan Jagers reminded the Board about the request during the drought period from Solera Homeowners Association for a turf conversion program. The San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) pursued the request, and meetings resulted in the program as presented, resulting in an annual

estimated savings of 28 acre-feet to help accomplish conservation goals. He discussed forthcoming conservation targets.

SGPWA General Manager Lance Eckhart made a presentation and provided further detail on the program and grant application.

President Covington and Director Slawson expressed support, and Director Williams said she hoped more organizations would participate after seeing this successful.

In response to Director Hoffman, Mr. Eckhart clarified that the grant funds could be a for schools and parks, also. It could expand into a full regional program if desired, he noted.

Director Slawson added that he is pleased to partner with the SGPWA.

*The Board approved the Letter of Support for the San Geronio Pass Water Agency's WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and directed staff to transmit the letter to the Bureau of Reclamation by the following roll-call vote:*

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

**4. Request for Extension of Will-Serve Letter for a Previously Approved Industrial Development (APN 417-150-015) "McClure Industrial Building"– located on West 1st Street East of Veile Avenue and West of Grace Avenue in the City of Beaumont**

Director of Engineering Mark Swanson reminded that the Board approved this project in 2022. This is a WSL extension request for a small commercial activity. It is not located within the District's boundary; the LAFCO annexation process is underway, and this WSL is a critical piece along with the Plan of Service. The applicant reported there is a new engineer on board and the project has not progressed as far as they'd have liked, but they are looking to move forward quickly.

Total project consumption is 8.9 Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs), Swanson explained. There are existing potable and nonpotable facilities in 1st Street.

President Covington noted this is a one acre lot; small for an industrial use.

President Covington invited public comment. There was none.

*The Board approved the request for extension of the Will-Serve Letter for a term of one year for the proposed McClure Industrial Building development at Riverside County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 417-150-015 within the City of Beaumont, subject to payment of all deposits and fees to the District and securing all approvals from the City of Beaumont the City of Beaumont by the following roll-call vote:*

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

**5. Resolution 2024-02 Amending the District's Policies and Procedures Manual Replacing Part I, Section 21 with Policy 3070: Holidays, and Revising Policy 3122 Workplace Violence**

General Manager Jagers noted that these policies had been recommended by the Personnel Committee. Human Resources Manager Ren Berioso explained an inquiry from field staff regarding unscheduled call out during a holiday. The MOU is not the same as the written policy, so changes are proposed to align the policy to the current MOU Article 26. In order to qualify for holiday pay, staff must work a full shift before and after the holiday, except if it is during preapproved vacation. A list of exceptions was presented to the Personnel Committee, he noted. He reviewed the fiscal impact and provided more detail.

President Covington noted the recommendation of the Personnel Committee. Director Williams asked about Witness Duty, and Mr. Berioso confirmed it was the same policy for time and pay as Jury Duty. Providing paid holidays is at the discretion of the employer, he added.

Mr. Berioso reviewed the updates to Policy 3122 and the requirements of SB 553. He pointed out a scrivener's error on the staff report that was corrected on the final resolution. President Covington pointed to the policy sections struck by the Personnel Committee and acknowledged the recommendations by legal counsel.

*The Board adopted Resolution 2024-02 Amending the District Policies and Procedures Manual, adopting Policy 3070, superseding Part I Section 21 Holidays and adopting revisions to Policy 3122 Workplace Violence, superseding Policy 3122 by the following roll-call vote:*

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

**6. Award of Contract to Legend Pump and Well Services, Inc. for Well 18 and Well 21 – Well and Well Pumping Unit Rehabilitation and Repair**

Director of Operations James Bean detailed the repair work needed on two wells with subsurface failures. He explained the bid components. Public bids were solicited, and two responses were received. The apparent low bidder was Legend Pump and Well Services.

General Manager Jagers reviewed some recent repair work history and reiterated the need for some contingency.

Director Williams asked about the \$100,000 cost difference in chemicals. Mr. Bean pointed to the chemicals specified in the scope of work, which was an additive item.

*The Board authorized the General Manager to execute a contract not to exceed \$350,000.00 with Legend Pump and Well Services, Inc. to perform the work necessary to remove, inspect, and repair the District's existing Well 18 and Well 21 pumping unit and to rehabilitate the wells by the following roll-call vote:*

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

**7. Consider Letter of Support for the San Geronio Pass Water Agency's WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

*This item was heard earlier in the meeting.*

**8. Revision of Schedule of Miscellaneous Fees (Administrative Cost Recoveries) and Setting of Date for Public Hearing**

President Covington noted that the detail on proposed fees requested by the Board at the last meeting is included in the staff report.

General Manager Jagers noted that the items are cost recovery and some penalties. Finance Manager Bill Clayton pointed out the proposed change in penalties for water theft.

President Covington pointed to the rates for additional paving related to the City of Beaumont paving moratorium.

President Covington invited public comment. There was none.

*The Board set a Public Hearing for the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2024, at 6 p.m. to consider the adoption of revisions to the Schedule of Miscellaneous Fees by the following roll-call vote:*

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

**9. Update on Making Conservation a California Way of Life (AB 1668 and SB 606) (Continued from January 25, 2024)**

General Manager Jagers shared a presentation that he had made at the January 24, 2024 meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Alliance regarding SB 606 and AB 1668. He advised the Board of upcoming conservation targets (urban water use objective) slated for 2025 and beyond. The concerns of the water supplier community have been communicated to the State by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA).

Jagers described BCVWD's situation and concerns as related to the coming regulations, and potential impacts of the mandated reduction in water use.

President Covington asked about the financial effect on the District. Jagers stated that less water use will result in higher cost to cover fixed operating costs, well maintenance, and more.

Jagers noted that reduction in residential use has already been seen, but the regulations create a condition where the factors used in master planning in 2014 and 2015 have a significant opportunity for impact on the number of facilities needed. He posited that the new efficiency might reduce the total water project build out need of 60 to 65 percent of what had been projected five or 10 years ago.

In response to a question from President Covington, Jagers confirmed that the determination of whether the District is over or under its targets is applied District-wide. To get to the targets, high use individuals may be approached to consider a web-based irrigation clock and assistance to save as much as possible. If big offenders are seen, the District would try to work with them.

Director Williams remarked on the complicated requirements and asked if the State was developing software to assist districts in calculation. President Covington said no, the District would have to buy it.

Mr. Jagers reminded that during the last rate study, he noted that a four-tier rate structure may be in the future. Multi-tiered water rates will most likely be required to catalyze conservation and increase efficiencies. The regulations will be released this summer, and the District must begin meeting the values by January 2025.

BCVWD is experiencing more water loss than the State's target, Jagers continued. There is an old system with new development all around, and leaks occur.

Jaggers noted the importance of having the AMR / AMI system to help manage. He estimated there will be a few thousand people with whom the District will regularly communicate. He also envisioned some town hall meetings. He noted that this is very burdensome for staff.

Older homes will be impacted more than newer more water efficient homes, he said. If the District can get there as a whole, then will not need to worry about the individual; but he said he suspected moving forward will be working with individual to help them meet the objective. He predicted there will be turf replacement programs for some to try to get the numbers down, and it will be more and more important to partner with the SGPWA.

President Covington pointed to the recent 12-hour meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board where this was discussed and said he wondered what amendments may have been made to the draft regulations following that meeting. He directed staff to provide additional public comment if there is opportunity.

Covington indicated that the agency must sell water or face financial ruin, and noted that the higher rates and state mandates could create an untenable situation given unavoidable fixed costs. These mandates, in light of the fact that the State historically wastes available water, are insulting, he stated. Higher rates just to cover operations is not where BCVWD wants to be, he stated.

Director Williams said she was not happy to see this presentation and commented on the state's usual "one-size-fits-all" regulation.

Director Hoffman agreed with Covington and said a continued effort must be made to stay informed, including ongoing communication to constituents. He suggested choosing battles where the District can exert influence; there is strength in numbers.

Director Slawson expressed resignation to the mandates and said he was glad staff was on top of the issue.

Mr. Jaggers added that recycled water would likely add credits to help with implementation. He advised that the District would provide a response letter for proposed Chromium 6 regulations. The state legislates but does not provide vehicles for implementation to get the work done in a reasonably timely manner.

The program is a very big cost for very little savings, Jaggers noted, whereas the Delta Conveyance Project helps to provide more savings.

President Covington invited public comment. There was none.

#### **10. Consideration of Attendance at Upcoming Events and Authorization of Reimbursement and Per Diem**

Directors indicated interest in the following events:

- Beaumont Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on Mar. 8 – Slawson, Williams

- California Special Districts Association (CSDA) webinar: Creating a Successful Communications Strategy on Mar. 12 – Covington, Hoffman, Williams
- CSDA webinar: Understanding the Roles and Responsibilities of Public Employees on Mar. 19 – Williams

## 11. Reports For Discussion and Possible Action

### a. Ad Hoc Committees:

Communications Committee: There was no meeting in February. Director Williams recommended meeting every other month until the fall. President Covington directed meetings to be bimonthly until further notice.

Sites Reservoir Committee: Mr. Jagers recommended a joint meeting with the SGPWA regarding updated project costs and how the project looks moving forward.

Bogart Park: Mr. Jagers said he has asked to meet with Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District General Manager Mickey Valdivia and tour the kiosk and the Noble Tank project.

Water Re-Use 3x2: Mr. Jagers reported no news from the City; President Covington reminded that there was supposed to be a meeting.

### b. Directors' Reports:

Directors provided reports on the following meetings and events:

- ACWA Region 9 Tour on Tuesday January 30, 2024 (Slawson)
- CSDA Virtual Workshop: ChatGPT on Wednesday January 31 & February 7, 2024 (Slawson)
- Beaumont Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on February 9, 2024 (Hoffman, Slawson, Williams)
- Joint Meeting of the Boards of Directors of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District on February 13, 2024 (Slawson)

### c. Directors' General Comments:

Director Williams reported that she attended her first ACWA Groundwater Committee meeting on February 8. Discussed were groundwater requirements for unadjudicated basins, a salmon report and restoration processes, stormwater capture for groundwater recharge.

Director Slawson reported that at the joint meeting of the San Geronio Pass Water Agency and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District there was agreement by both to finance the next phase of the Delta Conveyance Project.

### d. General Manager's Report:

Mr. Jaggers reported:

- RWG Legal Counsel Tilden Kim or Steve Flower will be filling in for James Markman over the next couple of months
  - It has been a wet few weeks and staff has been working on operation and maintenance of the recharge facility for efficient water use and stormwater capture
  - Despite last minute notification, response to legislation in a timely manner is important in case there is ever need to go to court on an issue
  - South Mesa Water Company groundbreaking on Friday
- e. Legal Counsel Report: Mr. Kim reiterated the backup attendance for Mr. Markman and assured the Board that RWG has professionals in many specialties, and there will be a seamless provision of services.

## 12. Topic List for Future Meetings:

- Update / Presentation on the AMR/AMI project
- Presentation on the San Bernardino Valley Resource Conservation District
- Presentation on solar power opportunities
- Sites Reservoir update
- Policy 5095 – District Residences and Facility Emergency Policy
- Revision of policies related to expenses and travel
- Property acquisition

## 13. Announcements

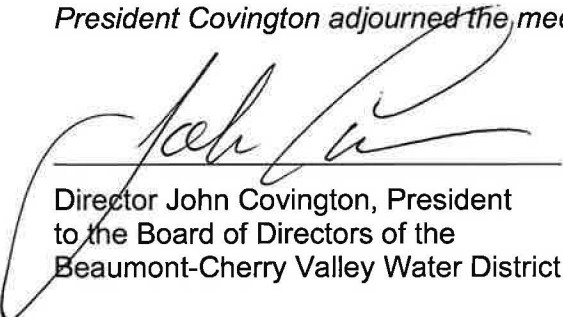
*President Covington pointed out the announcements:*

- District Offices closed Monday, Feb. 19 in observance of Presidents' Day
- Personnel Committee meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m.
- Engineering Workshop: Thursday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m.
- Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee: Wednesday, Mar. 6 at 11 a.m.
- Collaborative Agencies meeting: Wednesday, Mar. 6 at 5 p.m.
- Finance & Audit Committee meeting: Thursday, Mar. 7 at 3 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, Mar. 13 at 6 p.m.
- San Geronio Pass Regional Water Alliance: Wednesday, Mar. 27 at 5 p.m.

*Director Slawson advised he would not attend the Engineering Workshop on Feb. 22.*

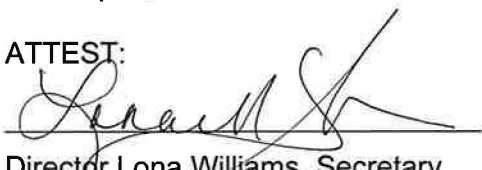
## 14. Adjournment

*President Covington adjourned the meeting at 7:58 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