



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

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING – ENGINEERING WORKSHOP
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Call to Order: *President Slawson opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Hoffman.
Invocation was given by President Slawson.*

Announcement and Verification of Remote Meeting Participation
No directors were attending via teleconference.

Roll Call:

Directors present:	Covington, Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson, Williams
Directors absent:	None
Staff present:	General Manager Dan Jagers Director of Engineering Mark Swanson Director of Information Technology Robert Rasha Associate Civil Engineer I Evan Ward Human Resources Manager Ren Berioso Development Services Technician Lilian Tienda Water Utility Superintendent Julian Herrera Administrative Assistant Cenica Smith
Legal Counsel	James Markman

Members of the public who registered their attendance: Beaumont City Councilman Julio Martinez, Lance Eckhart, San Geronio Pass Water Agency.

Public Comment: None.

- 1. Adjustments to the Agenda:** None.
- 2. Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Task Order with Cozad & Fox, Inc. for Survey Services and Authorize the Expenditure of Additional Funds for District Project Costs Associated with the 2600 – 2400 Non-Potable Water Pressure Reducing Station Contract Document Preparation, Environmental Assessment, and Permitting**

Director of Engineering Mark Swanson explained the need for a Pressure Reducing (PRV) Station for the non-potable 2400 pressure zone. The site is located on a parcel owned by the Fairway Canyon Homeowners Association on Palmer Avenue between Armor Avenue and Morris Street. Once the survey is done, District staff intends to do

the design in house. Because the City of Beaumont intends to pave Palmer Avenue later this year, staff would like to lay pipeline as part of Phase 1, with Phase 2 being the building of the PRV station. He explained the costs, which include documentation of legals and plats for an easement.

General Manager Jagers added some detail on the requirements for addressing Chromium VI and recycled water, noting that the District is moving judiciously. He clarified that these figures do not include construction costs and indicated that needed materials such as valves may be purchased individually. He advised there will be another similar project coming forward in the future.

Director Covington asked if these costs and the construction phase were charged to the CIP Budget. Mr. Swanson confirmed, and said this project has been budgeted and staff time is charged to the budget line item.

The Board authorized the General Manager to execute a Task Order with Cozad & Fox, Inc. to perform surveying services for the 2600 – 2400 Non-Potable Water Pressure Reducing Station in the amounts of \$7,979.00 and \$821.00 for a total not to exceed amount of \$8,800.00, and authorized the General Manager to expend additional funds for costs associated with the project contract document preparation, environmental assessment and permitting activities in an amount not to exceed \$40,200.00 by the following roll-call vote:

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

6:13 p.m. Director Williams joined the meeting in the Board Room.

3. Resolution 2025-02: Amending the District’s Policies and Procedures Manual: Part II, Section 7 Board Meeting Conduct

Human Resources Manager Ren Berioso introduced Policy 4035 to replace the existing policy on Board Meeting Conduct. The new ad hoc Board Policies Committee reviewed the policy and recommended it to the Board. With minor revisions, it incorporates the provisions of SB 1100 which provide guidance in the event of meeting disruption.

Director Hoffman asked who would be responsible for removal of violent disruptive persons. Mr. Berioso noted that staff would respond, or an individual could be removed by local authorities. Counsel Markman cautioned against getting into a physical situation and suggested police presence if it seemed necessary. Mr. Jagers and Director Ramirez advised that that in such a case, the meeting could be recessed until the situation was controlled.

Director Covington added that the ad hoc Policies Committee had vetted the policy, and Director Williams noted it was brought forward to the Board for consideration as it is timely.

The Board adopted Resolution 2025-02: Amending the District's Policies and Procedures Manual: Part II Section 7 Board Meeting Conduct (Policy 4035) by the following roll-call vote:

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

4. Update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – Legal Perspective from Jim Markman - Richards, Watson, Gershon

District Legal Counsel James Markman advised the Board on conflicts between the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the Streamlined Adjudication Act, which have resulted in litigation. SGMA, enacted in 2015, requires local agencies to develop groundwater sustainability plans over a 20-year period to manage overdrafted basins. However, the Streamlined Adjudication Act allows water users to file lawsuits to establish water rights, creating legal conflicts as some users—often agricultural interests—seek to override SGMA restrictions. Courts have frequently allowed these challenges; re-evaluating groundwater yields independently and complicating SGMA’s objectives.

Mr. Markman noted that SGMA agencies, backed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), develop sustainability plans requiring pumping reductions, but those facing cutbacks often turn to adjudication. A key case in Indian Wells Valley highlights this conflict, as DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board support the SGMA plan while a competing adjudication challenges its findings. While legislation seeks to prevent courts from overturning SGMA’s scientific determinations, legal uncertainty persists. The Beaumont Basin remains exempt due to prior adjudication, but nearby basins like San Timoteo could be subject to future SGMA oversight.

Director Covington asked if areas on the fringe of the Beaumont Basin, within BCVWD’s service area but outside the adjudicated boundary, are subject to SGMA. Mr. Markman explained that while the Beaumont Basin itself is exempt, adjacent areas could still fall under SGMA unless explicitly exempted by DWR, which adheres strictly to Bulletin 118 basin definitions.

General Manager Jagers clarified that portions of the San Timoteo Basin within BCVWD’s service area are classified as "very low priority" by DWR due to minimal development and extraction. As a result, SGMA requirements do not currently apply but could in the future if conditions change.

President Slawson asked who determines when an area must comply with SGMA. Legal Counsel Markman confirmed that DWR sets the timeline for compliance, prioritizing the most critically overdrafted basins. He noted that DWR’s limited staff has delayed groundwater plan reviews and enforcement.

President Slawson also inquired whether environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club, have engaged in SGMA-related legal disputes. Mr. Markman responded that

conflicts have primarily been between water producers, though state agencies could become more involved in protecting natural resources.

5. Update: Development Processing Activity in the BCVWD Engineering Department

General Manager Jagers introduced the presentation and noted that there is a meeting scheduled with a developer next week in response to a complaint. Many things are in process and moving forward, and demand projections support production of Water Supply Assessments and Plans of Service. Some on-call consulting services will be engaged to minimize drag on Engineering's higher priority projects, he advised.

Director Covington pointed to the recent comment from a project proponent on the pace and lack of communication from the District. He advised staff that the District must not be characterized as inefficient or difficult to deal with, and said he had trust in the Engineering Department. He said he trusted that the District has a process that is viable and equitable to all applicants in an orderly queue. He reminded of the Board's support for the use of outside engineering firms to get through busy times. President Slawson noted that staff can be added, as well.

Director Williams requested the Engineering Department be certain to keep up with the workload.

In response to Director Covington, Director of Engineering Mark Swanson indicated there is a developer handbook on the website. There is no software, he stated, but described the internal process and provided examples. Director Covington challenged the staff to look into project management software and a portal for online status to make the process easier for staff and customers. President Slawson noted this also reduces the need for printing. General Manager Jagers stated that the Information Technology Department would look into it.

6. Overview of BCVWD Recycled Water Program Status

General Manager Jagers reminded the Board about public comments made at the January 8 meeting by City of Beaumont Councilman Lloyd White. He assured that there is desire to implement recycled water on the part of both the City and the District. He provided a detailed presentation on the current status of the project:

- Recycled Water Availability & Challenges
 - Challenges remain in securing regulatory approvals for full implementation.
 - The City's consultant provided preliminary estimates on January 3, 2025:
 - Water availability projected within 2 to 4 years (possibly by Q1 2028).
 - Estimated quantity available remains uncertain, with 1.5 MGD (million gallons per day) projected, but final figures depend on regulatory approvals and seasonal factors.
 - Required Cooper's Creek discharge remains unclear, with a status quo estimate of 1.8 MGD to remain in the creek.

- City is considering multiple options:
 1. Recharge into groundwater for later sale.
 2. Regional sales through the Pass Agency.
 3. Direct distribution to golf courses and local users.
- Purchase Agreement Negotiations
 - Negotiation of a Recycled Water Purchase Agreement is ongoing
 - The Board has directed staff not to invest additional funds into facilities until an agreement is finalized.
 - Three key questions remain unanswered:
 1. When will recycled water be available?
 2. How much will be available?
 3. What will be the cost per acre-foot?
 - The City has provided preliminary cost estimates but has not finalized a price structure.
 - Approval of a Change of Use Permit is required to divert wastewater from Cooper's Creek.
- Financial and Infrastructure Considerations
 - BCVWD has funds set aside from developer impact fees for necessary facilities.
 - Estimated operations and maintenance costs for full recycled water implementation range from \$800,000 to \$1.25 million annually.
 - Initial regulatory compliance costs could range from \$1 million to \$2 million.
 - Existing infrastructure includes:
 - 300+ connections.
 - 50 miles of pipeline.
 - One 2MG storage tank.
 - Needed facilities, dependent on final water availability:
 - 2800 PZ Booster Station.
 - Desert Lawn Connection Pipeline (about 1,000 ft needed).
 - 2 to 3 Pressure Reducing Stations for non-potable water.
- Regulatory & Legal Considerations
 - State regulations require that recycled water pricing be competitive with alternative sources for users to be required to take it.
 - The presence of PFAS contaminants in wastewater discharge is a potential concern for groundwater recharge.
 - If BCVWD takes ownership of the recycled water at the designated discharge point, they assume responsibility for its quality and disposal.
- Implementation & Next Steps
 - BCVWD plans to complete its Non-Potable Water Master Plan once the agreement is finalized.
 - BCVWD must coordinate infrastructure development based on confirmed water availability and price.
 - A 3-year timeline is estimated for full implementation once an agreement is in place.

- Stakeholder engagement is key:
 - Ongoing collaboration with the City of Beaumont, Pass Agency, local golf courses, and potential regional partners.
 - Regular 3x2 meetings between BCVWD, the City, and regional stakeholders are proposed to maintain progress.
- The Beaumont West Recharge Facility is being explored for additional regional water storage.
- BCVWD is considering options to subsidize costs or find alternative funding mechanisms to make recycled water competitive.

All Directors concurred on the importance of resuming regular ad hoc 2x3 Recycled Water Committee meetings with the City in order to maintain progress and resolve outstanding issues. Director Ramirez requested the Board be provided with updates after each meeting.

Beaumont City Councilman Julio Martinez addressed the Board and emphasized that the City of Beaumont's primary goal is to keep recycled water within the local basin and ensure its optimal use. He highlighted the urgency of finalizing a plan for the Change of Use Permit, as the state requires a clear proposal on how the water will be used once removed from Cooper's Creek. He expressed optimism about renewed collaboration and supported resuming regular 3x2 meetings to improve communication and progress on the project.

A primary concern shared by Directors Williams and Covington was the uncertainty surrounding the availability, quantity, and pricing of recycled water, which remains a critical factor in determining how and when the project can move forward. Director Williams specifically asked about the City's long-term goal, questioning whether Beaumont intends to retail recycled water or eventually transfer the wastewater treatment plant to BCVWD. She also inquired about what would happen if BCVWD does not need the full volume of recycled water produced and whether the District would be responsible for PFAS contamination if the water were recharged into the groundwater.

Director Covington expanded on these concerns, noting that regulatory approvals and potential legal challenges could cause further delays. He pointed out that private users, such as golf courses, are not legally required to use recycled water if it is more expensive than their current groundwater sources, making pricing a crucial issue. He also underscored the difficulty of implementing recycled water infrastructure without certainty regarding supply and cost.

Overall, the Board agreed that BCVWD should not invest in new infrastructure until a formal recycled water purchase agreement is finalized. They acknowledged that while full implementation may still be years away, proactive planning is necessary to avoid delays once an agreement is in place.

The ball is currently in the City's court, Mr. Jagers advised.

7. Topic List for Future Meetings

Items A and B were removed and Item E was added.

	Item requested	Date of request	Requester
A	Presentation on the San Bernardino Valley Resource Conservation District	7/13/22	
B	Presentation on solar power opportunities	12/14/22	Ramirez
C	Sites Reservoir update	2/23/23	
D	Primer on AB 2302 (legal counsel)	10/24/24	Covington
E	Report on alternative energy sources (Agendize in the next quarter)	1/23/25	Ramirez

8. Announcements

President Slawson called attention to the following announcements:

- Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee: Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 11 a.m.
- Finance & Audit Committee meeting: Thursday, Feb. 6 at 3:00 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m.
- District Offices closed Monday, Feb. 17 in observance of Presidents Day
- Personnel Committee: Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 5:30 p.m.
- Engineering Workshop: Thursday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m.
- Collaborative Agencies Committee: Wednesday, Mar. 5 at 5 p.m.

9. Closed Session: 8:17 p.m.

President Slawson announced the following Closed Session items:

- a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
Draper 26, LLC vs Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Case no. CVRI 2406726

Reconvene in Open Session: 8:24 p.m.

10. Report on Action Taken During Closed Session

President Slawson stated that there was no reportable action taken.

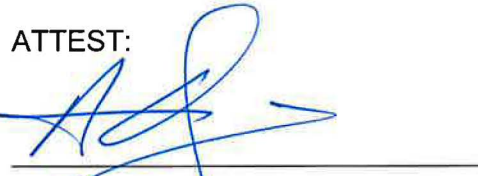
11. Adjournment

President Slawson adjourned the meeting at 8:24 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