



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

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – ENGINEERING WORKSHOP
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Thursday, March 27, 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 6:04 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Covington.
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:	
Staff present:	General Manager Dan Jagers Director of Engineering Mark Swanson Director Of Finance and Administration Sylvia Molina Director of Information Technology Robert Rasha Associate Civil Engineer Evan Ward Human Resources Manager Ren Berioso Development Services Technician Lilian Tienda Water Utility Superintendent Julian Herrera Executive Assistant Lynda Kerney
Legal Counsel	James Markman

Members of the public who registered their attendance: Nyles O’Harra and Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District; Mike Carillo of Hilltop Geotechnical, Blair Ball, Brian Fox, Frank C.

Public Comment: None.

1. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** None.
2. **Resolution 2025-09: Amending the District’s Policies and Procedures Manual**
 - a. Policy 7001 Acceptable Use Policy
 - b. Policy 7002 Bring Your Own Device

Human Resources Manager Ren Berioso indicated the Information Technology (IT) policies have been vetted by legal counsel and were recommended by the Personnel Committee. They align with the guidelines of the National Institute of Standards and

Technology (NIST) and state and federal law. These personnel-related IT policies assign responsibility to the Director of IT to protect the District against cybersecurity threats and legal risks.

Director Covington reiterated that the policies were reviewed by the Personnel Committee and were recommended with almost no redlines. Director Williams concurred.

In response to Director Ramirez, Mr. Berioso confirmed there would be oversight by the General Manager.

The Board adopted Resolution 2025-09: Amending the District's Policies and Procedures Manual and established Policies 7001 and 7002 by the following roll-call vote:

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

3. Consideration of Action in Support or Opposition of California Legislation

General Manager Jagers provided a brief overview of each piece of legislation, noting the requests for support or opposition from either the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) or the California Special Districts Association (CSDA).

Director Ramirez pointed out additional unfunded mandates, and asked for clarification that SB 350 did not create an added burden of fees on ratepayers. Director Williams indicated it was to be a State program. Director Covington noted this has been an effort by Senator Alex Padilla for a few years at the federal and state level, but it is still unknown how it would be funded. Director Ramirez recommended that the opposition letter have all directors' signatures to show unity.

Staff responded to questions from Director Ramirez on the legislation related to water theft, noting that BCVWD's fees are below those set by the legislation. Director Covington indicated support and pointed out that water agencies are also losing hydrants and any equipment that has brass or metal.

Mr. Jagers confirmed for Director Ramirez that AB 259 would preserve the opportunity to participate remotely in meetings.

Director Covington also pointed to class action lawsuits and suggested Board members read SB 454 on PFAS mitigation which could be supported; however, funding may come from the state's general fund. For public agencies that find PFAS in their supply, the belief is the responsible manufacturers should be paying for cleanups, not the agencies.

Director Covington said he supports SB 496, and was glad there was a stance against the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The bill includes an appeals committee, and a hard look at what vehicles would fall under the legislation.

The Board directed staff to take action as recommended by ACWA or CSDA on the following legislation:

SB 350	Water Rate Assistance Program	Oppose unless amended
SB 394	Water theft: fire hydrants	Support
SB 454	Establishing statewide PFAS mitigation fund	Support
SB 496	Safe and Clean Fleets (Zero Emission Vehicle mandate reform)	Support as introduced
AB 259	Open meetings: Local agencies: teleconferences	Support
ACR 36	Proclaims the week of May 18 to 24, 2025 to be Special Districts Week	Support

with a letter of opposition to SB 350 including all Board member signatures by the following roll-call vote:

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

4. Selection of Consultant(s) for On-Call Engineering Services and authorization of expenditures

Director of Engineering Mark Swanson introduced the program for on-call services, described the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued, noted the workload of the Engineering Department and projects upcoming, and explained the recommendation of three on-call consulting firms for a not-to-exceed amount of \$4.5 million.

This will be implemented relatively quickly as development continues to move, Jagers noted. He acknowledged the infrastructure work that has been completed and noted the upcoming development would require more assistance, but hiring consultants allows for backing down work when needed. The key to managing projects is having a team with oversight, he noted. Director Ramirez noted that the consulting firms bring a team to the effort which is more cost effective.

Detailed discussion ensued.

Directors Covington and Williams requested the fee schedules of all respondents to be included in the staff report. Director Covington cautioned about including a fee escalator. Director Ramirez recommended adding flexibility to distribute work among the consultants within the pool of \$4.5 million in the most efficient manner as needed.

In response to President Slawson, Mr. Swanson explained that smaller projects could be done in house, larger more pressing projects would be passed to consultants. Mr. Jagers pointed out that longtime District Engineer Joe Reichenberger had reduced his hours.

Noting the requests of the directors, President Slawson continued this item.

5. Selection of Consultant(s) for On-Call Geotechnical and Environmental Services and authorization of expenditures

Director of Engineering Mark Swanson stated that a Request for Qualifications was released for two types of services and received several responses. He explained the recommendation of three on-call consulting firms for each type of work.

The intent would be to spread the total budget equally (\$450,000 each) between the consultants selected, Swanson explained. Fee schedules, escalators, like projects, and prior experience of the consultants were reviewed by staff as part of the scoring.

Director Covington noted that the concerns over this item mirrored the previous item, and Director Williams concurred.

Mike Carillo of Hilltop Geotechnical thanked the Board for the opportunity and said he looks forward to addressing the Board's concerns.

President Slawson tabled this item.

7:21 p.m. Director Williams was excused from the remainder of the meeting and exited the room.

7:23 p.m. President Slawson called a recess

7:28 p.m. President Slawson reconvened the meeting

6. New California State Water Resources Control Board Hexavalent Chromium Regulation, Impacts to BCVWD, and Path to Compliance

General Manager Jagers shared a presentation by City of Banning Public Works Director Art Vela, which was given at the San Geronimo Pass Regional Water Alliance meeting on March 26.

Jagers gave a primer and explained that regulations of Hexavalent Chromium [CR(VI)] affect District wells, compliance has a tight timeline, and represents an unfunded mandate. As long as there is no money for this, an average system will not be able to implement this in the time allowed. There are public notice requirements in lieu.

District wells 3, 25, and 26 are affected by CR(VI). Jagers explained potential measures for addressing the issue. Grant funding is being sought, he said, and SGPWA has been requested to provide a well site in an area not affected. Noncompliant water can be pumped to the non-potable system, and treatment could be considered, he added.

Given a \$5 million cost over 5.4 million units of sale and \$5 million to operate, the cost would be \$1.85 per unit of sale, Jagers pointed out.

Director Covington asked why local agencies are not going after the State Board for this mandate. He recalled that they were sued and already lost once, and this is unreasonable. If this agency must absorb these costs, Covington continued, he would

be recommending legal action. He noted this is one of a series of unfunded mandates with unachievable deadlines from the State, the costs of which will have to be passed on to the ratepayer.

Mr. Jagers indicated there is an opportunity to solve the problem, and Covington noted the non-potable option. It is all about deferred costs, Jagers stated. Four wells are funded, and solutions can be created. One well may be treated, he added. These solutions will all be run in house and will keep staff busy.

Jagers shared the City of Banning's key points:

- Water quality has not changed; the regulation did
- Public noticing and public concerns
- May not comply by deadline
- Operate wells in violation vs. significant water use restrictions
- Revenue needs = rate increases

Director Ramirez pointed out the State is also looking at maximum contaminant levels for arsenic and others.

Jagers noted that with CR(VI) avoidance, the recycled water project, and how to address the system, BCVWD staff and consultants will be actively working to address. He said he expects to have a recommendation later in the year.

7. Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission Announcement: Seeking Applicants to serve as a Regular or Public Member

Staff advised the Board that LAFCO was seeking candidates for regular and alternate public member commissioners.

8. Topic List for Future Meetings

	Item requested	Date of request	Requester
A	Report on alternative energy sources (Agendize in August per Dan Jagers 2/27/25)	12/14/2022 and 2/12/2025	Ramirez

9. Announcements

President Slawson called attention to the following announcements:

- Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee: Wednesday, Apr. 2 at 11 a.m.
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, Apr. 9 at 6 p.m.
- Town Hall Meeting: Thursday, Apr. 10 at 6 p.m.
- Personnel Committee: Tuesday, Apr. 15 at 4:30 p.m. (Note change of time – pending Board approval)
- Engineering Workshop: Thursday, Apr. 24 at 6 p.m. (Public Hearing)
- Finance & Audit Committee meeting: Thursday, May 1 at 3 p.m.
- Collaborative Agencies meeting: Wednesday, May 7 at 5 p.m.

10. Closed Session: 8:11 p.m.

President Slawson announced the following Closed Session items:

- a. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.8
Property: Recycled water generated by the City of Beaumont Wastewater Treatment Plant
Agency Negotiator: Dan Jagers, General Manager
Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment
- b. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.8
Property: APN 418240009
Agency Negotiator: Dan Jagers, General Manager
Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment
- c. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.8
Property: Sites Reservoir and water rights associated therewith
Agency Negotiator: Dan Jagers, General Manager
Under Negotiations: Continued participation in financial support of the Project

Reconvene in Open Session: 8:31 p.m.

11. Report on Action Taken During Closed Session

President Slawson stated that there was no reportable action taken.

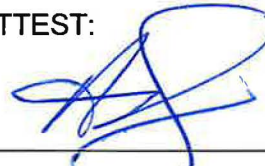
12. Adjournment

President Slawson adjourned the meeting at 8:31 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