



Bear Valley Basin
Groundwater Sustainability Agency (BVBGSA)
C/O City of Big Bear Lake, Department of Water and Power (DWP)
Attention: Reginald A. Lamson
41972 Garstin Drive Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Board Meeting Agenda
June 18, 2026 at 9:00 am

BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Ludecke, Vice Chair
Craig Hjorth, Treasurer
John Russo, Secretary
Andrew Sauer, Board Member

**This meeting will be held in person in the DWP Boardroom at
41972 Garstin Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA, 92315
and by Zoom.**

ZOOM ACCESS INFORMATION

This meeting will be available at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88378512330>

Passcode: 220393

Meeting ID: 883 7851 2330

You may also call into the meeting by dialing one of the phone numbers below, entering the meeting ID, and entering the password.

Meeting ID: 883 7851 2330

Password: 220393

Dial by your location

- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 309 205 3325 US

OPEN SESSION

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC FORUM

All remarks shall be addressed to the Board as a body only. There is a three-minute maximum time limit when addressing the Board. Please note that California law prohibits the Board from taking action on any item not appearing on the agenda.

1. **PUBLIC HEARING**

1.1 **Resolution No. 2026-01 Budget for Fiscal Year 2027**

Board to review and consider adopting Resolution No. 2026-01 approving the budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

2. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

2.1 **Approve Minutes of the Board Meeting Dated June 17, 2025**

3. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

4. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

4.1 **Appointment of Officers**

Board to discuss and appoint officers.

4.2 **Approval of Claims Payments**

Board to review and consider authenticating claims payments.

4.3 **General Checking Account**

Board to review and consider adopting Resolution No. 2026-02 authorizing staff to open a new general checking account at Mechanics Bank.

4.4 **Replenish Big Bear Presentation**

Board to review and discuss the Replenish Big Bear Presentation.

4.5 **ACWA JPIA President's Special Recognition Award**

Board to review and discuss the ACWA JPIA Award.

4.6 **Management and Board Member Discussion**

Board Members and/or staff to identify matters for future BVBGSA Agenda Items.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Certification of Posting

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing agenda was posted in accordance with applicable legal requirements. Dated this, the 3rd of June 2026.

Sam Armstrong

Sam Armstrong, Board Secretary, DWP Board of Commissioners
on behalf of BVBGSA



Bear Valley Basin

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

C/O City of Big Bear Lake, Department of Water
 Attention: Reginald A. Lamson
 PO Box 1929 Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

DATE: June 18, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Reginald A. Lamson, Administrator
RE: Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

In Fiscal Year 2027, the Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (BVBGSA) will continue to pursue its primary mission to support interagency efforts to ensure sustainable water supplies in the Bear Valley. BVBGSA is a Joint Powers Authority made up of four member agencies (Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Management Agency - BBARWA, Big Bear Municipal Water District - BBMWD, Big Bear City Community Services District - BBCCSD, and the City of Big Bear Lake, Department of Water and Power - BBLDWP). The Replenish Big Bear project is identified in the Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and remains a principal strategic objective of BVBGSA.

Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

The Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (the Plan) is a planning document to ensure sustainable water supplies in the Bear Valley Region and complies with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The Plan requires BVBGSA to prepare and submit an Annual Report to the California Department of Water Resources by April 1st of each year. The Annual Report is based on established hydraulic data models. The BVBGSA Budget for fiscal year 2026 includes an appropriation of \$20,000 for the fiscal year 2027 Annual Report.

Replenish Big Bear

Replenish Big Bear (the Project) is a forward-looking water supply project expected to produce millions of gallons of clean water annually protecting the Bear Valley community's future water supplies. The clean water produced will be used to increase ground and lake water levels throughout the Valley and help support the area's unique and diverse fish and wildlife and bolster the community's recreation and tourism.

BBARWA continues to move the project through regulatory review, pursue grant funding and build alliances for cost sharing. To date BBARWA has been awarded grants in the amount of \$26,942,993 for the project. Member agencies have pledged \$1,400,000 (\$350,000 per agency) to the project and initially provided funding in the amount of \$1,233,532 (\$308,383 per agency) which has been reimbursed by the grants received.

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

Revenues

Revenues are based on contributions from member agencies. Under the terms of the Joint Power Agreement member agencies contribute in equal proportions to cover all necessary operating expenses of the agency. Revenues are projected to equal budgeted expenses. Revenues expected for fiscal year 2027 are shown below:

| Revenue Source | 2025 Actual | 2026 Projected | 2026 Expected | 2027 Projected | \$ Change | % Change |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| BBLDWP Contributions | \$5,552 | \$9,625 | \$8,138 | \$7,400 | \$ (738) | -9% |
| BBMWD Contributions | 5,552 | 9,625 | 8,138 | 7,400 | (738) | -9% |
| BBARWA Contributions | 5,552 | 9,625 | 8,138 | 7,400 | (738) | -9% |
| BBCCSD Contributions | 5,552 | 9,625 | 8,138 | 7,400 | (738) | -9% |
| Total | 22,208 | 38,500 | 32,550 | 29,600 | (2,950) | -9% |

Expenses

Expenses consist primarily of administrative expenses to maintain agency operations and professional service costs for hydrology reporting. Fiscal year 2027 budgeted expenses are expected to decrease by \$2,950 or 9% from the fiscal year 2026 expected year-end. A detailed breakdown of expenses is shown below:

| Expense Type | 2025 Actual | 2026 Budgeted | 2026 Expected | 2027 Approved | \$ Change | % Change |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|----------|
| Bank Charges | \$3,943 | \$4,200 | \$3,900 | \$1,200 | (\$2,700) | -69% |
| Insurance | 1,788 | 2,000 | 1,800 | 1,900 | \$100 | 6% |
| Hydrology Services | 12,030 | 25,000 | 21,000 | 20,000 | (\$1,000) | -5% |
| Audit Services | 3,360 | 4,400 | 3,500 | 4,100 | \$600 | 17% |
| Memberships | 840 | 1,000 | 850 | 900 | \$50 | 6% |
| Other | 247 | 1,900 | 1500 | 1,500 | \$0 | 0% |
| Total | 22,208 | 38,500 | 32,550 | 29,600 | (\$2,950) | -9% |

Bank charges are expected to decrease due to new banking facilities available through Mechanics Bank, newly opened in Big Bear. Insurance and Membership costs are expected to increase slightly with general inflation. Hydrology services are expected to decrease by \$1,000 or 5%. Tom Harder and Co., the consultant BVBGSA, uses to prepare annual reporting provided estimated costs.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
BEAR VALLEY BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY,
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2017, the Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (BVBGSA) was formed; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2017, the Board of Directors (Board) acknowledged the updated Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) by and among the City of Big Bear Lake, Department of Water and Power, the Big Bear City Community Services District, the Big Bear Municipal Water District, and the Big Bear Regional Wastewater Agency for the BVBGSA; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Sections 12 and 13 of the JPA, the Board shall adopt a budget as specified in the bylaws, by resolution or otherwise; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2017, the Board adopted the BVBGSA Bylaws and pursuant to the Article 7.3 of the Bylaws, the BVBGSA shall operate pursuant to an operating fund/budget adopted in accordance with Sections 12 and 13 of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Directors have conducted a public hearing and adopted the Fiscal Year 2027 Departmental Budget as follows:

1. General Fund appropriated resources in the amount of \$29,600 and appropriated uses in the amount of \$29,600.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of BVBGSA does hereby approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget attached hereto.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 18th day of June 2026.

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSTAIN:
- ABSENT:

Steve Ludecke, Vice Chair
Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Craig Hjorth, Treasurer
Board of Directors

**BOARD OF BEAR VALLEY BASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (BVBGSA)
MEETING MINUTES
June 17, 2025**

OPEN SESSION

A meeting of the Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on June 17, 2025, by Chair Miller at 41972 Garstin Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Miller, Chair
Steve Ludecke, Vice-Chair
John Russo, Secretary
Craig Hjorth, Treasurer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Ludecke led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Daniel Gulbransen spoke about legal disputes and litigation within the government. He also expressed concern about public attitudes towards law enforcement and fire officials.

1. PUBLIC HEARING**1.1 Resolution No. 2025-01 Budget for Fiscal Year 2026**

DWP General Manager Reggie Lamson explained that the Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (BVBGSA) was formed in 2017 as a requirement of the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The GSA consists of four member agencies, MWD, CSD, BBARWA, and DWP.

DWP CFO Nathan Statham gave an overview of the BVBGSA Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. He explained that the budget has remained mostly unchanged from last year and that revenues are projected to cover costs. He explained that the main expense is Hydrology services which covers the preparation of the Annual Report required by the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Vice-Chair Ludecke asked if the GSA is still Prioritized as low. Reggie clarified that the BVBGSA is Prioritized as very low, having improved from medium status, largely due to maintaining demand at about two-thirds of the existing perennial yield.

Vice-Chair Ludecke expressed frustration over high bank fees and discussed the possibility of switching to a different bank. Nathan explained that we can switch to a different bank, but it must be a bank that handles government accounts. He also noted that lower balances contribute to higher fees, but he will investigate options to find a more cost-effective account while maintaining the necessary government classification.

Vice-Chair Ludecke also expressed concern over the ACWA membership, inquiring about why the BVBGSA must be a member. Reggie and BBARWA General Manager David Lawrence explained that their agencies are not members of ACWA and that the GSA needs to be a member of ACWA in order to access ACWA's low-cost insurance programs.

Motion made by Vice-Chair Ludecke, seconded by Treasurer Hjorth, and carried 4-0 to adopt Resolution No. 2025-01 approving the Budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

AYES: Hjorth, Ludecke, Miller, Russo

NOES: -

ABSTAIN: -

MINUTES/BVBGSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 17, 2025

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

2.1 Approve Minutes of Board Meeting Dated June 27, 2024

Motion made by Vice-Chair Ludecke, seconded by Chair Miller, and carried 4-0 to approve the Consent Calendar.
AYES: Hjorth, Ludecke, Miller, Russo
NOES: -
ABSTAIN: -

3. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

4. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Approval of Claims Payments

Motion made by Vice-Chair Ludecke, seconded by Chair Miller, and carried 4-0 to authenticate the claims payment register.
AYES: Hjorth, Ludecke, Miller, Russo
NOES: -
ABSTAIN: -

4.2 Replenish Big Bear Presentation

David provided an overview of the Replenish Big Bear Project's progress, noting that the CEQA document was certified in February 2025 and additional biological work is ongoing. The NEPA document was approved by the EPA to facilitate grants and the WIFIA loan. The project is awaiting design completion, expected by late 2026, and a preliminary design report will be presented to the board in August. He also discussed new brine minimization technology that could significantly reduce the size of evaporation ponds.

David explained that financial advisors are working on securing a loan, which is necessary for bidding the project but doesn't require immediate disbursement. The project cost remains at 86.7 million dollars, not including getting water up to Sand Canyon for recharge. David mentioned that they have collected about 27 million dollars in grants and submitted applications for additional funding. The team has also received a reimbursement from a state grant, after a delay due to a submission issue.

David discussed the 5-year sewer fee schedule approved by the board in March 2025, including projected collections for 2026-2030. He also talked about moving forward the WIFIA loan, which will likely be presented to the board in August. Board members and staff discussed the possibility of splitting off certain portions of the project to comply with the BABA requirement, if a waiver is not granted.

David discussed the adjustment of rate schedules for the project, noting that they can be modified in the last two years to align with actual bids received, operational costs, and debt service.

David discussed community outreach efforts, including school functions and booth events, as well as website updates and a quarterly newsletter.

4.3 Management and Board Members Discussion

Reggie gave an overview of the June 12, 2025 Technical Review Team (TRT) Committee Meeting. Vice-Chair Ludecke requested copies of the Hydrographs from the TRT meeting.

Chair Miller announced that he will not be returning to the BVBGSA Board next year.

MINUTES/BVBGSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 17, 2025

ADJOURN

No additional business came before the Board. At 9:42 a.m., Chair Miller adjourned the meeting.

Sam Armstrong _____

Sam Armstrong, Board Secretary, DWP Board of Commissioners
on behalf of BVBGSA



Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Agenda Report

DATE: June 18, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Reginald A. Lamson, Administrator
RE: **Appointment of Board Officers**

Background:

According to the BVBGSA Bylaws Article 3 Officers, the Board shall appoint the Officers of the Board annually for the following positions: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Financial Impact:

None.

Recommendations:

Discuss and appoint Board Officers for calendar year 2027.



Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Agenda Report

DATE: June 18, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Reginald A. Lamson, Administrator
RE: **Approval of Claims Payments**

Background & Discussion:

Pursuant to paragraph 7.2 of the Bylaws of Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the Board shall authenticate all claims payments. All checks issued for payment of claims have been duly authorized.

Recommendation:

Authenticate the claims payments as presented in the attached check register.

Attachment:

Claims Payment Register.

**Bear Valley Basin GSA
Claims Payment Register
June 18, 2025 through June 18, 2026**

| Payee | Payment Date | Payment Number | Description | Account | Amount |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------|
| ACWA JPIA | 07/30/2025 | 2055 | Cyber Liability Insurance 7/1/25-7/1/26 | Insurance | \$ 100 |
| ACWA JPIA | 10/28/2025 | 2057 | Liability Insurance 10/1/2025-2026 | Insurance | 1,688 |
| Association of California Water Agencies | 10/07/2025 | 2056 | 2026 Annual Agency Dues | Memberships, Due, Subscriptions | 850 |
| Big Bear Grizzly | 07/17/2025 | 2054 | 6/17/25 BVBGSA Meeting Public Notice | Special Dept Expense | 248 |
| Thomas Harder & Co., Inc. | 02/03/2026 | 2058 | 24/25 GSA Annual Report | Professional Services | 1,705 |
| Thomas Harder & Co., Inc. | 03/17/2026 | 2059 | 24/25 GSA Annual Report | Professional Services | 7,235 |
| Thomas Harder & Co., Inc. | 03/23/2026 | 2060 | 24/25 GSA Annual Report | Professional Services | 2,358 |
| Thomas Harder & Co., Inc. | 04/17/2026 | 2061 | 24/25 GSA Annual Report | Professional Services | 7,319 |
| Lance, Soll & Lunghard, LLP | 01/08/2026 | DFT000083 | 2025 GSA Audit | Professional Services - Audit | 3,500 |
| US Bank | 07/15/2025 | 4572 | June Bank Fees | Bank Charges & Misc Fees | 311 |
| US Bank | 08/15/2025 | 4571 | July Bank Fees | Bank Charges & Misc Fees | 323 |
| US Bank | 09/15/2025 | 4631 | August Bank Fees | Bank Charges & Misc Fees | 311 |
| US Bank | 10/15/2025 | 4698 | September Bank Fees | Bank Charges & Misc Fees | 312 |
| US Bank | 11/15/2025 | 4740 | October Bank Fees | Bank Charges & Misc Fees | 324 |
| US Bank | 12/15/2025 | 4778 | November Bank Fees | Bank Charges & Misc Fees | 307 |
| US Bank | 01/15/2026 | 4840 | December Bank Fees | Bank Charges & Misc Fees | 314 |
| US Bank | 02/11/2026 | 4920 | January Bank Fees | Bank Charges & Misc Fees | 327 |
| US Bank | 03/16/2026 | 4928 | February Bank Fees | Bank Charges & Misc Fees | 327 |
| US Bank | 04/15/2026 | 5001 | March Bank Fees | Bank Charges & Misc Fees | 340 |
| US Bank | 05/15/2026 | 5023 | April Bank Fees | Bank Charges & Misc Fees | 328 |
| | | | | Total Claims | \$ 28,526 |



Bear Valley Basin

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

C/O City of Big Bear Lake, Department of Water
 Attention: Reginald A. Lamson
 PO Box 1929 Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

DATE: June 18, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Reginald A. Lamson, Administrator
RE: Resolution No. 2026-02 - General Checking Account

Background & Discussion:

At the June 17, 2025, Board Meeting, the Board directed staff to evaluate current monthly bank fees from US Bank to determine reasonableness. At the time US Bank was the only deposit institution in Big Bear that accepted local government deposits under the state of California's surplus deposit collateralization program required for all local government accounts. DWP staff confirmed that US Bank fees were consistent with current US Bank rate schedules and contemplated but dismissed utilizing an off-mountain bank.

Recently Mechanics Bank opened a branch in Big Bear. Mechanics Bank accepts local government deposits. BVBGSA staff approached Mechanics Bank about bank account options. Mechanics Bank can provide an unmanaged account while still offering positive pay (US Bank did not offer this option). This unmanaged commercial checking account would have average monthly fees of roughly \$70 per month when compared to current fees of roughly \$320 per month.

Staff has initiated the account opening process with Mechanics Bank. The recommended resolution provides authorization to establish BVBGSA's primary checking account with Mechanics Bank.

Recommendation:

Adopt Resolution No. 2026-02

Attachment:

Resolution No. 2026-02

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BEAR VALLEY BASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, STATE
OF CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING STAFF TO OPEN A NEW GENERAL CHECKING
ACCOUNT AT MECHANICS BANK**

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2017, the Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (BVBGSA) was formed; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2017, the Board of Directors (Board) acknowledged the updated Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) by and among the City of Big Bear Lake, Department of Water and Power, the Big Bear City Community Services District, the Big Bear Municipal Water District, and the Big Bear Regional Wastewater Agency for the BVBGSA; and

WHEREAS, banking services are currently provided by US Bank; and

WHEREAS, Mechanics Bank established a local branch capable of accepting local government deposits; and

WHEREAS, bank fees charged by Mechanics Bank are substantially lower than current fees charged by US Bank:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of BVBGSA does hereby authorize JPA staff to open a deposit account with Mechanics Bank, allowing full permissions to banking facilities by the Accounting Supervisor, Accountant and CFO of DWP acting as staff for the JPA with check signing authority granted to the Treasurer (Craig Hjoth) and Administrator (Reginald Lamson) of the JPA and to execute agreements and incur related fees on behalf of the JPA and to take actions necessary to close the current bank account with US Bank upon successful setup of the Mechanics Bank account.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 18th day of June 2026.

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSTAIN:
- ABSENT:

Steve Ludecke, Vice Chair
Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Craig Hjoth, Treasurer
Board of Directors



Presentation



Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Agenda Report

DATE: June 18, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Reginald A. Lamson, Administrator
RE: **ACWA JPIA Award**

Background & Discussion:

The purpose of this report is to formally present the ACWA JPIA President's Special Recognition Award to the Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency. This certificate recognizes the Agency's outstanding efforts.



12/3/2025

ACWA JPIA

P. O. Box 619082
Roseville, CA
95661-9082

phone
916.786.5742
800.231.5742

www.acwajpia.com

Core Values

- People
- Service
- Integrity
- Innovation

Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (B028)
P.O. Box 1929
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315-1929

General Manager:

Each year at Fall Conference, the JPIA recognizes members that have a Loss Ratio of 20% or less in either of the Liability, Property, or Workers' Compensation programs (loss ratio = total losses / total premiums).

The members with this distinction receive the "**President's Special Recognition Award**" certificate for each Program that they qualify in.

The JPIA is extremely pleased to present Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency with this special recognition and commends the District on the hard work in reducing claims.

Congratulations to you, your staff, Board, and District. Keep up the good work!

The JPIA wishes you the best in 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Melody McDonald'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Melody' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'McDonald'.

Melody McDonald
President

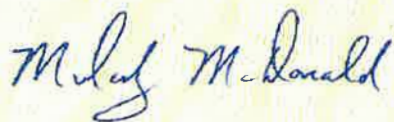
Enclosure: President's Special Recognition Award(s)

President's Special Recognition Award

*The President of the
ACWA JPIA
hereby presents Special Recognition Award to*

Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

In recognition of outstanding performance in the Liability program, demonstrated by maintaining exceptionally low claim costs relative to contributions during the period 10/01/2021 - 09/30/2024 announced at the ACWA JPIA Board of Director's meeting held in San Diego, California.



Melody McDonald, President



December 01, 2025



Bear Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Agenda Report

DATE: June 18, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

RE: **Management and Board Member Reports**

Board Members:

Steve Ludecke, Vice-Chair
Craig Hjorth, Treasurer
John Russo, Secretary
Andrew Sauer, Board Member

Management:

David Lawrence, General Manager, BBARWA
Glenn Jacklin, General Manager, CSD
Jared Check, General Manager, MWD
Reggie Lamson, General Manager, DWP