

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

NOTICE OF MEETING*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (“Agency”) Board of Directors (“Board”) will hold its first regular **Board Meeting** at **12:00 P.M.** on **Thursday, January 5, 2017** at **Casitas Municipal Water District, Board Room, 1055 Ventura Avenue, Oak View, California, 93022.**

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AGENDA

Thursday, January 5, 2017

The director appointed by the Casitas Municipal Water District shall chair the meeting temporarily until a Chair is chosen.

1. CALL TO ORDER.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

3. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF DIRECTORS.

The Board shall acknowledge the appointments of the Member Directors from the Casitas Municipal Water District, the City of San Buenaventura, the County of Ventura, the Meiners Oaks Water District, and the Ventura River Water District. Each Member Director shall briefly state their names and the organizations they represent.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

The Board will receive public comments on items not appearing on the agenda and within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency. The Board will not enter into a detailed discussion or take any action on any items presented during public comments. Such items may only be referred to the Executive Director or other staff for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda for discussion. Persons wishing to speak on specific agenda items should do so at the time specified for those items. The presiding Chair shall limit public comments to three minutes.

5. ACTION ITEMS**

a. Review of Nominations of Environmental Stakeholder Director

The Board shall review the list of nominees submitted by environmental nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organizations for the Environmental Stakeholder Director.

** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all possible accommodations will be made for individuals so they may attend and participate in meetings.*

*** Staff reports for the following items will be posted prior to the meeting.*

b. Review of Nominations of Agricultural Stakeholder Director

The Board shall review the list of nominees submitted by the Farm Bureau of Ventura County for the Agricultural Stakeholder Director.

c. Adoption of Future Meeting Schedule

The Board shall adopt a regular meeting schedule for the Board.

d. Establishment of Principal Office

The Board shall designate its principal office.

e. Appointment of Interim Executive Officer

The Board shall appoint an Interim Executive Director with the following initial direction:

The Interim Executive Officer shall develop further implementation steps and/or bring to the Board at subsequent meetings plans for action on the following:

- The Agency's annual budget
- A conflict of interest code
- Preparation and submission of a notice of the joint powers agreement pursuant to which the Agency was formed ("JPA Agreement") to the office of the Secretary of State within 30 days of the JPA Agreement's effective date
- Submission of the JPA Agreement to the State Controller
- Submission of statement of information with the office of Secretary of State within 70 days of the JPA Agreement's effective date

f. Review of Financial Status and Interim Budget

The Board shall review the Agency's financial status and adopt an interim budget.

6. ADJOURNMENT

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

Item No. 5(a)

DATE: January 5, 2017
TO: Board of Directors
SUBJECT: Review of Nominations for Environmental Stakeholder Director

SUMMARY

Article 6 of the Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA Agreement”) provides that one Director on the Board of Directors shall be representative of environmental stakeholders and interests (“Environmental Stakeholder Director”) within the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin (“Basin”). This Environmental Stakeholder Director shall meet certain qualifications specified in the JPA Agreement and shall be appointed by a vote of all Member Directors. The Board of Directors has received three nominations for the Environmental Stakeholder Director Seat.

There is no fiscal impact associated with the review of nominations for an Environmental Stakeholder Director.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Review the nominees submitted by environmental nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organizations, designate two Directors to serve on a committee that will interview nominees as appropriate and recommend an appointment to the Board for the Environmental Stakeholder Director at the next meeting of the Board.

BACKGROUND

Section 6.1 of the JPA Agreement provides that the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (“Agency”) shall be governed by a Board of Directors composed of seven Directors, one of which shall be representative of environmental stakeholders and interests within the Basin.

Section 6.1.2(b) of the JPA Agreement requires the Environmental Stakeholder Director to “be an active member of a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization which, at the sole discretion of the Member Directors, meets the following requirements: (i) is currently active within Ventura County; (ii) has an adopted budget; and (iii) has a mission that advances, or is furthered by, groundwater sustainability.”

The JPA Agreement further provides that the “Member Directors shall select the Environmental Stakeholder Director from qualified nominees submitted by environmental nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organizations meeting the criteria specified in Section 6.1.2(b).” (JPA Agreement, § 6.3.6(b).)

This past November, staff of the various Member agencies distributed notices and advertised the opening for an Environmental Stakeholder Director. The deadline for local environmental organizations to submit nominations was December 22, 2016. The Board

of Directors received nominations for the following three individuals. Additional information on each nominee is also attached.

Nominee: Candice Meneghin
Position: Southern California Conservation Manager
Nominating Agency: California Trout

Nominee: Ben Pitterle
Position: Watershed and Marine Program Director
Nominating Agency: Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

Nominee: Larry Rose
Position: Board Member
Nominating Agency: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

FISCAL SUMMARY

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Action: _____

Motion: _____ 2nd: _____

B. Kuebler____ M. Bergen____ J. Pratt____ M. Krumpschmidt____ S. Epstein____

Nominee: Candice Meneghin

Position: Southern California Conservation Manager

Nominating Agency: California Trout

Bert Rapp

From: Candice Meneghin <cmeneghin@caltrout.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2016 12:05 PM
To: Bert Rapp
Subject: RE: Invitation to Nominate GSA Director

Thank you for your email and invitation, Bert.

Please find the information required for CalTrout's participation in the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin.

1. Description of your organization, including programs and activities in Ventura County

Established in 1971, California Trout is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure there are abundant wild fish thriving in healthy waters for a better California. We solve complex resources issues while balancing the needs of wild fish and people. Our model of Work:

- California focused, embedded in key geographies, where wild fish influence communities
- Science based and solution oriented
- Build credibility and trust that provide opportunity to work with diverse interests
- Develop proof of concept project success, which establish precedent that can be scaled up

Our regional goals are to leverage CalTrout's sustained presence in SoCal to increase awareness of state water issues amongst SoCal legislators, establish legal precedent on important statewide fish and water issues, establish CalTrout as a leader on state/local fish and water issues, and empower local groups to restore Southern steelhead and its habitat.

To that end, CalTrout's Southern California regional office is based in downtown Ventura. We chair and coordinate the Santa Clara River Steelhead Coalition, and are a founding member of the Matilija Coalition on the Ventura River. We have MOU's with UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis that support our science based management. We prioritize steelhead recovery projects throughout Southern California. In Ventura County, our focus has been on the Santa Clara River (as the Salmon Stronghold for the region), and we have successfully secured funding for key restoration actions.

2. Explanation on CalTrout's mission and relationship to groundwater sustainability in Ventura County (Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin)

Our mission is to ensure there are abundant wild fish thriving in healthy waters for a better California. Healthy waters, encapsulates the relationship between surface and groundwater flow, and the sustainability thereof. CalTrout is currently administering a IRWM sub-grant agreement with the County and Dept. of Water Resources, to remove invasive *Arundo donax* (Giant Reed) from the Lower Santa Clara River mainstem. This is a multi-benefit project that restores riparian habit, floodplains, enhances steelhead habitat and provides more groundwater recharge (i.e., addressing water conservation goals in the County.) Where at all possible we aim for our projects to balance the needs of fish and people, and look for these win-win opportunities.

We have expanded capacity in our regional office to provide more support to the Ventura watershed. We recently supported the Ventura County Watershed Protection District in drafting a CDFW Prop 1 Watershed Restoration Grant for the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project. This week the County was awarded \$3.3 million to pursue the 65% design and permitting for the project. As a member of the Matilija Coalition, we are committed to this ecosystem level restoration approach. A component of overall ecosystem health includes groundwater sustainability and its associated relationship on surface flow for steelhead recovery needs.

CalTrout has also been approached by the State Water Board and LA Regional Water Board to inform the TAC for the Ventura River modeling work.

3. Date of adoption of current budget

June 30, 2016.

4. Name of nominee and role in organization and pertinent background information

Candice Meneghin is CalTrout's Southern California Conservation Manager. Bringing over ten years' experience to natural resource management, focused on integrated watershed management, environmental law, and protected area management -she has engaged in stewardship extension to ensure landscape level conservation initiatives such as the City of Cape Town's Biodiversity Network, Cape Action for People and the Environment's Protected Area Expansion Strategy, and CapeNature's Stewardship Program; particularly Kuils River Freshwater Corridor and Grootwinterhoek Freshwater Corridor, in South Africa. Candice is a member to both the IUCN: Commission on Ecosystem Management: North America and the Caribbean; and, IUCN Mediterranean Type Ecosystem Thematic Group; and has worked on steelhead restoration and monitoring projects in association with the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains; where she was awarded with the "volunteer of the year" recognition in 2012 by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts for her contribution to steelhead conservation and restoration. Since joining CalTrout in 2012, Candice has prioritized restoration projects and successfully secured project funding for Southern steelhead recovery (i.e., overseeing the Zuma Creek County Beach Arizona Crossing Replacement Design Alternatives Assessment, Harvey Diversion Fish Passage Restoration Project (Santa Paula Creek), Sisar Creek Arizona Crossing Alternatives Analysis (Sisar Creek, Santa Paula), and Invasive Plant Removal, Habitat Restoration, and Water Enhancement Project (Santa Clara River mainstem). Mrs. Meneghin oversees regional strategic planning, legislative relations, local capacity building, and identifies opportunities to establish legal precedent. Candice chairs the Santa Clara River Steelhead Coalition, is member of the California Fish Passage Forum, on the West Fork San Gabriel River Working Group for Cogswell Reservoir, TAC member for Rindge Dam removal on the Malibu Creek, Matilija Coalition member, and represents CalTrout in both the Santa Felicia Dam and Pyramid Dam FERC relicensing processes.

Kind regards,

Candice

Candice Meneghin

Conservation Manager, Southern California Region



805-665-6203 o

310-890-2834 m

Read about CalTrout's work in

the current
CalTrout's new e-magazine

From: Bert Rapp [mailto:bert@venturariverwd.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 4:07 PM

To: matiwaiya@wishtoyo.org; pjenkin@surfrider.com; brian@ovlc.org; coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com; ben@sbck.org; Candice Meneghin

Cc: Acos, Jena S.; Arne Anselm; Bert Rapp; Bruce Keubler; Carlson, Zoe; Ceppos, David; Ed & Jeri Lee; Kim Loeb; Lisa Balin; Mary Bergen; Meyer, Mindy; Mike Etchart; Mike Hollebrands; Mike Krumpschmidt; Mike Tracy; Pete Kaiser; Russ

Nominee: Ben Pitterle

Position: Watershed and Marine Program Director

Nominating Agency: Santa Barbara Channelkeeper



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Santa Barbara, CA 93103

tel 805.563.3377
fax 805.687.5635

info@sbck.org
www.sbck.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Rae Emmett

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Paul Junger Witt



December 20, 2016

**Re: Nomination to the Ventura River Groundwater Sustainability
Formation Committee for the Environmental Stakeholder Director**

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper submits this nomination of Ben Pitterle to represent environmental interests on the Board of Directors Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin. The following includes information in response to the four categories indicated in the Formation Committee's nominee solicitation letter:

1. A description of your organization, including programs and activities in Ventura County;

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is a grassroots non-profit organization whose mission is to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds through science-based advocacy, education, field work and enforcement. Channelkeeper began working in the Ventura River watershed in 2001 with the launch of the Ventura River Stream Team, a citizen-based volunteer water quality monitoring project. Our Ventura River Stream Team program has trained and utilized over 600 individuals to conduct monthly water quality sampling at over 15 locations throughout the watershed. Our program follows a State approved quality control plan, and our data has been utilized by local, regional, and statewide agencies for many purposes including to support development of the State's 303(d) Impaired Water Bodies List and the Ventura River Algae TMDL.

Channelkeeper performs additional advocacy and educational activities in the Ventura River watershed. Notably, we have partnered with the Ventura Hillside Conservancy, Ventura High School, Buena High School, Thatcher School, Ventura College, Cal State Channel Islands, and many more institutions to provide science-based field trips and educational opportunities to local students. Channelkeeper has conducted extensive advocacy to address primary water quality issues in the watershed including trash impairments in the Ventura River estuary, sediment pollution from oil development and mining operations, agricultural pollution and more. Since 2012, Channelkeeper has tracked issues related to reduced surface flows in the Ventura River. We maintain a network of water quality and water level sensors throughout the main stem of the Ventura River through summer months. We have participated in and commented on processes related to the region's implementation of the State Groundwater Management Act. We are also notably involved in litigation with the State Water Resources Control Board and the City of Ventura over the issue of potential impacts of groundwater pumping on surface flows in the Ventura River.

1. An explanation of your organization's mission and the mission's relationship to groundwater sustainability in Ventura County and, more particularly, the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin;

As noted above, Channelkeeper's mission is to protect and restore the Santa

Barbara Channel and its watersheds through science-based advocacy, education, field work and enforcement. Our primary focus on water supply and groundwater sustainability has to do with the interface that these issues have with surface flows and the beneficial uses that surface flows provide in the Ventura River watershed. Channelkeeper's operational jurisdiction in Ventura County is limited to issues facing the Ventura River watershed and the Coastal areas westward to Santa Barbara County, though we sometimes work on regional issues (i.e. Ventura County Ag Waiver) that also apply to additional areas in Ventura County.

Channelkeeper currently views surface and groundwater interactions in the Ventura River watershed as the most important issue affecting the health of the Ventura River and its tributaries. Loss of surface flows exacerbates water quality impairments and eliminates aquatic habitat and recreational opportunities. Our organization is currently heavily invested in performing advocacy, conducting litigation, and education to ensure that groundwater management is improved to balance the needs of municipal and agricultural uses with the need to protect beneficial uses in the Ventura River. For this reason, Channelkeeper has followed closely and provided input to the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin.

1. *The date of adoption of your current budget;*

Channelkeeper's 2016 Operating Budget was adopted on January 21, 2016.

2. *The name of your nominee, his/her role in your organization and pertinent background information;*

Ben Pitterle is the Watershed and Marine Program Director for Santa Barbara Channelkeeper. Ben has been an employee of Channelkeeper since 2006. Since that time, Ben has managed monitoring and advocacy programs in the Ventura River watershed. Ben has an intimate knowledge of the watershed including its geography, hydrology, ecology, and its stresses and impairments. Ben has been an active and regular participant in ongoing stakeholder processes including the Ventura River Watershed Council, on which he currently sits as the alternate Executive Committee representative for environmental groups. Ben has working relationships with federal, state, and local agency staff as well as with management personnel with all of the Joint Powers Agreement entities. Ben is arguably the lead expert and advocate within the environmental community on the issue of groundwater management in the Ventura River Watershed and its relationship to beneficial uses of the Ventura River. For all of these reasons, it is our belief that Ben is the most qualified candidate to serve as the Environmental Stakeholder Director on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Channelkeeper appreciates this opportunity to nominate Ben and to support the further development of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin. Please contact us for additional information and questions.

Sincerely,
Kira Redmond
Executive Director



Nominee: Larry Rose

Position: Board Member

Nominating Agency: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy



November 23, 2016

Bert Rapp
Ventura River Water District
409 Old Baldwin Road
Ojai, CA 93023

Re: Nomination of Larry Rose for UVRGSA

Board of Directors

Sandy Buechley
President

Bill Brothers

Stefanie Coeler

Roger Essick

Martha Groszewski

Jim Little

Don Reed

Meredy Benson Rice

Larry Rose

Sarah Sheshunoff

Roger Wachtell

Staff

Brian Stark

Executive Director

Rick Bisaccia

Kimo Ellison

Xena Grossman

Jill Lashly

Kevin McLeod

Tania Parker

Marti Reid

Nathan Wickstrum

Tax ID#77-0169682

Dear Mr. Rapp,

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy is pleased to nominate Larry Rose to represent environmental interests on the governing board of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin Authority. Mr. Rose serves on the Board of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, a local non-profit land trust serving the communities of the Ojai Valley.

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy is a community-based non-profit organization working with partners to permanently protect the open space, natural scenic beauty, wildlife, habitat, and watershed of the Ojai Valley for current and future generations. We are funded primarily through local fundraising, and have over 1,100 active donors. We have protected 2,300 acres of land (we own approximately 2,000 acres in the UVRGSA) in the Ojai Valley, and currently own about 25% of the Ventura River main stem. The Conservancy is also involved in restoration of habitats, including riparian habitats, and is currently involved in the removal of Arundo from 4 miles of San Antonio Creek, management of 10 acres of stormwater-fed wetlands at the Ojai Meadows Preserve, and re-generation of oak woodlands on the 1,600-acre Ventura River Preserve. In addition, the OVL hosts environmental education programs on our preserves, and produce our own educational series called All About Ojai. Finally, hundreds of people access our preserves each week for recreation and appreciation of nature.

As owners of approximately 4 miles of the Ventura River, we are acutely aware of the value of water resources and their sustainable management. We have actively promoted water-savings on our preserves by retiring wells, discontinuation of orchard irrigation, and revegetation with drought tolerant native species. With a wide reach in the Ojai Valley and Ventura River Watershed, we have maintained active partnerships with a number of environmentally conscious organizations. We are also regular participants with the Ventura River Watershed Council, the Ventura County Watersheds Coalition, and Ventura County IRWM processes. Based on our experiences, we would bring an informed voice to the Groundwater Basin Authority.

The OVLC's nominee is Larry Rose, a long-time member and Board member of the OVLC. Larry is a fourth generation Ojai resident. He is currently retired after 15 years in agricultural, municipal and industrial pipeline construction, and more recently, 35 years as an agronomist consultant in avocado and citrus culture. He managed the South Mountain Mutual Water Company through the 1980s, and served as chairman of Ventura County Local Agency Formation Commission in the 1990s reviewing city and district boundary changes. He has also served on a multitude of Supervisorial committees related to agricultural land conservation and was the Chairman of the California Farm Bureau Federation Land Use Advisory Committee as well as the Ventura Farm Bureau Land Use Committee Chair.

As a member of the California Avocado Commission he was elected as Chairman of the Production Research Committee of which major expenditures have been made developing irrigation efficiency technologies. He installed the first significant drip irrigation system in the county and utilizes CIMIS ET data for precision irrigation today on farms for which he consults. His construction experience has included construction of tanks, reservoirs and pumping systems. His blend of experience with water infrastructure, as well as land and resource conservation makes him uniquely qualified to understand the challenges faced by the Groundwater Authority and represent environmental interests.

Please find attached a copy of the OVLC Board minutes of June 26, 2016 that indicate the OVLC Board's nomination of Larry Rose. As requested, our current organizational budget was adopted by the Board on September 27, 2016. The OVLC's budget for FY17 is approximately \$1.4 Million.

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate Larry Rose. Please contact me if you have any further questions regarding the OVLC's interests and abilities.

Sincerely,



Brian Stark
Executive Director

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

Item No. 5(b)

DATE: January 5, 2017
TO: Board of Directors
SUBJECT: Review of Nominations for Agricultural Stakeholder Director

SUMMARY

Article 6 of the Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA Agreement”) provides that one Director on the Board of Directors shall be representative of agricultural stakeholders and interests (“Agricultural Stakeholder Director”) within the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin (“Basin”). This Agricultural Stakeholder Director shall meet certain qualifications specified in the JPA Agreement and shall be appointed by a vote of all Member Directors. The Board of Directors has received four nominations for the Agricultural Stakeholder Director Seat.

There is no fiscal impact associated with the review of nominations for an Agricultural Stakeholder Director.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Review the nominees submitted by the Farm Bureau of Ventura County (“Farm Bureau”), designate two Directors to serve on a committee that will interview nominees as appropriate and recommend an appointment to the Board for the Agricultural Stakeholder Director at the next meeting of the Board.

BACKGROUND

Section 6.1 of the JPA Agreement provides that the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (“Agency”) shall be governed by a Board of Directors composed of seven Directors, one of which shall be presentative of agricultural stakeholders and interests within the Basin.

Section 6.1.2(a) of the JPA Agreement requires the Agricultural Stakeholder Director to “meet one or more of the following three criteria, determined at the sole discretion of the Member Directors: (i) own and operate an agricultural business with its principal operations on land overlying the Basin; (ii) own or lease property overlying the Basin and extract groundwater from the Basin for the irrigation of at least two (2) acres of crops in commercial operation; or (iii) be a representative of an agricultural organization currently active within the Members’ service area boundaries.”

The JPA Agreement further provides that the “Member Directors shall select the Agricultural Stakeholder Director from a list of three (3) qualified nominees submitted by the [Farm Bureau].” (JPA Agreement, § 6.3.6(a).)

The Farm Bureau nominated the following individuals, three of whom meet the criteria outlined in the JPA Agreement. The Farm Bureau also nominated a fourth candidate, Jurgen Gramckow, who does not meet all of the criteria but who the Farm Bureau

believes would be a valuable addition to the Board of Directors. Additional information on each nominee is also attached.

Nominee: Emily Thacher Ayala

Qualifications: Owner of ranch overlying the Basin and manager of Ojai Pixie Growers Association

Nominee: Carly Ford

Qualifications: Owner of ranch overlying the Basin

Nominee: Brian Haase

Qualifications: Owner of ranch overlying the Basin

Nominee: Jurgen Gramckow

Qualifications: Does not meet qualifications set forth in JPA Agreement

FISCAL SUMMARY

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Action: _____

Motion: _____ 2nd: _____

B. Kuebler____ M. Bergen____ J. Pratt____ M. Krumpschmidt____ S. Epstein____

Bert Rapp

From: John Krist <john@farmbureauvc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 1:14 PM
To: pbkuebler
Cc: Bert Rapp
Subject: ag stakeholder nominees

Hi Bruce. Here's a list of nominees for the agricultural stakeholder seat on the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors. They're listed alphabetically, not in order of preference.

Emily Thacher Ayala
Carly Ford
Jurgen Gramckow
Brian Haase

I distributed a notice of the position's availability to our membership email list on Nov. 14, inviting potential candidates to notify me of their interest. I also sent personal invitations to several people I know to have been active in water issues in the Ventura River watershed. I submitted the names of those who indicated a willingness to serve to the Farm Bureau Board of Directors, which approved this slate of candidates via email communication on Dec. 12-13.

Emily, Carly and Brian all own and farm on land that overlies the UVR basin, and therefore meet the qualification standards set forth in the UVRGSA joint powers agreement. Jurgen's Ventura River watershed property was excluded from the basin during the recently concluded boundary change process, but as a representative of Rancho Matilija Mutual Water Company (and owner of Southland Sod Farms, which has extensive operations and holdings on the Oxnard Plain), he has long been active in groundwater issues in the Ventura River watershed and elsewhere. He does not meet the exact qualifications specified in the JPA, but his experience and technical understanding of groundwater and groundwater policy would make him a valuable addition to the board should the remaining directors choose to exercise their discretion and waive those requirements.

Please let me know if you need a more formal version of this notification, or would like additional background or contact information for the nominees.

Regards,

-- John Krist
Chief executive officer
Farm Bureau of Ventura County
5156 McGrath St., Suite 102
Ventura, CA 93003
805-289-0155

www.farmbureauvc.com
www.facebook.com/FarmBureauVC
@Farmbureauvc

Bert Rapp

From: John Krist <john@farmbureauvc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 9:27 AM
To: pbkuebler
Cc: Rapp Bert
Subject: Re: ag stakeholder nominees

Carly and Ernie Ford own Matilija Canyon Ranch, which is 220 acres across the canyon from the Friends packing house. They grow Ojai Pixies and avocados at that location and have 8 acres of Valencias in east Ojai. The ranching operation was started by Carly's father, Bill Lucking, and has been in the family since 1954. She's a third-generation California farmer. Emily Ayala recommended her

Brian Haase owns a 22-acre ranch adjacent to the Fords and across from the Thachers' ranch, with 13 acres in Pixies, avocados and grapes. He's also a member of a multi-generation farming family. Tony Thacher recommended him.

Emily is involved in the Friends Ranches operation, and also manages the Ojai Pixie Growers Association. Jurgen's background is in my nomination letter.

Contact info:

Carly Ford: carlyinoj@aol.com
Jurgen Gramckow: jurgen@sod.com
Brian Haase: brian@westcoast-air.com
Emily Ayala: emily@friendsranches.com

-- jk

On Dec 13, 2016, at 5:27 PM, pbkuebler wrote:

> Yes John, additional background and contact info would be helpful. Please send it to me. Thanks, Bruce

>> On Dec 13, 2016, at 1:13 PM, John Krist <john@farmbureauvc.com> wrote:

>>

>> Hi Bruce. Here's a list of nominees for the agricultural stakeholder seat on the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors. They're listed alphabetically, not in order of preference.

>>

>> Emily Thacher Ayala

>> Carly Ford

>> Jurgen Gramckow

>> Brian Haase

>>

>> I distributed a notice of the position's availability to our membership email list on Nov. 14, inviting potential candidates to notify me of their interest. I also sent personal invitations to several people I know to have been active in water issues in the Ventura River watershed. I submitted the names of those who indicated a willingness to serve to the Farm Bureau Board of Directors, which approved this slate of candidates via email communication on Dec. 12-13.

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>> Emily, Carly and Brian all own and farm on land that overlies the UVR basin, and therefore meet the qualification standards set forth in the UVRGSA joint powers agreement. Jurgen's Ventura River watershed property was excluded from the basin during the recently concluded boundary change process, but as a representative of Rancho Matilija Mutual Water Company (and owner of Southland Sod Farms, which has extensive operations and holdings on the

Oxnard Plain), he has long been active in groundwater issues in the Ventura River watershed and elsewhere. He does not meet the exact qualifications specified in the JPA, but his experience and technical understanding of groundwater and groundwater policy would make him a valuable addition to the board should the remaining directors choose to exercise their discretion and waive those requirements.

>>

>> Please let me know if you need a more formal version of this notification, or would like additional background or contact information for the nominees.

>>

>> Regards,

>>

>> -- John Krist

>> Chief executive officer

>> Farm Bureau of Ventura County

>> 5156 McGrath St., Suite 102

>> Ventura, CA 93003

>> 805-289-0155

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>> www.farmbureauvc.com

>> www.facebook.com/FarmBureauVC

>> @Farmbureauvc

>>

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UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

Item No. 5(c)

DATE: January 5, 2017
TO: Board of Directors
SUBJECT: Adoption of Future Meeting Schedule

SUMMARY

The Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA Agreement”) requires that the Board of Directors meet at least quarterly. (JPA Agreement, § 8.2.) Therefore, the Board of Directors should consider the Director’s schedules and adopt a future meeting schedule, including both regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.

There is no fiscal impact associated with adopting a future meeting schedule.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

To adopt a regular meeting schedule for the Board of Directors.

BACKGROUND

The JPA Agreement requires that the Board of Directors meet at least quarterly. (JPA Agreement, § 8.2.) Based on the anticipated activities, however, we recommend the Board of Directors schedule monthly meetings for the foreseeable future. Due to the upcoming deadlines, including formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency, we also recommend that the Board of Directors consider scheduling some special meetings.

For example, in order to comply with SGMA, the Upper Ventura Groundwater Agency (“Agency”) must form a groundwater sustainability agency (“GSA”) by June 30, 2017. The process to form a GSA includes special noticing, holding a public hearing, adopting a resolution, filing a Notice of Intent to be a GSA with the Department of Water Resources, and holding a 90-day comment period.

Prior to forming the GSA, however, the entire Board of Directors must be constituted. This means that the Stakeholder Director must be appointed before the Board of Directors votes to become a GSA for the Upper Ventura Groundwater Basin.

FISCAL SUMMARY

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Action: _____

Motion: _____ 2nd: _____

B. Kuebler_____ M. Bergen_____ J. Pratt_____ M. Krumpschmidt_____ S. Epstein_____

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

Item No. 5(d)

DATE: January 5, 2017
TO: Board of Directors
SUBJECT: Establishment of Principal Office

SUMMARY

The Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA Agreement”) requires that the Board of Directors establish a principal office of the Agency. (JPA Agreement, § 7.3.)

Depending on the arrangement, there may be a fiscal impact associated with establishing a principal office.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

We recommend the Board take the following actions:

1. The Upper Ventura Groundwater Agency (“Agency”) continue to hold its public meetings in the Casitas Municipal Water District Board Room. For all other purposes, however, the principal office may be established at a different location.
2. Discuss options and decide on the the location of the Agency’s principal office for all other purposes.

BACKGROUND

The JPA Agreement requires that the Board of Directors establish a principal office of the Agency. (JPA Agreement, § 7.3.) Once established, the principal office may thereafter be changed by a vote of the Directors.

We recommend that the Agency continue to hold its meetings in the Casitas Municipal Water District Board Room. The Agency’s principal office, however, may be established at a different location. The principal office is the address where the Agency will receive correspondence and conduct its regular business.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Depending on the arrangement, there may be a fiscal impact associated with establishing a principal office.

Action: _____

Motion: _____ 2nd: _____

B. Kuebler____ M. Bergen____ J. Pratt____ M. Krumpschmidt____ S. Epstein____

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

Item No. 5(e)

DATE: January 5, 2017
TO: Board of Directors
SUBJECT: Appointment of Interim Executive Officer

SUMMARY

The Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA Agreement”) requires the Board of Directors to appoint an Executive Director to act as the chief administrative officer of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (“Agency”). (JPA Agreement, § 10.1.) Prior to appointing a permanent Executive Director, we recommend appointing an interim Executive Director to ensure that the Agency complies with required deadlines.

The Executive Director’s (and interim Executive Director) compensation shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide direction for selecting an interim Executive Director.

BACKGROUND

The JPA Agreement requires the Board of Directors to appoint an Executive Director to act as the chief administrative officer of the Agency. (JPA Agreement, § 10.1.) Until a permanent Executive Director is identified and appointed, however, we recommend that the Board of Directors appoint an interim Executive Director to help the Agency comply with, among other things, the following items:

Development of Annual Budget. The JPA Agreement requires the Board of Directors to adopt an annual budget for the Agency within 120 days after the initial meeting. (JPA Agreement, § 14.1.) Because the initial meeting is being held on January 5, 2017, the initial annual budget must be adopted by May 5, 2017. Thereafter, the Board of Directors must adopt an annual budget prior to the commencement of each fiscal year, which is July 1. (JPA Agreement, § 14.1.)

Development of Conflict of Interest Code. The JPA Agreement requires the Board of Directors to adopt a conflict of interest code within six months following the appointment of both Stakeholder Directors.

Preparation and Submission of Notice of JPA Agreement to Secretary of State. The Agency is required to prepare and submit a notice of the JPA Agreement (“Notice”) to the Office of the California Secretary of State within 30 days of the effective date of the JPA Agreement. (Gov. Code § 6503.5; *see also* JPA Agreement, § 2.1.) The JPA Agreement became effective on December 6, 2016; therefore, the Notice must be submitted by January 5, 2017. We have

prepared a draft Notice and, with direction from the Board of Directors, are prepared to submit it following the adjournment of this meeting.

Submission of JPA Agreement to State Controller. Concurrent with submission of the Notice to the Secretary of State, the Agency is required to file a copy of the JPA Agreement with the State Controller. (Gov. Code § 6503.6.) We have also prepared a draft filing to the State Controller and, with direction from the Board of Directors, are prepared to file it following the adjournment of this meeting.

Preparation and Submission of Statement of Information to Secretary of State. The Agency is required to prepare and file a statement of information concerning the Agency ("Statement of Information") with the Office of the California Secretary of State within 70 days of the effective date of the JPA Agreement. (Gov. Code § 53051; *see also* JPA Agreement, § 2.1.) Therefore, the Statement of Information must be filed by February 14, 2017.

OPTIONS

The JPA Agreement provides that the Executive Director, or an interim Executive Director, "may be, though need not be, an officer, employee, or representative of one of the Members." (JPA Agreement, § 10.1.) Therefore, we have come up with the following options to fill the interim Executive Director position:

- Select and appoint an officer, employee, or representative of one of the Members
- Hire an individual through a temporary staffing company
- Utilize the services of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
- Hire a temporary part-time employee as an employee of the Agency

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Executive Director's (and interim Executive Director) compensation shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Action: _____

Motion: _____ 2nd: _____

B. Kuebler____ M. Bergen____ J. Pratt____ M. Krumpschmidt____ S. Epstein____

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

Item No. 5(f)

DATE: January 5, 2017
TO: Board of Directors
SUBJECT: Review of Financial Status and Interim Budget

SUMMARY

The Board should review the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency's ("Agency") current financial status and interim budget.

The fiscal impact of this item depends on how the Agency decides to fund activities prior to adoption of the Agency's annual budget.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Review the Agency's current financial status and provide direction to staff on conceptual items for an interim budget.

BACKGROUND

Under the Joint Powers Agreement ("JPA Agreement"), the Agency is required to adopt a budget within 120 days of the Agency's first meeting. (JPA Agreement, § 14.1.) With the Agency's initial meeting being held on January 5, 2017, the deadline to adopt the budget is May 5, 2017. Until the annual budget is adopted, however, the Agency needs to develop an interim budget and determine how to fund its ongoing expenses.

Section 14.2 of the JPA sets forth the following three options for funding the Agency's expenses and ongoing operations:

1. Voluntary contributions from Members;
2. Assessment of Member contributions; and
3. Imposing fees on groundwater users pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA")

The third option—imposing fees—is only authorized once the Agency becomes a groundwater sustainability agency ("GSA"). In the meantime, therefore, the Agency should consider the first two options for funding its ongoing operations.

The following table provides an overview of the Agency's past and current financial commitments through November 29, 2016.

GSA Formation Committee Financial Commitments									
November 29, 2016									
	Approval Date	Amount	Current Total Commitment	Total Billed To Date	Per Agency Breakdown				
					Total Commitment Per Agency	Amount Billed To Date	Amount This Invoice	Total Paid by VRWD and Invoiced per GSA Agency	Total Remaining Commitment per Agency
BHFS Legal Services P.O. 6173	2/5/2015	\$40,000							
BHFS Change Order Request 5-6-2016 P.O. 6218 (\$5,500/Mo April to September)	6/14/2016	\$68,216							
BHFS Change Order Request 11-3-2016 P.O. 6789	11/8/2016	\$10,000							
BHFS Legal Services Totals To Date:		\$118,216	\$118,216	\$106,960.02	\$23,643.20	\$16,701.44	\$4,690.44	\$21,391.88	\$2,251.32
Kear Groundwater Boundary Modification P.O. 6153	1/11/2016	\$5,800							
Technical Paper & Presentations P.O. 6155	2/22/2016	\$2,500							
Response to Comments P.O. 6219	6/14/2016	\$7,850							
Kear Groundwater Totals To Date:		\$16,150	\$16,150	\$14,850.00	\$3,230.00	\$2,970.00	\$0.00	\$2,970.00	\$260.00
Walter Consulting Website Development P.O. 6149	1/21/2016	\$4,730							
Walter Consulting Website Editing & Maint P.O. 6162	3/9/2016	\$2,676							
Walter Consulting Totals To Date:		\$7,406	\$7,406	\$5,724.00	\$1,481.20	\$1,144.80	\$0.00	\$1,144.80	\$336.40
TOTALS			\$141,772		\$28,354	\$20,816	\$4,690.44	\$25,507	\$2,848

FISCAL SUMMARY

The fiscal impact of this item depends on how the Agency decides to fund activities prior to adoption of the Agency's annual budget.

Action: _____

Motion: _____ 2nd: _____

B. Kuebler____ M. Bergen____ J. Pratt____ M. Krumpschmidt____ S. Epstein____