

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING\***

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (“Agency”) Board of Directors (“Board”) will hold a **Special Board Meeting** at **6:30 P.M. on Thursday, March 9, 2017** at the **Oak View Community Center**, 18 Valley Road, Oak View, California 93022.

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**AGENDA**

**Thursday, March 9, 2017**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**
- 3. 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.

- 4. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- a. Public Hearing to Receive Public Comment on Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency’s Election to Act as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin**

The Board will hold a public hearing to consider comments on the Agency’s election to Act as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin.

- 5. ADJOURNMENT**

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

## UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

### Item No. 4(a)

**DATE:** March 9, 2017  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing to Receive Public Comment on Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency's Election to Act as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin

### **SUMMARY**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") requires that a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") must be formed in all medium- and high-priority groundwater basins within California by June 30, 2017. The Upper Ventura River Basin ("Basin") has been designated as a medium-priority groundwater basin.

SGMA requires eligible local agencies to comply with specific procedures and requirements in order to become a GSA, including holding a public hearing and adopting a resolution. Therefore, the Board of Directors for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency ("Agency") will hold a public hearing to receive public comment on the Agency's election to act as the GSA for the Basin. Upon closure of this public hearing, the Board of Directors will consider adopting a resolution to act as the GSA for the Basin.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Hold a public hearing to receive public comment regarding the Agency's election to act as the GSA for the Basin; and
2. Adopt Resolution No. 2017-2 electing the Agency as the GSA for the Basin pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act; and
3. Provide direction to staff regarding preparation of the Agency's Notice of GSA Election, including direction on development of the list of interested parties.

### **BACKGROUND**

In September 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown signed SGMA into law, which changed the landscape of groundwater management across the state. SGMA is a comprehensive three bill package that sets the framework for statewide sustainable groundwater management by local agencies. SGMA requires, among other items, the formation of a GSA and the development and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("Sustainability Plan") for any groundwater basin designated as either medium- or high-priority. Formation of a GSA must occur no later than June 30, 2017 and a Sustainability Plan must be adopted no later than January 31, 2022 for medium- and high-priority groundwater basins not currently in critical overdraft. The Basin is designated as a medium-priority basin not subject to critical overdraft.

SGMA authorizes a local agency—or combination of local agencies—overlying a groundwater basin to form a GSA. SGMA defines a local agency as a “local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin.” (Wat. Code § 10721(n).) The Agency is a joint powers authority comprised of the following five local public agencies, all of which have water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within the Basin: Casitas Municipal Water District, the City of San Buenaventura, the County of Ventura, the Meiners Oaks Water District, and the Ventura River Water District.

SGMA requires formal procedures to be followed in order to become a GSA. First, the Agency must hold a noticed public hearing to receive public comment on the Agency’s decision to become the GSA for the Basin. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Agency must adopt a resolution electing to act as the GSA for the Basin. Within thirty days of the public hearing, the Agency is required to submit multiple documents to the Department of Water Resources (“DWR”), including (1) a resolution electing to act as the GSA for the Basin, (2) a map outlining the jurisdiction of the newly created GSA, and (3) a list of interested parties developed pursuant to the Water Code Section 10723.2 and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of a Sustainability Plan (“List of Interested Parties”). Barring any challenges, the Agency will be recognized as the exclusive GSA for the Basin within ninety days of the date DWR posts a copy of the Agency’s Notice of GSA Election to its website.<sup>1</sup>

A resolution regarding the Agency’s election to act as the GSA for the Basin is attached to this staff report for the Board of Director’s consideration and signature. A template for the List of Interested Parties is also attached hereto for the Board’s consideration and discussion regarding how the Agency plans to consider stakeholder interests during its development of a Sustainability Plan. The Board of Directors includes representatives from various interested parties listed in the Water Code, including an agricultural water user, a municipal well operator, a local land use planning agency, an environmental user of groundwater. Options for additional stakeholder involvement include, among other methods, creating a stakeholder advisory committee, holding public meetings, and undertaking other forms of outreach. Upon the Board’s direction, staff will develop the List of Interested Parties and submit the Agency’s Notice of GSA Election to DWR within the statutory timeline.

Once the Agency is recognized as the GSA for the Basin, the Agency will begin the process of developing a Sustainability Plan. The Agency’s process to develop the Sustainability Plan for the Basin will include stakeholder outreach and will provide multiple opportunities for public involvement, including those methods outlined in the List of Interested Parties which will be submitted to DWR along with the Agency’s Notice of GSA Election.

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<sup>1</sup> Notices of GSA Election are posted to the following website:  
<http://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsa/all>.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

Creation of a GSA will require the Agency to expend funds to cover administrative and operating costs, which will be detailed in the annual budget.

Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Kuebler\_\_\_ M. Bergen\_\_\_ J. Pratt\_\_\_ M. Krumpschmidt\_\_\_ S. Epstein\_\_\_

L. Rose\_\_\_ E. Ayala\_\_\_

1 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

2 **UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY**

3 **RESOLUTION NO. 2017-2**

4 **A RESOLUTION OF THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY TO**  
5 **BE ELECTED AS THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE**  
6 **UPPER VENTURA RIVER BASIN PURSUANT TO THE SUSTAINABLE**  
7 **GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**

8 **WHEREAS**, the California Legislature has adopted, and the Governor has signed into  
9 law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 ("Act"), which authorizes local  
10 agencies to manage groundwater in a sustainable fashion; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the legislative intent of the Act is to provide for sustainable management of  
12 groundwater basins, to enhance local management of groundwater, to establish minimum  
13 standards for sustainable groundwater management, and to provide local agencies with the  
14 authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage  
15 groundwater; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in order to exercise the authority granted in the Act, a local agency or  
17 combination of local agencies must elect to become a groundwater sustainability agency  
18 ("GSA"); and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency ("Agency") is a local  
20 agency, as the Act defines that term; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Agency exercises jurisdiction upon land overlying the entire Upper  
22 Ventura River Basin (designated basin number 4-3.01 Department of Water Resources'  
23 ("DWR") CASGEM groundwater basin system) ("Basin"); and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Agency is committed to sustainable management of the Basin's  
25 groundwater resources; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the Act requires that a GSA be formed for all basins designated by DWR  
27 as a medium- or high-priority basins by June 30, 2017; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the Basin is designated as a medium-priority basin pursuant to the DWR's  
29 initial prioritization; and

30 **WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Agency to work cooperatively with other local GSAs  
and stakeholders, as may be appropriate, to sustainably manage the Basin and ensure that the  
Act's goals are satisfied; and

**WHEREAS**, notice of a hearing on the Agency's election to become a GSA for the Basin  
("Notice") has been published in the Ventura County Star and the Ojai Valley News as provided  
by law; and

1           **WHEREAS**, on this day, the Agency held a public hearing to consider whether it should  
2 elect to become a GSA for the Basin; and

3           **WHEREAS**, it would be in the best interest of the Basin for the Agency to become a  
4 GSA for the Basin, and to begin the process of preparing a groundwater sustainability plan  
5 (“Sustainability Plan”); and

6           **WHEREAS**, the Agency’s process to develop the Sustainability Plan for the Basin will  
7 include stakeholder outreach and will provide multiple opportunities for public involvement; and

8           **WHEREAS**, adoption of this resolution does not constitute a “project” under California  
9 Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), including organization and  
10 administrative activities of government, because there would be no direct or indirect physical  
11 change in the environment.

12           **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura  
13 River Groundwater Agency, as follows:

- 14           1. All the recitals in this resolution are true and correct and the Agency so finds,  
15 determines and represents.
- 16           2. The Agency hereby elects to become the GSA for the Basin.
- 17           3. Within thirty days of the date of this resolution, the Agency’s interim Executive  
18 Director is directed to provide notice to DWR of the Agency’s election to be the  
19 GSA for the Basin (“Notice of GSA Election”) in the manner required by law.
- 20           4. One of the elements of the Notice of GSA Election is the boundaries the Agency  
21 intends to manage as the GSA for the Basin. Until further action of the Agency,  
22 the boundaries of the GSA shall be the external boundaries of the Basin, the  
23 entirety of which currently falls within the Agency’s jurisdiction.
- 24           5. Upon submission of the Notice of GSA Election, the Agency’s Board of  
25 Director’s shall begin discussions with interested stakeholders and beneficial  
26 users within the Basin in order to begin the process of developing a Sustainability  
27 Plan for the Basin.
6. The Agency’s interim Executive Director is directed to report back to the  
          Agency’s Board of Directors at least quarterly on the progress toward developing  
          the Sustainability Plan.
7. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage and adoption.

28           **WE, THE UNDERSIGNED**, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution  
29 No. 2017-2 was duly adopted and passed by the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River  
30 Groundwater Agency at a meeting held on the 9th day of March, 2017, by the following vote:

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AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:

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Bruce Kuebler, Board Chair  
Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

ATTEST:

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Jennifer Tribo, Interim Executive Director

## **LIST OF ALL BENEFICIAL USES AND USERS OF GROUNDWATER**

Pursuant to Water Code Sections 10723.8(a)(4) and 10723.2, the Agency will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing a Sustainability Plan. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

### **Holders of Overlying Groundwater Rights, including:**

- **Agricultural Users:**
- **Domestic Well Owners:**

### **Municipal Well Operators:**

**Public Water Systems.** The following public water systems are located within the Agency's boundaries:

- **Community Water Systems:**
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- **Non-Transient Non-Community Water Systems:**
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- **Transient Non-Community Water Systems:**
  -
- **State Small Water Systems:**
  -

### **Local Land Use Planning Agencies**

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### **Environmental Users of Groundwater.**

**Surface Water Users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.**

**Federal Government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.**



**California Native American Tribes.**

**Disadvantaged Communities, including, but not limited to those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.**

**Entities Listed in Section 10927 that are Monitoring and Reporting Groundwater Elevations in all or a part of the Groundwater Basin Managed by the GSA.**

The Agency's and other stakeholders' roles and responsibilities will be further developed and defined in the Sustainability Plan. The Agency's staff welcomes feedback during this process from the state, any of the agencies or organizations listed herein, and any other interested stakeholders.

If DWR requires anything further prior to the acceptance of this notification of the Agency's election to serve as the GSA for the Basin, please address your concerns to:

[NAME + CONTACT INFORMATION]