

Minutes

EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

October 29, 2014

2:00 to 3:30 P.M. Meiners Oaks Water District Board Room

202 W. El Roblar, Meiners Oaks

Persons attending:

Meiners Oaks Water District: Mike Etchart, Mike Krumpschmidt, Mike Hollebrands

Casitas Municipal Water District: Mary Bergen, Pete Kaiser, Steve Wickstrum

Ventura River Water District: Ed Lee, Bruce Kuebler, Bert Rapp

1. Introductions were made.
2. Groundwater Management Initial discussion – Bruce Kuebler asked each participant if they liked the proposed goal for the group: “Sustainable groundwater management at low cost” each member concurred. Bruce K. then suggested that basin conditions should determine the approach to a management plan and requested that each person describe any existing or emerging conditions that need to be addressed by a future Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Mike Krumpschmidt offered that there are too many new wells being drilled because of the drought and it is good that the moratorium is now in place. Mary Bergen noted three items: first that the reduction of pumping capacity is temporary and will come back when it rains. Second, there may be pumping restrictions in the upper basin that may be imposed as a result of the Channel Keeper Writ of Mandate regarding Ventura’s pumping. And third, there may be an impact on surface flows related to groundwater pumping that will need to be analyzed.
3. Bruce K. then asked for comments on the draft letter to DWR requesting a meeting on evaluating the priority rating of the Upper Ventura River Sub-basin. Steve W. noted that a mention should be made that Casitas has a State water allocation but no physical connection and that the groundwater/surfacewater system has performed well for the last 50 years. Bruce K. suggested that the provision in the Casitas Urban Water Management Plan about safeguarding the safe yield should be included. Steve W. suggested including the quote from the Ventura County Historical Ecology Study about how the upper river has always gone dry. Mary B. noted that the proposed revision to the Upper basin boundary would coincide with the wet and dry reaches. Some typographical edits were mentioned.

4. Composition of sustainable groundwater management agency – The consensus of the group was that a Groundwater Sustainability Agency would be formed with Meiners Oaks Water District, Ventura River Water District and Casitas Municipal Water District. Steve W. noted that the final composition of the Agency will be determined during Public Hearings on the formation.
5. The group requested the General Managers send an e-mail to Shana Epstein with the City of Ventura letting them know we are discussing the formation of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Bert R. will edit the draft letter to DWR and send back out to the group. The letter to DWR will be put on each board's agenda at the earliest date.
6. The next meeting will be set up after each agency board meets and discusses the Groundwater Sustainability Agency issue.
7. Meeting Adjourned at 3:40 P.M.