

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2018**

The Board meeting was held at Casitas Municipal Water Districts meeting room at 1055 Ventura Avenue, Oak View, CA 93022. Directors present were: Bruce Kuebler, Mary Bergen, Diana Engle, Kevin Brown, Glenn Shephard, and Larry Rose. Director Emily Ayala was absent. Also present were: Executive Director Cece Vandermeer, Attorney Jena Acos, and GSP Project Manager Bryan Bondy. Public present were Paul Jenkin, Bert Rapp, and Mike Hollebrands.

1) CALL TO ORDER- Chairperson Bruce Kuebler called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. Agency Counsel noted for the record that the correct date on the fifth line of the agenda should be October 11, 2018, but that the meeting could proceed as scheduled because the tenth line lists the correct date.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Chairperson Bruce Kuebler.

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA – Paul Jenkin expressed concern over what he thought was a reduction in groundwater monitoring frequency and stressed the importance of that and measuring surface flows because of river bottom plugging caused by Thomas fire and the work going ahead with removal of Matilija dam. GSP Project Manager explained that the groundwater monitoring frequency is not being reduced and additional monitoring wells are under consideration.

4) CONSENT ITEMS

- a. **Approve Minutes from September 13, 2018**
- b. **Approve Financial Report for September 2018**
- c. **Approve Outstanding Invoices**

Several corrections were identified by Directors and GSP Project Manager and those are incorporated in the corrected minutes. Director Bergen moved to approve the consent items: Approve Minutes as corrected from September 13, 2018; Approve Financial Report for September 2018; and Approve Outstanding Invoices. Seconded by Director Brown.

Ayes: Bruce Kuebler, Mary Bergen, Diana Engle, Kevin Brown, Glenn Shephard, and Larry Rose.
Absent: Emily Ayala.

5) DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Brown announced Ventura Water Commission will meet on Oct 30 and the City's draft EIR on Potable Water Reuse will be released soon.

Director Engle attended the SWRCB 9-24-18 TAC meeting on the geologic analysis.

Director Shephard announced a large diameter pipeline will be put under Hwy 33 in Casitas Springs to eliminate flooding from Fresno Canyon.

Director Kuebler mentioned the adjudication action filed by City of Ventura and he will attend the steelhead summit in Ventura on Dec. 3. Director Bergen said she will also attend. Director Keubler also mentioned that he and Director Bergen will be working on staffing options during the next month.

6) GSP PROJECT MANAGER COMMENTS

Bryan Bondy reported he also attended the TAC geology meeting and is evaluating additional wells to be added to monitoring program.

7) GSP ACTION ITEMS

a. 2017 Prop 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Grant Agreement

Bryan Bondy handed out copies of the final staff report which was not included in the agenda packet. Bryan Bondy summarized the grant agreement which is essentially final. It reflects a cost share reduction from 50% to 26%, although Sacramento hasn't formally approved that change but it is expected. All tasks have been collapsed into three categories and this requires the cost share to be reached in a category before reimbursement. It is important to continue using the existing more detailed task numbers for time keeping and to use action verbs tied to GSP when describing time spent. He recommended the Board authorize Board Chair to execute the agreement with no substantial changes following official DWR approval. This will save time in getting the final document.

No public comments.

Director Shephard motioned to authorize Board Chair to execute the agreement with Department of Water Resources for the 2017 SGWP Planning Grant, subject to non-substantive changes on the final version received from DWR headquarters. Seconded by Director Bergen.

Ayes: Bruce Kuebler, Mary Bergen, Diana Engle, Kevin Brown, Glenn Shephard, and Larry Rose.
Absent: Emily Ayala.

b. State Water Resources Control Board Groundwater-Surface Water Workshop

Bryan Bondy provided background on the workshop and explained that it will be streamed live and available later on the internet so he recommended to save Agency money by viewing on-line. Chair Kuebler won't travel because workshop in on same day as steelhead conference.

No public comments.

Director Engle motioned to authorize the GSP Project Manager remotely attend the workshop. Seconded by Director Brown. .

Ayes: Bruce Kuebler, Mary Bergen, Diana Engle, Kevin Brown, Glenn Shephard, and Larry Rose.
Absent: Emily Ayala.

8) OTHER ACTION ITEMS

a. Multi-Year Budget

The Board discussed the revised multi-year budget. No significant changes were recommended, but it was noted that the following item might generate further discussion and potential changes. The Board discussed approving the budget at the next Board meeting.

The Board took no action.

b. Member Agency Budget Contributions

The Board discussed member agency funding contributions pending implementation of the extraction fee program. All Directors indicated contributions to date are not expected to be returned. After the fee system is in place, Director Shephard said the County would not contribute but could make a loan, with interest, to help with Agency cash flow. Director Engle stated that Meiner's Oaks Water District doesn't want both a fee and contribution. Director Bergen said the intent is for member agency pumpers to provide equal support so any pumping charge would be deducted from an expected contribution. Director Brown will check with the City Council for their position. Chair Kuebler asked all member agency directors to check with their governing boards regarding any contribution concerns and report back at the next Board meeting. This is an important step before approving the multi-year budget.

Public comment. Mike Hollebrands asked whether member agency contributions were a gift of public funds and therefore a violation of the Government Code. Counsel Acos explained the GSP is a public benefit and, therefore, not a gift of public funds.

The Board took no action.

c. Invoice Approval Procedures

Bryan Bondy explained the recommended change in procedures to streamline invoice payments by removing requirement for Board approval of each invoice. This will allow timely payment if the Board skips a meeting to reduce costs. Chair Kuebler recommended changing Resolution 2018-5 by adding the phrase "warrants from GSP Project Manager" after "of" in the sentence in the middle of paragraph 7.2 starting with "Checks for payment of ...".

Director Sheppard motioned that the Board of Directors approve the amended the Resolution 2018-5 amending the Agency's bylaws to implement revised invoice approval procedures. Seconded by Bergen.

Ayes: Bruce Kuebler, Mary Bergen, Diana Engle, Kevin Brown, Glenn Shephard, and Larry Rose.
Absent: Emily Ayala.

d. California Wildlife Conservation Board Grant

The Board discussed the grant application submitted on September 4, 2018 on behalf of the Ventura County Resource Conservation District and whether to take a position. Several Directors expressed concerns. It was also noted that there were many support letters and it is probably too late in the review process.

No public comment.

The Board took no action.

e. Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) request for comments on Application for Waiver of Water Well and Permit Prohibitions

Directors Engle and Shephard recused themselves and left the room while this item was discussed. Alternate Director Mike Hollebrands sat in for Director Engle. Agency Counsel handed out copies of the final staff report which was not included in the agenda packet.

The Board discussed the County's request. Counsel explained the Agency has no authority to approve or deny a well permit and can't evaluate the permit application. The Agency should only suggest comments the County may want to add to a permit if granted. Those suggestions would be the same in response to any request for comments from the County on any permit application.

No public comment.

Director Bergen moved that Chair Kuebler send a letter to VCWPD stating that if VCWPD decides to approve the waiver request, the Agency recommends the approval include the following conditions: 1. Pumping shall be restricted to no more than 2 acre-feet per year until adoption of the GSP with a meter installed on well output and pumping amounts reported semi-annually to VCWPD; 2. Groundwater use shall be restricted to parcels 018-0-021-375 & -355; and 3. Applicant shall be required to perform a geophysical log of the borehole and provide a copy to the County and Agency (SP, short-normal, and long-normal). Seconded by Director Rose.

Ayes: Bruce Kuebler, Mary Bergen, Mike Hollebrands, Kevin Brown, and Larry Rose.
Absent: Emily Ayala and Glen Shephard.

9) COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Ad Hoc Committee to Interface with California Water Action Plan Representatives

Chair Kuebler handed out copies of the revised schedule for the study plan presented by Kevin DeLano, project manager for the flow study, at the TAC on September 24. (see attachment) One change on that schedule is a 60-day comment window for model development report in Spring, 2021. This late date for the model report will have a major effect on the GSP approach and this will be discussed with DWR point of contact Eddie Pech.

b. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee

Director Rose reported he had set up social media accounts for the Agency on YouTube and Facebook. Chair Kuebler reported he talked with Ojai Valley News reporter Perry Van Houten about an article about the GSP and its challenges. Such an article could be about extraction fees.

c. Ad Hoc Funding Options Committee

Data on water use is being collected by consultant. There will be one more Ad Hoc Committee meeting with consultant then the plan will be brought forward for a Board/Stakeholder meeting probably in January 2019.

10) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vandermeer reported she is looking into changing banks to avoid a \$50/month fee at Wells Fargo. A proposal will be presented at the next meeting.

11) ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm. The next regular Board meeting will be November 8, 2018 at 1:00 pm at the Casitas Municipal Water District Meeting Room, 1055 Ventura Ave., Oak View, CA 93022.

Action: _____

Motion: _____ 2nd: _____

B. Kuebler__ M. Bergen__ G. Shephard__ D. Engle__ K. Brown__ L. Rose__ E. Ayala_____