

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING JULY 20, 2020**

The Board meeting was held via teleconference, in accordance with California Executive Order N-25-20. Directors present were: Bruce Kuebler, Emily Ayala, Diana Engle, Larry Rose, Susan Rungren, and Glenn Shephard. Also present were: Executive Director and GSP Project Manager Bryan Bondy and Agency Administrator Summer Ward. Public: Burt Handy.

Teleconference: Toll-Free: 1 877 309 2073 Access Code: 461-125-661 Connected Device:
<https://www.gotomeet.me/MOWD/uvrgaspecialmeetingjuly20>

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Chairperson Diana Engle called the meeting order at 6:00 pm.
- 2) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Did not recite.
- 3) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – No changes were recommended.
- 4) **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA** – No comments.
- 5) **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD STREAM FLOW ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM GRANT DISCUSSION**

Executive Director Bondy provided an update concerning the Wildlife Conservation Board Stream Flow Enhancement Grant opportunity. The proposed grant program is a good fit for UVRGA because requirements to address the depletion of interconnected surface water under SGMA are aligned with the grant program objectives to protect or enhance streamflow.

The specific goals of the grant include protecting/enhancing functional flows, help reducing barriers to enhancing streamflow, as well as providing support for project monitoring infrastructure to evaluate responses to enhancement efforts. The grant application period began July 9, 2020, with a deadline of September 10, 2020, and award funding expected in late Spring 2021. The total statewide funding is \$50M, with a \$3M cap on scientific studies, whereas there is no cap for planning projects. There is not a cost-share requirement, but the Agencies get more points on the application if they offer partial cost-share.

Potential grant scope items discussed included two main components. One component discussed is designing project and management actions to protect/enhance baseflow during dry periods when it is more groundwater dependent. The second component includes drilling monitoring wells and constructing stream gauges and collecting baseline monitoring data. Executive Director Bondy provided a very rough \$1.7M estimates.

Director Engle expressed concerns about semantics, with a primary concern about not committing to specific benefits.

Directors Shephard, Ayala, Rungren, and Rose discussed historical and ongoing efforts to remove arrundo. There was a consensus that arrundo removal is probably best achieved in partnerships with others, and the Board asked the Executive Director to collaborate with others on arrundo removal opportunities for future grant programs.

Director Shephard emphasized that the 5-year update will come up quickly, and having the highest groundwater extraction fee in the area, it is good for us to keep looking for grant opportunities.

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the application process, estimated expense of \$25,000, which includes anticipated legal assistance. The Board was in agreement with continuing to work on the application.

Director Spandrio left the meeting at 6:57 pm.

Director Kuebler agreed with Director Engle's request to be careful with the language used in the grant application. He also recommended investigating the feasibility of additional water storage. Executive Director Bondy noted that might require more time than the application period will allow for, but the Agency could revisit during the next round of grants applications.

Executive Director Bondy stated that if the Agency is not awarded the grant, it will be provided a review of the application with areas of strengths and weaknesses.

Director Ayala emphasized keeping the grant project within the scope of the GSA capabilities. Arrundo removal will not be successful unless the entire river is addressed.

Several Board members expressed a preference to review key parts of the application prior to submittal. Executive Director Bondy stated that the Agency may need to schedule a Special Board meeting in late August or early September.

No public comment.

No motion.

- 6) **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2020.