

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 13, 2020**

The Board meeting was held via teleconference, in accordance with California Executive Order N-25-20. Directors present were: Bruce Kuebler, Diana Engle, Larry Rose, Susan Rungren, Glenn Shephard, and Angelo Spandrio. Directors Absent: Emily Ayala. Also present: Executive Director Bryan Bondy.

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<https://zoom.us/j/97794334306?pwd=V05Rakx6OEFERUpDRUJYSWJGQy9WZz09>

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Chairperson Diana Engle called the meeting order at 1:02 pm.

- 2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Executive Director Bondy suggested moving Item 7b after Item 8e. No objections. No other comments were offered on the agenda.

- 3) **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA** – None.

- 4) **CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - a) **Approve Minutes from July 9, 2020 Regular Board Meeting**
 - b) **Approve Minutes from July 20, 2020 Special Board Meeting #1**
 - c) **Approve Minutes from July 20, 2020 Special Board Meeting #2**
 - d) **Approve Financial Report for July 2020**
 - e) **Approve Confidentiality Agreements with Meiners Oaks and Ventura River Water Districts**

Chair Engle asked if any Directors would like to pull any consent items for discussion.

Director Spandrio motioned to approve the consent calendar. Director Kuebler seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y L. Rose -Y G. Shephard – Y
S. Rungren – Y D. Engle – Y A. Spandrio – Y

Absent: E. Ayala

Noes: None.

- 5) **DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - a. **Directors may provide oral reports on items not appearing on the agenda.**
 - b. **Directors shall report time spent on cost-share eligibility activities for the 2017 Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning (SGWP) Grant.**

Director Kuebler: No report and no time.

Director Spandrio: No report and no time.

Director Rungren: The City of Ventura is planning to meet with the Executive Director sometime soon to review the forthcoming proposed adjudication physical solution. The City hopes to avoid duplication of effort with the Agency. No time to report.

Director Shephard: No report and no time.

Director Rose: No report and no time.

Director Engle: No report and no time.

6) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report with the Board. He added that a call was held with staff from Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Ojai Land Conservancy, and Resource Conservation District staff to discuss arundo removal. There is a desire to collaborate on arundo removal. Updated arundo mapping was identified as a key need. The “Arundo Free Watershed Campaign” is not a coordinated effort. Executive Director Bondy suggested that agencies with an interest in arundo removal might want to consider developing a memorandum of understanding.

No public comment.

No motion.

7) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a. SWRCB Draft Data Compilation Report

The Executive Director explained that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released its Compilation Report for the Development of Groundwater-Surface Water and Nitrogen Transport Models of the Ventura River Watershed (“Draft Data Compilation Report”) on July 31, 2020. Comments are due by August 31.

Recommended Action: Consider directing the Executive Director to prepare a comment letter on the SWRCB’s Draft Data Compilation Report if staff has comments.

Director Kuebler mentioned that he provided a comment to SWRCB about a 2012 pump test that was missing from the report.

Director Kuebler motioned to direct the Executive Director to comment on the Draft Data Compilation Report as necessary. Director Rungren seconded the motion.

No public comment.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y L. Rose -Y G. Shephard – Y
 S. Rungren – Y D. Engle – Y A. Spandrio – Y

Absent: E. Ayala

Noes: None.

8) GSP GRANT ELIGIBLE ITEMS

a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update (Grant Category (d); Task 11: GSP Development and Preparation)

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report with the Board. He added that an opportunity has arisen to perform outreach to the Casitas Springs community concerning the Agency and GSP development. He noted that Casitas Springs is the primary disadvantaged community (DAC) in the Basin. The opportunity is to present during the upcoming DAC outreach webinar being held by the County as part of a DAC Involvement (DACI) grant. He stated that he was not sure whether the Stakeholder Engagement Committee wants to make the presentation.

Director Kuebler stated that he would prefer having the Executive Director make the presentation during the DACI webinar.

Director Shephard commented that the DACI process has been very successful in outreaching to DACs.

Recommended Action:

Receive an update from the Executive Director concerning groundwater sustainability plan development and consider providing feedback.

No public comment.

No motion.

b. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Workshop No. 1 Recap (Grant Category (d); Task 11: GSP Development and Preparation)

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report with the Board.

The Board discussed possible reasons for low workshop participation by agricultural well owners. It was suggested that the 4pm start time might have been problematic or that perhaps the agricultural well owners already feel engaged.

Director Rose noted that future webinars can have less background material concerning the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

No public comments.

Recommended Action:

Receive a summary of GSP Workshop No. 1 analytics and consider providing feedback to improve future workshops.

No Motion.

c. Sustainability Goal (Grant Category (d); Task 11: GSP Development and Preparation)

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report with the Board. He added that the Agency Administrator has been on medical leave, so he does not know if any comments were received in recent days. He stated that waiting to adopt the Sustainability Goal would not pose a major problem for GSP development.

Director Rose expressed a preference for a simpler goal, but is OK with a more comprehensive goal.

Chair Engle expressed concerns about discussion of possible ecosystem enhancement in section 3d of the draft goal. Executive Director Bondy explained that enhancement is optional under SGMA and provided potential examples of enhancement.

Director Shephard noted that the other subcomponents of section 3 do not include parallel language about enhancement. He supported removing the enhancement language.

Directors Kuebler and Rungren also supported removing the enhancement language.

Director Rungren suggested ending section 3d after the first instance of “ecosystem.”

Director Rose stated that he would like to enhance the ecosystem where possible and would prefer to keep the language.

Director Kuebler suggested waiting to adopt the goal after the proposed adjudication physical solution has been released to the public.

Recommended Action: Adopt the sustainability goal for the groundwater sustainability plan.

Director Rose motioned adopt the draft Sustainability Goal with an edit to section 3d – place a semicolon after the first “ecosystem” and delete the remaining section 3d text. Director Shephard seconded the motion.

No public comment.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y L. Rose -Y G. Shephard – Y
 S. Rungren – Y D. Engle – Y A. Spandrio – Y

Absent: E. Ayala

Noes: None.

d. Sustainable Management Criteria Screening (Grant Category (d); Task 11: GSP Development and Preparation)

Executive Director Bondy stated the goal of this item is to provide preliminary, high-level information about each of the sustainability indicators and introduce key issues that will need to be addressed in the GSP. He then proceeded to review the staff report with the Board.

Director Spandrio commented on screening out seawater intrusion. He explained that DWR took exception to OBGMA screening out seawater intrusion in their GSP alternative submittal. Executive Director Bondy said he would review the DWR comments on the OBGSA alternative submittal again.

The Board discussed how to link amounts of subsidence to impacts. Executive Director Bondy stated that the GSP Team has been investigating that question and consulted the United States Geological Survey's subsidence expert to identify studies relating subsidence rates to impacts. No studies have been identified. A Director stated that subsidence could not likely impact the area because of the land use. Director Rungren stated that subsidence could affect sewers. Executive Director Bondy stated that he is awaiting feedback from DWR and will revisit subsidence with the Board at a future meeting.

Chair Engle expressed concerns about the 1.15 milligram per liter (mg/L) nitrate value listed in the staff report. She stated that the value is not a regulatory goal and strongly cautioned against describing it as one. Executive Director Bondy stated that the value was provided by the Deputy Executive Director of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWCB), but that he may have got the terminology wrong and suggested that he consult with Chair Engle outside of the Board meeting. Chair Engle expressed additional concerns and explained that she works on the total maximum daily load (TMDL) and is very familiar with the issues. Chair Engle requested that the minutes specifically reflect the fact that she disagrees with the "numeric target" terminology. Director Rungren stated that she recalls the TMDL discussions are recalls some concerns about the terminology. Executive Director stated that the main point is that groundwater discharges to surface water and the GSA will need to consider any applicable surface water standards when setting the water quality sustainable management criteria.

Recommended Action: Review sustainable management criteria screening results and consider providing feedback to staff.

No public comment.

No motion.

e. Pumping Estimation for GSP (Grant Category (d); Task 11: GSP Development and Preparation)

Due to time constraints for Directors Shephard and Rungren, this item was skipped.

f. Biological Consulting and Field Monitoring Support Services Contract (Grant Category (a): Grant Administration)

Chair Engle stated that she has professional relationship with one of the solicited firms and will recuse herself. Executive Director Bondy said he would text Chair Engle after the item. Chair Engle left the meeting.

No discussion.

No public comments.

Recommended Action: (1) Select a consultant; (2) Authorize the Executive Director to execute a master services agreement subject to terms satisfactory to the Executive Director and Agency Counsel; and (3) Authorize the Executive Director to execute a work order subject to terms satisfactory to the Executive Director and Agency Counsel for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for as needed services.

Director Keubler moved to select Rincon Consultants, Inc. and approve recommended action nos. 2 and 3. Director Spandrio seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y L. Rose -Y G. Shephard – Y
 S. Rungren – Y A. Spandrio – Y

Absent: E. Ayala and D. Engle

Noes: None.

Chair Engle rejoined the meeting.

Directors Shephard and Rungren left the meeting.

Owning to the lack of a quorum, the remaining items on the agenda were skipped.

9) **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 pm.

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B.Kuebler____ D.Engle____ A.Spandrio____ S.Rungren____ G.Shephard____ E.Ayala____ L.Rose____