

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 10, 2020**

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

**ON-LINE OR TELECONFERENCE:  
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JOIN BY COMPUTER, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE:  
<https://zoom.us/j/99387946489?pwd=c3VSbVJxbkhEd0dveUNPeU1URmVDUT09>  
Meeting ID: 993 8794 6489    Passcode: 136580  
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**1) CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Engle called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Engle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3) ROLL CALL**

Executive Director Bondy called the roll.

Directors present: Bruce Kuebler, Larry Rose, Emily Ayala, Susan Rungren, Angelo Spandrio, Glenn Shephard, and Diana Engle.

Directors absent: None.

**4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Engle asked for any proposed changes to the agenda. No changes were requested.

Director Rungren motioned to approve the agenda. Director Shephard seconded the motion.

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

Noes: None.

## 5) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

Chair Engle asked if there are any public comments on items not appearing on the agenda. No public comments were offered.

Agency Counsel Lemieux clarified that the public may comment on the closed session item at this time.

No public comments were offered on the closed session item.

Chair Engle adjourned the meeting to closed session at 1:11 p.m.

## 6) CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

### a. Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation

**Government Code § 54956.9, subdivision (a), (c) and (d)(1):**

***Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency v. Casitas Municipal Water District***  
**(VCSC Case No. 56-2020-00545336-CU-WM-VTA)**

Chair Engle called the regular session back to order at 2:08 p.m.

Executive Director Bondy called the roll.

Directors present: Bruce Kuebler, Larry Rose, Emily Ayala, Susan Rungren, Angelo Spandrio, Glenn Shephard, Diana Engle.

Agency Counsel Lemieux reported on closed session. He noted that Director Spandrio did not participate in the closed session on advice of Agency Counsel. He explained that staff presented general settlement terms to the Board and recommended approval. The general terms include:

- Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) will provide certain data by December 18 in a format agreeable to the Executive Director.
- UVRGA to dismiss the litigation without seeking attorney fees.
- Agreement to meet and confer on any future records requests prior to litigation.

The Board discussed the proposal with staff and Agency Counsel.

Agency Counsel explained that Chair Engle motioned to approve the settlement terms and direct the Executive Director to sign and approve the settlement. The motion was seconded by Director Kuebler. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

## 7) CONSENT CALENDAR

### a. Approve Minutes from Nov. 12, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

### b. Approve Financial Report for November 2020

### c. Approve 2021 Regular Board Meeting Schedule

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

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

Noes: None.

**8) DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Director Kuebler: No report and time.

Director Shephard: Reported that the Board of Supervisors approved State Water Contractor payment for planning and design for State Water Project Delta conveyance. No time.

Director Rungren: Reported that the Ventura City Council voted to approve State Water Contractor payment for planning and design for State Water Project Delta conveyance. She also mentioned that Ventura Water will be presenting its water rate study to its Water Commission. No time.

Director Ayala: Noted the impact of the Santa Ana winds on irrigation demand. No time.

Director Rose: No report and no time.

Director Spandrio. Noted changes to the Casitas Municipal Water District Board of Directors. No time.

Director Engle: No report and no time.

Executive Director Bondy reminded Director Spandrio that the Casitas Municipal Water District appointment to the URVGA Board is needed before the January 2021 meeting.

**9) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

No public comments.

Chair Engle asked if the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) provided an update during the Ventura River Watershed Council meeting. Executive Director Bondy said that SWRCB staff provided a very brief status update during the introductions.

Chair Engle asked for public comments. None were offered.

No motion.

## 10) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

### a. Access For Proposed Monitoring Facilities

Executive Director Bondy explained that the Agency needs to pursue access for the monitoring sites identified in the recent Wildlife Conservation Board grant application. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance must be completed prior to potential award on April 22, 2021. The monitoring wells sites need to be identified before CEQA can be completed.

Executive Director Bondy recommended having the Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee work with landowners for access, if they are willing. He also referred the Board to the Template Agreement attached to the staff report and asked for Board comments on the agreement. He explained that the agreement was adapted from one that he used when he was the Groundwater Manager at Calleguas Municipal Water District, so it has previously been through legal review.

Chair Engle asked for Director comments or questions.

Director Rose said he agrees with the staff recommendation.

Director Ayala asked for a description of the monitoring wells and construction process. Executive Director Bondy provided a brief description of the proposed monitoring wells and said that he plans on developing an information packet that the committee can use to outreach to the land owners.

Director Rungren said that she has no questions.

Director Spandrio said the staff recommendation looks good to him.

Chair Engle asked whether easements are required. Executive Director Bondy stated that easements are preferred to cover the 50-year period required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Director Kuebler said that some land owners may not commit to an easement. Directors Rungren and Shephard said that easements should be pursued. Chair Engle suggested that the Stakeholder Engagement Committee can approach landowners for an easement and see how they react. Director Ayala agreed with Chair Engle.

Director Engle asked about the schedule. Executive Director Bondy said that CEQA needs to be completed by the end of March. The Agency needs to know if access is anticipated in February.

Chair Engle asked for public comments. None were offered.

Director Rose motioned to direct the Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee to pursue access for monitoring wells. The motion was seconded by Director Ayala.

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

Noes: None.

## 11) GSP 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 he plans to develop the next GSP Newsletter in early 2021.

Chair Engle asked for Director comments or questions. None were offered.

Chair Engle asked for public comments. None were offered.

No motion.

### b. Subsidence Sustainability Indicator Discussion (Grant Category (d); Task 11; GSP Development and Preparation)

Executive Director Bondy briefly reviewed the written staff report with the Board, which recommends screening out the subsidence sustainability indicator, but including subsidence monitoring in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Chair Engle asked for Director comments or questions.

Director Spandrio said the proposed approach is a good one.

Chair Engle asked for public comments. None were offered.

Director Rose motioned to direct staff to prepare the GSP consistent with the staff report. Seconded by Director Rungren.

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

Noes: None.

Absent: Director Spandrio (experienced temporary technical difficulties toward the end of the item).

Chair Engle temporarily adjourned the meeting for a five minute break.

**c. Discussion of Assumptions for 50-year future model simulations (Grant Category)  
(d): Task 11: GSP Development and Preparation)**

Executive Director Bondy provided a presentation covering the materials in the staff report (copies of the slides are attached to these minutes). The presentation described assumptions for simulation of the 50-year projected water budgets for the GSP, including selection of the representative hydrologic periods, assumptions concerning future water demands, analysis of climate change, land use, and population growth impacts on future water demands, assumptions concerning future groundwater pumping, and analysis of climate change, land use, and population growth impacts on future groundwater pumping.

Director Ayala left the meeting during the item at 3:30 p.m.

The Board discussed how much conservation should be assumed during future non-drought periods. Several Directors felt that future water demand during non-drought periods will be more than the 10% less than 1995-2009 demands proposed by staff. After discussion the Board reached a consensus to assume future water demand during non-drought periods will be 15% less than 1995-2009 demands.

Public Comment: Burt Handy said that per capita water demand will be 55 gallons per day per person.

The Board discussed the proposed future groundwater pumping assumptions for the water districts and City of Ventura. Director Kuebler said that Ventura River Water District pumping should be 950 acre feet per year during non-drought periods. Director Spandrio said that he does not anticipate comments from Casitas Municipal Water District concerning assumed pumping for the Mira Monte well. Chair Engle said that Meiners Oaks Water District (MOWD) non-drought pumping should be the average of 2011, 2012, and 2013. Director Rungren said that the City of Ventura agrees with the staff recommendations for the City's future pumping assumptions. Executive Director Bondy will check on suspected errors in the MOWD values on Figure 4 of the staff report.

No motion.

**12) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee**

Director Rose stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

**13) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No items were identified.

Chair Engle wished everyone a safe holiday and thanked staff for its hard work. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2021.

**14) ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.**

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

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

B.Kuebler \_\_\_ D.Engle \_\_\_ A.Spandrio \_\_\_ S.Rungren \_\_\_ G.Shephard \_\_\_ E.Ayala \_\_\_ L.Rose \_\_\_