

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (“Agency”) Board of Directors (“Board”) will hold a **Regular Board Meeting at 1 P.M. on Thursday, June 10, 2021 via**

ON-LINE OR TELECONFERENCE:

DIAL-IN (US TOLL FREE) 1-669-900-6833

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Meeting ID: 952 4553 1367

Passcode: 977506

New to Zoom, go to: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206175806>

PER CALIFORNIA EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, SECTION 3: A local legislative body is authorized to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the local legislative body. A physical location accessible for the public to participate in the teleconference is not required.

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

June 10, 2021

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

The Board will receive public comments on items not appearing on the agenda and within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency. The Board will not enter into a detailed discussion or take any action on any items presented during public comments. Such items may only be referred to the Executive Director or other staff for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda for discussion. Persons wishing to speak on specific agenda items should do so at the time specified for those items. In accordance with Government Code § 54954.3(b)(1), public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments.

- a. Approve Minutes from May 13, 2021 Regular Board Meeting**
- b. Approve Minutes from May 27, 2021 Special Board Meeting**
- c. Approve Financial Report for May 2021**
- d. Approve Caveat Language for Multi-Year Budget Projection Adopted May 27, 2021**

7. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Directors may provide oral reports on items not appearing on the agenda.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Board will receive an update from the Executive Director concerning miscellaneous matters and Agency correspondence. The Board may provide feedback to staff.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

None

10. GSP ITEMS

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

The Board will receive an update from the Executive Director concerning groundwater sustainability plan development and consider providing feedback.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee**

The committee will provide an update on Stakeholder Engagement Plan implementation activities since the last Board meeting and receive feedback from the Board.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

This is an opportunity for the Directors to request items for future Board meeting agendas.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A Special Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 24, 2021.
The next Regular Board meeting is July 8, 2021.

**DRAFT UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MAY 13, 2021**

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

ON-LINE OR TELECONFERENCE:

DIAL-IN (US TOLL FREE) 1-669-900-6833

<https://zoom.us/j/91702357683?pwd=eC9ZV055VDNQZHd1RWNMYS9OZnhVUT09>

Meeting ID: 917 0235 7683 Passcode: 561751

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Engle called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Executive Director Bondy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) ROLL CALL

Executive Director Bondy called roll.

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

Directors absent: None.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Engle asked if there are any proposed changes to the agenda. No changes were suggested.

Director Rose moved agenda approval. Director Rungren seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

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5) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

Chair Engle asked if there were any public comments on items not appearing on the agenda.

No public comments were offered.

6) CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Approve Minutes from April 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting**
- b. Approve Minutes from April 22, 2021 Special Board Meeting**
- c. Approve Minutes from April 29, 2021 Special Board Meeting (GSP Workshop No. 3).**
- d. Approve Financial Report for April 2021**

Director Hajas moved approval of the consent calendar. Director Rungren seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

7) 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 no time.

Director Rungren: The City water and wastewater rates public hearing will occur on Monday. No time.

Director Rose: No report and no time.

Director Shephard: The County has located information concerning monitoring wells at the Ojai Burn Dump site. 0.5 hours.

Director Rajas: No report and no time.

Director Engle: No report and no time.

Director Ayala: No report and no time.

8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Director Engle asked if any other entities in watershed received a Wildlife Conservation Board grant. Executive Director Bondy said he did not know.

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No public comments.

No motion.

9) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

No items.

10) GSP ITEMS

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

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report concerning groundwater sustainability plan development status. He emphasized the importance of releasing the draft GSP for public comment in late July to stay on schedule. To meet that target, the sustainable management criteria need to be approved in May or early June. At this point, there is little to no contingency remaining in the schedule.

Director Engle asked if any comments or questions were received following the GSP workshop. Executive Director Bondy said he did not receive any but noted that Director Rose told him that he received some inquiries.

No public comments.

No motion.

b. Groundwater Level and Storage Sustainable Management Criteria (Grant Category (d); Task 11: GSP Development and Preparation)

Executive Director Bondy prefaced Items 10b and 10c by reminding everyone that the sustainable management criteria (SMC) for the GSP are a starting point. Data gaps need to be addressed, the SMC must be reassessed every five years, and SGMA requires adaptive management. He added that the SMC proposals in Items 10b and 1c were developed using the best available science and that they are the result of where the science led the GSP Development Team. He also emphasized that the GSP Development Team has strived to frame the issues but that the Board must decide what the SMC should be. Executive Director Bondy briefly reviewed the SMC requirements for the GSP, including undesirable results, minimum thresholds, and measurable objectives.

Executive Director Bondy asked if the Board is ready to discuss the proposed groundwater levels and storage SMC or if they would like him to review the presentation slides prepared for the item. The Board briefly discussed and asked Executive Director Bondy to review the slides.

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Executive Director Bondy reviewed the slides, which were posted to the Agency's website prior to the meeting at <https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/20210513-Presentations-Items-10b-and-10c.pdf>.

The presentation covered proposed SMC to address the groundwater levels and groundwater storage sustainability indicators. Beneficial users of groundwater were reviewed, including municipal, agricultural, and domestic water supply and the two riparian groundwater dependent ecosystems identified in the basin. The presentation explained what is known, including information about the frequency of basin refilling and assessment of potential effects on beneficial users during periods of low groundwater levels. The GSA is not aware of significant and unreasonable effects on municipal, agricultural, and domestic water supply. Riparian GDEs experience stress during periods of low groundwater levels but have recovered without permanent or prolonged impacts. Information gaps include limited input from domestic well owners during the GSP process, groundwater levels within and upstream of the South Santa Ana GDE Unit, and impact of proposed the SCM on the measurable objective for the depletions of interconnected surface water sustainability indicator. Executive Director Bondy described proposed monitoring wells to address the groundwater level data gaps.

Executive Director Bondy presented the proposed SMC, including minimum thresholds based on historical low groundwater levels and measurable objectives based on typical high groundwater levels in years when the basin refills completely. Undesirable results would be based minimum threshold exceedances in seven wells located along the Ventura River. These seven wells were selected because they have sufficient data to establish the minimum thresholds and measurable objective and are screened in the alluvial aquifer. No projects or management actions are needed to meet the proposed measurable objectives. Addressing groundwater level data gaps and a domestic well survey is recommended.

Director Rose asked why the minimum threshold is not set higher than the historical low and why undesirable results requires all seven wells to exceed the minimum thresholds. Executive Director Bondy explained that the minimum thresholds should not be set above historical low levels because significant and unreasonable effects have not been observed with groundwater levels at or above the historical lows. The reason for using all seven wells is to indicate that the conditions are widespread, not localized.

Director Engle asked for clarification on the measurable objective line. Executive Director Bondy explained that the line represented a full basin condition. The goal would be for the Basin continue to refill under similar hydrologic conditions as it has in the past. The measurable objective does not need to be met all the time.

Director Kuebler said the measurable objective should be the same as the minimum threshold. Executive Director Bondy explained that the idea is to have the Basin refill like it has in the past so that there is groundwater in storage to avoid minimum threshold exceedances. If the measurable objective were the same as the minimum threshold, there would be no groundwater storage to prevent minimum threshold exceedances.

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Director Shephard commented that the range between the minimum threshold and measurable objective is the operating zone. The measurable objective should be at the top to establish the operating zone.

Director Hajas agreed that we want to see the basin refill and the measurable objective is appropriate.

Public comments/questions:

Ben Pitterle asked for further explanation of the minimum threshold, specifically why minimum threshold it is proposed to be the lowest recorded level even through Meiners Oaks wells went dry. Executive Director Bondy explained that because alternative water supply is available from Casitas MWD, the temporary well production issues were not considered to be significant and unreasonable. In basins that lack alternative water supply, this would be handled differently.

Director Engle said we may not always be able to assume alternative water supply will be available. Executive Director Bondy said that is a factor that should be considered during each 5-year GSP assessment.

Chair Engle moved the staff recommendation to include the proposed sustainable management criteria from the staff report in the draft GSP. Seconded by Director Kuebler.

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

Motion passed.

c. Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water Sustainable Management Criteria (Grant Category (d); Task 11; GSP Development and Preparation)

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the slides, which were posted to the Agency's website prior to the meeting at <https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/20210513-Presentations-Items-10b-and-10c.pdf> covering proposed SMC to address the depletions of interconnected surface water (ISW) sustainability indicator.

Executive Director Bondy reminded the Board that the ISW depletion SMC are to address depletion caused by groundwater pumping. UVRGA is only responsible for addressing depletion as opposed to total stream flow. Estimated depletion rates were developed using the numerical model by running the future projection simulation twice, once with pumping and once without pumping. The difference between the stream flow from the two simulations is estimated depletion due to pumping.

Beneficial users of surface water were reviewed, including municipal and agricultural diversions, aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystems, and recreation. ISW depletion at the diversion locations is small compared to stream flow. It was proposed that effects of ISW depletion on diversions is not significant and unreasonable. ISW depletion rates at the five aquatic GDE areas were reviewed. ISW depletion rates at three areas (North Robles Habitat

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Area, South Robles Critical Riffle, and the South Santa Ana Critical Riffle) are small. It was proposed that effects of ISW depletion at these three locations is not significant and unreasonable. The remaining locations (Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area and Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area) are potentially significant and unreasonable.

In the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area, ISW causes stream flow to cease sooner in most dry seasons and occasionally causes stream flow to cease when it would not have otherwise. The GSP Development Team was unable to assess the effects of ISW depletions in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area because it is known whether aquatic species become stranded during critical periods or take refuge in perennial areas (i.e., San Antonio Creek or Foster Park). Monitoring is needed to make this determination. Another data gap is the lack of stream flow and groundwater level monitoring in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. Biological monitoring is proposed to assess whether ISW depletion causes significant and unreasonable effects on aquatic GDEs in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. Monitoring wells are proposed within and upstream of the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area to address groundwater level data gaps. A stream flow gage is also proposed for the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area to address the streamflow data gap. Updated modeling is proposed to better assess indirect depletion in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. The need for SMC for the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area would be revisited during the first 5-year GSP assessment.

Director Engle asked for clarification on the term “dry.” Executive Director Bondy said the term is being used to indicate the absence of flowing water in the stream channel. Director Engle suggested using a different term to avoid potential confusion because stagnant water can be present in the channel.

Director Hajas asked about the correlation between groundwater objectives and surface water flows when groundwater is near lowest points. How does that affect surface water? Executive Director Bondy explained that the groundwater levels and stream flows are related, but there are data gaps in the areas where the correlations would be of most relevant. This will need to be revisited after addressing the data gaps.

Director Kuebler asked if it is possible to separate natural groundwater outflow from depletion by pumping. Executive Director Bondy said yes and explained that the presented depletion rates are only the pumping depletion.

Public comments/questions:

Ben Pitterle asked what the no-pumping model is based on. Executive Director Bondy briefly summarized the pumping assumptions used in the future baseline model and explained that the no-pumping model is the same model run but with all pumping turned off. Executive Director Bondy referred Mr. Pitterle to the December 2020 board meeting packet online for more information about the pumping assumptions.

Ben Pitterle said there is water entering the basin from the upper watershed year-round and wonders how the confluence area can go dry on a regular basis. Executive Director Bondy showed a diagram to illustrate areas where bedrock is shallow and the basin fully desaturates.

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Ben Pitterle asked what would cause elevation to fall below bottom of the aquifer absent pumping? Executive Director Bondy said there are other outflows than pumping, including transpiration by plants in the Kennedy Area.

Director Engle asked about depletion of San Antonio Creek flow. Executive Director Bondy said that is not considered in analysis because those data are not available, but that can be addressed going forward in partnership with others in the watershed.

Director Ayala had similar comments about flow depletion in San Antonio Creek and would like to see the GSP include measures to better understand it.

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the available information for the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area. The best available science concerning the effects of ISW depletions is the Hopkins 2013 study, which suggests that significant and unreasonable effects may occur when stream flow falls below 2 cfs (measured at the USGS Casitas Vistas Rd. bridge gage). The modeling results indicate that projected pumping during the next 50 years will cause stream flows to fall below 2cfs 10.1% of the time, compared with only 2.7% without pumping. The depletions include direct depletion by the City of Ventura's Foster Park pumping facilities and indirect depletion caused by pumping elsewhere in the Basin. Proposed SMC for ISW depletions in Foster Park were presented. The minimum threshold would be to avoid causing stream flow to drop below critical flow (2cfs at USGS gage) when undepleted flow would not otherwise fall below 2 cfs and to avoid depletion when undepleted flows would be below 2cfs at USGS gage to avoid exacerbating critical conditions for aquatic species. The proposed measurable objectives are the same as the minimum thresholds. Both would be determined through modeling.

Executive Director Bondy explained that the modeling results suggest the minimum thresholds will be exceeded approximately 7.5% of the time. He noted that direct depletions will be addressed through the City's implementation of the Foster Park Protocols. However, addressing indirect depletions will require a different project and/or management action. He presented a long-term plan to address the indirect depletions with proposed interim milestones for the GSP. In summary, the long-term plan to address indicted depletions includes addressing groundwater level and stream flow data gaps, updating the numerical model to better estimate indirect depletions, performing a feasibility study of projects and management actions to address indirect depletions, and select, design and implement the preferred project or management action before the end of the 20-year GSP implementation timeframe.

Director Rose asked why 2 cfs is used for the minimum threshold given that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) says flow should be higher? Executive Director Bondy explained that the CDFW recommendations are from a standpoint of trying to create optimum conditions for steelhead. SGMA is asking a different question – what are significant and unreasonable effects that need to be avoided. The significant and unreasonable effects, like mortality, occur at low flow conditions. The Hopkins 2013 study focusses on effects at low flow conditions, so it is appropriate for defining a threshold for significant and unreasonable effects.

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Director Rose asked why the Foster Park Protocols were used in the modeling? Executive Director Bondy said that the model pumping rates are based on the City's planning documents and their best estimate of planned future pumping operations. The modeling only approximates the Foster Park Protocols.

Public Comments:

Ben Pitterle expressed concerns about whether 2 cfs is protective enough and that he expected the GSA would adopt a more conservative minimum threshold to ensure no mortality happens. He added that CDFW evaluated sensitive period indicators and higher values. Executive Director Bondy replied the GSP Development Team reviewed the CDFW sensitive period indicators and concluded that the Hopkins 2013 study is the best available information because it is site specific and is based on observed habitat conditions instead of empirical relationships. Executive Director Bondy said the proposed SMC are a starting point and the GSA and others will collect data and the SMC will be reevaluated every 5-years as required by SGMA.

Ben Pitterle asked when the Foster Park Protocols will be implemented in the GSAs plan as it is not showing in the implementation slide. He also said the protocols are based on 3 and 4 cfs at an upstream gage, not 2 cfs. Executive Director Bondy agreed that the protocols are keyed to an upstream gage, but that the upstream gages are correlated with 2 cfs at the USGS gage, which is referred to in the Hopkins study. Executive Director Bondy said he is open to using whichever gage/flow combination that makes the sense most. Executive Director Bondy said he defers to the City concerning timing for implementation of the Foster Park Protocols.

Director Rungren said the City is working on the date.

Director Engle asked Executive Director Bondy what he is seeking from the Board today. Executive Director Bondy said that a decision will need to be made concerning the ISW depletion SMC and related matters by early June to keep the GSP process moving. He suggested taking the temperature of the Board today and identify issues that require more discussion or information.

Director Engle asked for feedback from the directors.

Director Ayala said she feels fairly comfortable with approach but wonders if there is more information about the 2 cfs threshold. She said the monitoring will be expensive and is concerned about the costs; outreach to the pumpers will be needed understand the plan. Another newsletter will be needed.

Executive Director Bondy noted that staff is planning to have a budget workshop at the next meeting. He suggested that the Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee begin planning for outreach.

Director Ayala said the science is good and there are many gaps that need to be filled that will not be addressed before December. She does not want to exclude the environmental groups but feels the proposed SMC may be as good as we have at this time, and it will be updated over time.

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Director Kuebler said he is ready to proceed with writing up the presentation in the draft GSP. Director Kuebler proposed using 3 cfs instead of 2 cfs to address the environmental concerns.

Executive Director Bondy asked for clarification on the flow value. He said flowrate is relative when you measure it. 2 cfs is correlated the USGS gage and 3 cfs is correlated with the upstream gage.

Director Kuebler thanked Executive Director Bondy for the clarification and retracted the recommendation.

Director Rose said the 5-year periods allow for adjustment and we can re-run model with higher flows or integrate CDFW information or other flows. He said this is the critical element of the GSP. He is agreeable with using 2 cfs in the draft GSP.

Director Pete Kaiser, alternate for Director Hajas who left during the presentation, said he is ready to move ahead with content in the draft GSP.

Director Rungren said she is good with moving forward with the draft GSP based on what was presented.

Director Shephard said he is also ready to move forward and is sensitive to Emily's concerns about costs.

Director Engle said she is also ready to move forward with the draft GSP and would like to see the San Antonio Creek questions addressed during the first 5-year period.

Executive Director Bondy said it sounds like there may be a consensus with moving forward today.

Director Engle moved to direct staff to prepare the draft GSP with caveats and adjustments discussed today.

Director Rungren seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

The directors thanked Executive Director Bondy, Rincon, and Intera for all their hard work.

11) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee

No report from Director Rose.

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12) **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – None

13) **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

DRAFT

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B.Kuebler____ D.Engle____ R. Hajas ____ S.Rungren____ G.Shephard____ E.Ayala____ L.Rose____

**DRAFT UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING MAY 27, 2021**

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

ON-LINE OR TELECONFERENCE:

DIAL-IN (US TOLL FREE) 1-669-900-6833

<https://zoom.us/j/94386871302?pwd=RnRXb2FkTlB2R2RNdmZ0MmppQ2xUZz09>

Meeting ID: 943 8687 1302

Passcode: 334681

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Engle called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Executive Director Bondy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) ROLL CALL

Executive Director Bondy called roll.

Directors present: Bruce Kuebler, Larry Rose, Jenny Tribo (alternate), Pete Kaiser (alternate), Glenn Shephard, Emily Ayala, and Chair Diana Engle.

Directors absent: None.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Engle asked if there are any proposed changes to the agenda. No changes were suggested.

Director Kaiser moved agenda approval. Director Kuebler seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:	B. Kuebler – Y	L. Rose – Y	D. Engle - Y	
	J. Tribo – Y	G. Shephard – Y	P. Kaiser – Y	E. Ayala-Y

Motion passed.

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5) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

Chair Engle asked if there were any public comments on items not appearing on the agenda.

No public comments were offered.

6) GSP ITEMS

a. **GSP 20-Year Implementation Budget Projection, Fiscal Year 2022 Budget, and Multi-Year Budget Projection (Grant Category (d); Task 11: GSP Development and Preparation)**

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the item presentation slides, which were posted to the Agency's website prior to the meeting at <https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/20210527-UVRGA-Item-7a-Presentation.pdf>.

The presentation addressed the 20-year GSP implementation scope of work and budget estimates which are required elements of the GSP. The GSP scope and budget were also used to develop the Agency's proposed budget for fiscal year 2022 and the Agency's multi-year budget projection. Executive Director Bondy referred the Board and public to Attachment A of the staff report for further details concerning the GSP implementation scope of work.

The presentation covered each major cost category and highlighted costs for fiscal year 2022. The major cost categories included: agency administration, legal counsel, groundwater management, coordination, and outreach, monitoring networks, annual reports, projects and management actions, numerical modeling, GSP evaluations and updates, response to DWR comments, and contingency.

Executive Director Bondy explained that projected extraction fees are dependent on the fee methodology used. For now, he assumed that extraction fees would be based on groundwater extractions. The current fee is based on estimated 2017 groundwater extractions, but some pumpers have expressed a desire to use metered extractions in the future. The 20-year and multi-year budgets were developed two ways: (1) using the 2017 extractions and (2) using the average estimated future extractions included in the GSP. He noted that fiscal year 2022 must use the existing fee structure, which relies on the 2017 estimated extractions and a fee no greater than \$79.16/acre-foot. He added that it is clear from the budgeting process that the existing fee structure will be inadequate for funding GSP implementation. He explained that the City of Ventura is cautioning against using projected extractions for budgeting because planned extraction volumes may not be achieved in all years.

Executive Director Bondy explained that the proposed fiscal year 2022 budget is based on the first year of the GSP implementation budget plus \$211,000 to finalize the GSP. The multi-year budget projection is also based on the GSP implementation budget and extends through the first 5-year GSP assessment period. He summarized the projected fiscal year 2021 ending income and expenses and compared the proposed fiscal year 2022 budget with the fiscal year 2022 projection made during the prior year budgeting process.

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Executive Director Bondy recommended that the Board provide feedback on the 20-year GSP scope and budget and adopt the fiscal year 2022 budget and a multi-year budget projection.

Chair Engle asked for director comments and questions.

Director Ayala expressed concerns about the GSP implementation budget. She did not want to see the fee rise over \$100 per acre-feet. She said other entities should pay for groundwater dependent ecosystem issues. She suggested a well head fee to help reduce the extraction fee rate and to provide revenue stability.

Director Kuebler expressed concerns about the high extraction fees. He said we should use the lower extraction volume (4,341 acre-feet per year [AFY]) because we are in drought. He would like the GSP to explain the situation with the adjudication, including the potential for some GSP activities to be paid for through the physical solution process. He added that the GSA should consider joining the adjudication because the GSAs regulatory authority may be needed to address certain issues.

Director Kaiser expressed his appreciation to staff for developing the budget.

Director Shephard said the lower extraction volume 4,341 AFY is appropriate for budgeting. He added that the budget includes a higher reserve than present and that consideration could be given to obtaining a loan to amortize the costs and, thereby, lower the extraction fee rate.

Public Comments

Burt Handy asked about *de minimis* users. Executive Director Bondy said that there are carve outs for *de minimis* users under SGMA.

Director Kaiser moved to adopt the fiscal year 2022 budget as presented. Seconded by Director Kuebler.

Roll Call Vote:	B. Kuebler – Y	L. Rose – Y	D. Engle - Y
	J. Tribo – Y	G. Shephard – Y	P. Kaiser – Y E. Ayala-Y

Motion passed.

Director Kuebler expressed concerns about adopting a multi-year budget projection. He would like to wait a few months because he expects more will be known from the adjudication process. He would like the multi-year budget to include a write-up about the adjudication for context.

Executive Director Bondy said the GSP will include discussion of the adjudication process and a commitment to avoiding duplication of efforts, but he is unaware of what new information will be forthcoming from the adjudication in the next few months that will provide sufficient clarity and certainty as to what activities and costs can be removed from the GSP implementation scope and budget. He added that the budget projection is a planning tool and can be amended.

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Chair Engle asked if adopting the budget projection is a requirement. Executive Director said no, but it is a prudent action for public agencies to make such projections. He added that the pumpers need to know what future fees might be for their budgeting.

Chair Engle moved to adopt the multi-year budget using the lower pumping volume (4,341 AFY) with caveats about potential overlap with physical solution monitoring activities.

The motion failed due to lack of a second.

After further discussion, Director Kaiser moved to adopt the multi-year budget using 4,880 AFY of groundwater extractions (staff to update the extraction fee rates to match the extraction fee revenue) and to add caveats to the budget table for approval at the next Board meeting. Seconded by Director Shephard.

Director Kuebler said he is opposed to the motion but will not vote no in order to avoid a re-vote at the next meeting.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Abstain* L. Rose – Y D. Engle - Y
 J. Tribo – Y G. Shephard – Y P. Kaiser – Y E. Ayala-Y

Executive Director Bondy asked Agency Counsel Lemieux whether the item passed considering the abstention by Director Kuebler. After researching the joint powers agreement and by-laws, it was determined that the motion failed.

Director Kuebler said it was not his intent to cause the motion to fail and asked if he could change his vote to “yes”. Agency Counsel Lemieux said that is fine because the intent of his vote was clear. Based on this, the motion was declared to have passed.

Director Kaiser left after the item at 3:27 p.m.

b. Discussion of Process for Releasing the Draft GSP for Public Comment (Grant Category (d); Task 11: GSP Development and Preparation)

Executive Director Bondy explained that the GSP Development Team is targeting late June to have a preliminary draft GSP ready for the Board to review prior to opening the public comment period. He suggested reserving a date and time for a second special meeting in July just in case three meetings are needed to discuss the preliminary draft GSP before opening the public comment period. He suggested the 5th Thursday in July (the 29th) at 1 p.m. The Directors checked their calendars and agreed with the proposed tentative special meeting date and time.

7) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was discussion of starting the process for evaluating funding options. Executive Director Bondy suggested beginning this process while the GSP is out for public comment. There were no objections to the Executive Director’s proposal.

8) ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

DRAFT

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B.Kuebler____ D.Engle____ R. Hajas ____ S.Rungren____ G.Shephard____ E.Ayala____ L.Rose____

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 6(c)

DATE: June 7, 2021
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Carrie Troup C.P.A., Treasurer
SUBJECT: Approve Financial Report for May 2021

April 2021 UVRGA Balance \$ 278,022.61

May 2021 Activity:

Revenues:

CA Dept. of Water Resources DWR- June \$ 69,427.44

May Expenditures Paid:

\$ -

Checks Pending Signature:

2223	Rincon Consultants, Inc.	May services	\$	2,356.25
2224	Bondy Groundwater Consulting, Inc.	May services	\$	23,546.25
2225	Olivarez, Madrugá, Lemieux, O'Neill, LLP	April services	\$	3,764.50
2226	Carrie Troup, C.P.A.	May services	\$	1,684.60
2227	Intera Incorporated	May services	\$	21,165.00
2228	Special Dist. Risk Mgmt.. Authority	2021/2020	\$	4,147.67

Total Expenditures Paid & To Be Paid \$ 56,664.27

May 2021 UVRGA Ending Balance: \$ 290,785.78

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B. Kuebler___ G. Shephard___ D. Engle___ R. Hajas___ S. Rungren___ L. Rose___ E. Ayala___

The financial report omits substantially all disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; no assurance is provided on them.

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 6(d)

DATE: June 10, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Approve Caveat Language for Multi-Year Budget Projection Adopted May 27, 2021

SUMMARY

On May 27, 2021, the Board adopted a multi-year budget projection through fiscal year 2027. The Board directed staff to develop caveat language for Board approval. Staff updated the multi-year budget projection based on the assumed groundwater extraction volume included in the motion and added caveats in the comments column (Attachment A). Headers were also added to make clear that the multi-year budget is a projection that it will be revisited annually during the fiscal year budgeting process.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approve caveat language for the adopted multi-year budget projection.

BACKGROUND

On May 27, 2021, the Board adopted the fiscal year 2022 budget and multi-year budget projection through fiscal year 2027.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Adopted Fiscal Year 2022 Budget and Multi-Year Budget Projection with draft caveat language.

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B. Kuebler___ D. Engle___ R. Hajas___ S. Rungren___ G. Shephard___ E. Ayala___ L. Rose___

Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency
FY 2022 Proposed Budget and Multi-Year Projection
Adopted May 27, 2021

	-----ADOPTED-----					-----PROJECTED-----					
	FY 20-21 Budget Revised Feb. 2021	July 2020 - April 2021 Actuals	May-June 2021 Projection	FY 20-21 Year End Projection	FY 21-22 ADOPTED Budget	FY 22-23 Projected Budget	FY 23-24 Projected Budget	FY 24-25 Projected Budget	FY 25-26 Projected Budget	FY 26-27 Projected Budget	Comments
Income											
Interest/Penalties	\$0	\$86	\$0	\$86	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
41000 · Grant Income	\$308,604	\$252,984	\$1,500	\$254,484	\$81,804	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	FY 22 includes payment of grant retention. UVRGA intends to pursue a GSP implementation grant; however, the budget projection assumes no new grant revenue to be conservative.
Groundwater Extractions (AF)	4340.8	4340.8		4340.8	4340.8	4880	4880	4880	4880	4880	FY 22 pumping from fee study; Projected values are per Board approval on 5/29/21 and would require a new fee program. UVRGA intends transition to metered extractions or an alternative funding approach in FY 23.
Groundwater Extraction Fee - FY 20/21 Budget (\$/AF)	\$79.16	\$79.16		\$79.16	\$74.87	\$54.26	\$48.71	\$50.17			Extraction fees included in prior multi-year budget projection
Proposed Groundwater Extraction Fee (\$/AF)					\$79.16	\$111.17	\$111.17	\$108.39	\$102.83	\$100.05	Projected values are per Board approval on 5/29/21 and would require a new fee program. UVRGA intends to explore alternative funding approaches during FY 22 for implementatoin in FY 23.
43000 · Groundwater Extraction Fee	\$343,618	\$343,618	\$0	\$343,618	\$343,618	\$542,500	\$542,500	\$528,938	\$501,813	\$488,250	
Total Income	\$652,221	\$596,689	\$1,500	\$598,189	\$425,421	\$542,500	\$542,500	\$528,938	\$501,813	\$488,250	
Expense											
55000 · Administrative Exp											
55011 · Computer Maintenance	\$1,000	\$241	\$200	\$441	\$500	\$515	\$530	\$546	\$563	\$580	Cloud storage and backups
55015 · Postage & Shipping	\$750	\$0	\$25	\$25	\$100	\$103	\$106	\$109	\$113	\$116	
55020 · Office Supplies & Software	\$750	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$515	\$530	\$546	\$563	\$580	
55025 · Minor Equipment	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250	\$258	\$265	\$273	\$281	\$290	
55035 · Advertising and Promotion	\$750	\$335	\$0	\$335	\$1,000	\$750	\$500	\$250	\$258	\$265	FY 22 public notices for GSP adoption and fees
55055 · Insurance Expense-SDRMA	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,159	\$4,159	\$4,500	\$4,635	\$4,774	\$4,917	\$5,065	\$5,217	
55060 · Memberships-CSDA	\$1,500	\$1,482	\$0	\$1,482	\$1,600	\$1,648	\$1,697	\$1,748	\$1,801	\$1,855	
Total 55000 · Administrative Exp	\$9,750	\$2,558	\$4,384	\$6,942	\$8,450	\$8,424	\$8,404	\$8,391	\$8,643	\$8,902	
58000 · Professional Fees											
58005 · Executive Director /GSP Manager	\$186,500	\$143,613	\$45,000	\$188,613	\$21,600	\$22,248	\$22,915	\$23,603	\$24,311	\$25,040	FY 22 and beyond assumed 12 hrs/mo at discounted rate; assume quarterly meetings
58010 · Legal Fees	\$55,000	\$36,674	\$3,765	\$40,439	\$35,000	\$25,000	\$25,750	\$26,523	\$27,318	\$28,138	Assumes quarterly meetings, admin support, and no litigation
58015 · Website	\$4,000	\$2,629	\$200	\$2,829	\$3,000	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377	\$3,478	Includes web domain and email hosting fees
58020 · Accounting	\$20,000	\$15,515	\$1,500	\$17,015	\$15,000	\$15,450	\$15,914	\$16,391	\$16,883	\$17,389	
58030 · Agency Administrator	\$1,618	\$1,618	\$0	\$1,618	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Admin support included in legal fees
58040 · Audit Expense	\$14,000	\$12,500	\$0	\$12,500	\$13,000	\$13,390	\$13,792	\$14,205	\$14,632	\$15,071	
											FY 22 includes costs to complete and submit GSP, first SGMA annual report, monitoring, outreach, coordination with other related programs, and grant application. Projected costs include some monitoring activites that may be funded through an approved physical solution and/or SWRCB Instream Flow Enhancement Program. UVRGA will coordiante closely with those programs to minimize duplication of effort and costs to the ratepayers.
58050 · Other Professional Services	\$366,838	\$304,964	\$87,000	\$391,964	\$382,536	\$206,911	\$246,117	\$269,702	\$342,020	\$352,489	
Total 58000 · Professional Fees	\$647,956	\$517,515	\$137,465	\$654,979	\$470,136	\$286,089	\$327,671	\$353,702	\$428,540	\$441,605	May services will be paid in FY 21, June services will be booked in FY 21, but paid in FY 22
Contingency - Non Capital Expenditures					\$26,767	\$29,451	\$33,607	\$36,209	\$43,718	\$45,051	
Total Expense	\$657,706	\$520,073	\$141,848	\$661,921	\$505,354	\$323,964	\$369,682	\$398,302	\$480,900	\$495,557	
Net Ordinary Income	-\$5,485	\$76,616	-\$140,348	-\$63,733	-\$79,932	\$218,536	\$172,818	\$130,635	\$20,912	-\$7,307	
Net Income	-\$5,485	\$76,616	-\$140,348	-\$63,733	-\$79,932	\$218,536	\$172,818	\$130,635	\$20,912	-\$7,307	
Capital Project Expenditures - Monitoring Wells & Stream Gage					\$17,537	\$72,253	\$111,630	\$167,303	\$0	\$0	Projected costs include some monitoring activites that may be funded through an approved physical solution and/or SWRCB Instream Flow Enhancement Program. UVRGA will coordiante closely with those programs to minimize duplication of effort and costs to the ratepayers.
Capital Project Expenditures - Contingency					\$1,754	\$7,225	\$11,163	\$16,730	\$0	\$0	
Capital Project Expenditures - Total					\$19,291	\$79,478	\$122,793	\$184,034	\$0	\$0	
Net After Capital Expenditures	-\$5,485	\$76,616	-\$140,348	-\$63,733	-\$99,223	\$139,059	\$50,025	-\$53,399	\$20,912	-\$7,307	
Projected Cash Flow											
Beginning Cash Balance, July 1	\$167,986			\$166,493	\$285,186	\$262,463	\$236,521	\$286,546	\$233,148	\$254,060	
Grant Payments	\$277,079	\$290,302	\$69,427	\$359,729	\$83,304	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
GW Extraction Fees	\$343,618	\$341,300	\$0	\$341,300	\$343,618	\$542,500	\$542,500	\$528,938	\$501,813	\$488,250	
Projected Cash Inflows*	\$620,697	\$631,602	\$69,427	\$701,029	\$426,921	\$542,500	\$542,500	\$528,938	\$501,813	\$488,250	
Expenses	-\$664,328	-\$520,073	-\$62,265	-\$582,337	-\$430,354	-\$398,964	-\$369,682	-\$398,302	-\$480,900	-\$495,557	Assume June 2021 services will be booked in FY 21, but paid in FY 22
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$19,291	-\$79,478	-\$122,793	-\$184,034	\$0	\$0	
Loan Repayment (with interest)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$90,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Projected Cash Outflows	-\$664,328	-\$520,073	-\$62,265	-\$582,337	-\$449,644	-\$568,441	-\$492,475	-\$582,336	-\$480,900	-\$495,557	
Projected Ending Cash Balance, June 30	\$124,355			\$285,186	\$262,463	\$236,521	\$286,546	\$233,148	\$254,060	\$246,753	
Designated Reserve for Capital Project (Monitoring Wells)	\$0			\$0	\$188,463	\$162,521	\$136,546	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Designated for General Reserve	\$74,000			\$74,000	\$74,000	\$74,000	\$150,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	Assumes new reserve target and ramp up to new target in FY 23 and 24.
Projected Unreserved Cash, June 30	\$50,355			\$211,186	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,148	\$29,060	\$21,753	

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 8

DATE: June 10, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

SUMMARY

The following are updates on Agency matters since the last Board meeting:

1. Administrative: *Nothing to report.*
2. Financial:
 - a. Groundwater Extraction Fees:
 - i. The fourth round of semi-annual extraction fee invoices was mailed on January 15, 2021. Payments were due on February 19, 2021. *As of April 1, three entities have not paid, totaling \$2,303.56.*
 - ii. The third round of semi-annual extraction fee invoices was mailed on July 16, 2020. Payments were due August 16, 2020. *One entity remains unpaid, totaling \$870.76.*
 - b. GSP Grant:
 - i. Grant Progress Report and Invoice No. 8 were submitted to DWR on April 12, 2021 and were approved on April 30, 2021. *Payment in the amount of \$69,427.44 was received and deposited on June 2, 2021.*
3. Legal: *No reportable activity.*
4. Sustainable Groundwater Management:
 - a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development: *Please see Item 10a.*
 - b. Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring: The property on which well 04N23W20A01S is located changed ownership in early 2021. Staff sent a request for continued access to the new property owner on February 24, 2021. *The request is still pending.*
 - c. Camino Cielo Crossing Surface Water Flow Gauge: *Due to the lack of rainfall, gauge activation was deferred until Spring 2022.*

- d. DWR Surface Water Flow Gauge: *Gage installation is in progress.*
5. SWRCB / CDFW Instream Flow Enhancement Coordination: *The Executive Director attended SWRCB's May 19 webinar titled "Ventura River Watershed Modeling Webinar 2: GW-SW Model: Water Demand and Distribution." The webinar provided detailed information concerning the data and methodologies used to estimate water demands implemented in the model. This webinar was the second of three. The remaining webinar is scheduled for June 9.*
6. Ventura River Watershed Instream Flow & Water Resilience Framework (VRIF): *No reportable activity.*
7. Miscellaneous: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Receive an update from the Executive Director concerning miscellaneous matters and Agency correspondence. Provide feedback to staff.

BACKGROUND

Not applicable

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

None

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B. Kuebler___ D. Engle___ R. Hajas___ S. Rungren___ G. Shephard___ E. Ayala___ L. Rose___

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 10(a)

DATE: June 10, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

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

SUMMARY

Progress on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) since the last update included the following:

1. **GSP:**
 - a. The Executive Director developed sustainable management criteria (SMC) proposals for the groundwater level, groundwater storage, and depletions of interconnected surface water sustainability indicators. The Executive Director prepared a draft of GSP Section 4 (SMC). The Executive Director developed the GSP implementation scope and budget and prepared a draft of GSP Section 7 (GSP Implementation). Lastly, the Executive Director reviewed draft GSP Section 3.3 (Water Budgets) prepared by Intera.
 - b. Intera completed a draft of GSP Section 3.3 (Water Budgets) for Executive Director review and worked on model documentation for the GSP.
 - c. Rincon Consultants, Inc. provided input on the GSP implementation scope and budget.
 - d. The Board and stakeholders received presentations on May 13 concerning SMC proposals for the groundwater level, groundwater storage, and depletions of interconnected surface water sustainability indicators. The proposals were approved by the Board for inclusion in the draft GSP on May 13. The GSP implementation scope and budget were presented to the Board and stakeholders on May 27.
2. **Outreach:** No activity during May.
3. **GSP Development Schedule:** The updated GSP Development Schedule is provided in Attachment A.
4. **GSP Grant Data Gap Tasks:** All grant data gap tasks have been completed or were deleted by the grant agreement amendment.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

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

BACKGROUND

Not applicable.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

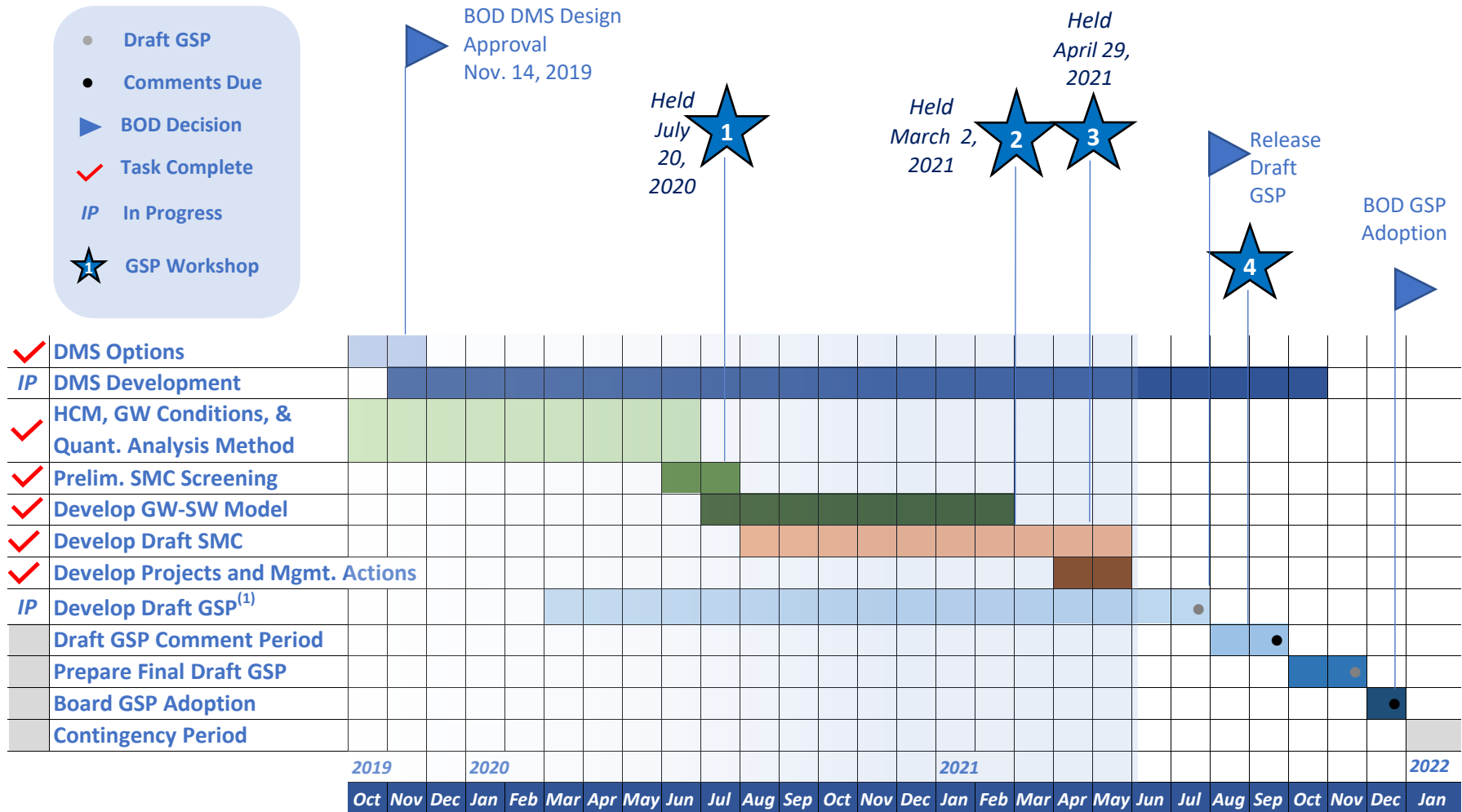
A. GSP Development Schedule

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B. Kuebler___ D. Engle___ R. Hajas___ S. Rungren___ G. Shephard___ E. Ayala___ L. Rose___

Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency GSP Development Schedule Updated June 7, 2021



Notes:

(1) GSP topics not listed above generally consist of background or supporting information and will be prepared concurrently with the above-listed tasks.

BOD = Board of Directors; DMS = Data Management System; HCM = Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model; GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency;

GSP = Groundwater Sustainability Plan; GW = Groundwater; SW = Surface Water