

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, September 9, 2021 via**

ON-LINE OR TELECONFERENCE:

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

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89517132014?pwd=dXptL1g3V0lVT3ZrUi9GTUZWZSWXJ2dz09>

JOIN BY COMPUTER, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89517132014?pwd=dXptL1g3V0lVT3ZrUi9GTUZWZSWXJ2dz09>

Meeting ID: 895 1713 2014

Passcode: 642528

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

September 9, 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 August 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

b. Approve Financial Report for August 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

a. Agency Funding Discussion

The Board will discuss options for agency funding beginning fiscal year 2022/2023 and provide direction to staff.

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 to staff.

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 agendas.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Board meeting is October 14, 2021.

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 12, 2021

The Board meeting was held via teleconference, in accordance with California Executive Order N-25-20. Directors present were Bruce Kuebler, Larry Rose, Jennifer Tribo, Emily Ayala, Pete Kaiser, Glenn Shephard and Diana Engle. Also, present: Executive Director Bryan Bondy, Agency Counsel Keith Lemieux, and Administrative Assistant Maureen Tucker. Identified public members present: Burt Handy, Steve Slack, Eddie Pech, and Kelly Dyer.

1) CALL TO ORDER

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

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Executive Director Bryan Bondy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) ROLL CALL

Executive Director Bondy called roll.

Directors Present: Bruce Kuebler, Larry Rose, Jennifer Tribo, Pete Kaiser, Glenn Shephard, Diana Engle, Emily Ayala

Directors Absent: none

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

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

Director Absent: none

5) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEAR ON THE AGENDA

Chair Engle called for public comments on items not appearing on the agenda. No public comments were offered.

6) CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Approve Minutes from July 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Approve Minutes from July 22, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- c. Approve Financial Report for July 2021

Director Ayala moved approval of the consent calendar items. Director Kaiser seconded the motion.

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

7) DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Directors may provide oral report on items note 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 time. No report.

Director Tribo: No time. No report.

Director Rose: No time. No report.

Director Shephard: No time. Brief update concerning lowering the Matilija Reservoir water level to comply with Division of Dam Safety requirements.

Director Kaiser: No time. No report.

Director Ayala: No time. Noted that lowering the Matilija Reservoir level improved production in her well.

Director Engle: No time. No report.

8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report concerning non-GSP activities.

Director Kaiser thanked the Executive Director for the complete agenda packets and verbal reports he provides.

Director Engle asked how long the agency should pursue access to the Burnham Road well before moving on. Executive Director Bondy said the Agency should start looking for alternatives next year if access cannot be obtained.

9) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- a. **Request for Comments – Request for Waiver of Ventura County Water Well Permit Prohibitions, Assessor Parcel Number 017-0-160-150 (El Roblar Dr. & La Luna Ave., Meiners Oaks, CA)**

Executive Director Bondy explained that the County of Ventura is soliciting UVRGA comments on a request for waiver of Ventura County Water Well Permit Prohibitions. He recommended making two comments. One comment addresses sealing requirements

to ensure the proposed bedrock well will not draw in water from the alluvial aquifer. The second comment addresses bigger picture concerns about the potential cumulative effects of increased bedrock groundwater pumping over time. Executive Director Bondy referred the Board to the draft comment letter and requested Board feedback on the letter.

Director Kaiser asked if UVRGA can assess fees on the well. Executive Director Bondy explained that bedrock is not part of the UVRGA groundwater basin, so he does not think so.

Director Engle asked how the first recommendation could be implemented. Executive Director Bondy said UVRGA can only offer comments and that the County would enforce if they choose to include the recommended requirement in the well permit. Director Engle suggested requesting a copy of the issued permit in the comment letter.

Director Shephard said the permit is subject to the Public Records Act, but it doesn't hurt to include it in the letter.

Director Kuebler asked if the well will produce enough water to meet the owner's needs. Executive Director Bondy said it is likely.

Public Comment: Burt Handy asked if UVRGA will require reporting of extractions. Executive Director Bondy said bedrock wells are not subject to UVRGA regulation, but the County requires reporting.

Director Engle polled the Board and there was consensus to move forward with issuing the comment letter.

b. Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Year End Budget Report

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the year end budget report with the Board.

Director Kaiser said he was surprised to see the legal/accounting fees under budget.

No public comments.

Director Kaiser moved to receive and file the 2020/2021 year end budget report. Director Shephard seconded the motion.

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

c. Agency Funding Discussion

Executive Director Bondy provided a presentation summarizing basic fee options. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes.

Director Engle asked what the timing for metering is. Counsel Lemieux said the GSA does not have authority to require meters until after GSP adoption.

Director Kaiser asked if the County enforces a cap on groundwater extractions. Director Shephard said no.

Director Kuebler asked if UVRGA can implement fees on de minimis users. Counsel Lemieux said an extraction fee cannot be imposed on de minimis users unless the UVRGA regulates them. However, a parcel-based fee would include parcels with de minimis wells.

Director Ayala suggested a charging a wellhead fee and a production fee based on metered extractions.

Director Engle asked if de minimis users can be metered. Executive Director Bondy said a first step would be additional outreach and a questionnaire to determine which wells are really de minimis, then decide if metering is needed. Counsel Lemieux said pursuing metering of de minimis wells is generally not worth the cost.

Director Kaiser asked how many de minimis users exist. Executive Director Bondy said there is around 100 at most, probably less because it is unlikely that all the wells are active.

Director Tribo said the City of Ventura feels that funding approach needs to produce stable revenue. They support using five-year averages for the municipals to provide stability, but that agricultural wells could be based on annual metered volumes.

Director Rose does not support higher fees on agriculture. Fees that exceed the cost to operate a well are not supportable.

Director Engle said no decision needs to be made right now and suggested that the Board continue the discussion during the September meeting.

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 and GSP schedule with the Board. He noted that over 150 comments were received from Board members on the preliminary draft GSP and those comments have been addressed. He referred the Board to the comment-response table attached to the staff report. He explained that the preliminary draft GSP was updated and a draft GSP was issued on August 10 for a 60-day public comment period. Stakeholders were informed of the draft GSP availability and comment period via newsletter, emails, and an announcement at the Ventura River Watershed Council meeting. He said that a GSP workshop needs to be scheduled to present the draft GSP to stakeholders and solicit feedback. He proposed two dates in September.

Director Kuebler said the workshop should be hosted by Ventura River Watershed Council to increase participation. Executive Director said UVRGA should host a workshop because it is their GSP. He does not want confusion over who is preparing the GSP and where to send comments. He suggested that two workshops could be held, but that the budget does not include funding for that. After discussion, the Board reached a consensus on the two-workshop approach and directed staff to schedule the Ventura River Watershed Council workshop in late August or early September. The Board reached a consensus on holding the second workshop during its scheduled special meeting timeslot on September 23rd at 1 p.m.

No public comments.

b. Degraded Water Quality Sustainable Management Criteria (Grant Category (d); Task 11: GSP Development and Preparation)

Executive Director Bondy explained that the GSP development team has reconsidered the degraded water quality sustainable management criteria in light of DWR's recently published assessments of GSPs for several basins, Board concerns about criteria for determining undesirable results, and review of additional surface water quality data. If the revised approach is acceptable to the Board, it will replace the current approach described in the draft GSP. Executive Director Bondy provided a presentation that summarizes the proposed changes and the basis for them. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes.

Director Ayala thanked Executive Director Bondy for re-evaluating the criteria. She said the approach makes sense.

Director Engle said she is more comfortable with the revised approach.

Director Kuebler asked if the public will be able to comment on the proposal. Executive Director Bondy said the staff report and presentation will be available on-line and that there will be time to provide feedback before adopting the GSP.

No public comments.

The Board consensus was to move forward with the revised criteria.

11) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee

Director Rose said there is nothing to report.

No public comments.

12) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Rose asked for a future item concerning fees and budget, including consideration of grants.

13) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Action: _____

Motion: _____

B.Kuebler__ D.Engle__ P.Kaiser__ J. Tribo__ G.Shephard__ E.Ayala__ L.Rose__



1

ITEM 9C - AGENCY FUNDING RECOMMENDED PROCESS

1. Decide on funding mechanisms or combination of funding mechanisms for further evaluation.
2. Staff and counsel to develop implementation options/details for further consideration.
3. Select and adopt funding mechanism.

2

ITEM 9C - AGENCY FUNDING RECOMMENDED DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- 1. Revenue that balances with projected expenses (no guarantee of grants)**
- 2. Revenue that is reasonably predictable and reasonably steady**
- 3. Avoid large fluctuations in rates**

3

ITEM 9C - AGENCY FUNDING BASIC FUNDING OPTIONS

- 1. Member Agency Contributions**
- 2. Groundwater Extraction Fees**
- 3. Parcel-Based Charge**
 - a. Three forms: parcel fee, tax, or assessment**
- 4. Combination of the above options**
 - a. Note: implementation of multiple fee mechanisms will increase costs).**

4

ITEM 9C - AGENCY FUNDING BASIC FUNDING OPTIONS

Funding Mechanism	Effort	Cost	Considerations
Member Agency Contributions	Very Low	\$	May require agreements between GSA and member agencies. Invoicing and A/R costs significantly lower than other options.
GW Extraction Fee	Moderate	\$\$	Unpredictable revenue if based on metered extractions each year. Moderate invoicing and A/R costs.
Parcel Based Charge	High	\$\$\$	Coordination for collection through County. May take longer to receive revenue. Some sub-options require a vote. May be more difficult to defend.
Combinations	N/A	N/A	Difficulty and cost depends on the specific combination.

See Staff Report Attachment A for additional considerations

5

ITEM 10B – DEGRADED WQ SMC WHY RECONSIDER?

1. Board concerns about criteria for determining undesirable results
2. Further review of other GSPs
3. Review of additional surface water quality data

6

ITEM 10B – DEGRADED WQ SMC SMC IN DRAFT GSP

1. MTs & MOs for TDS, chloride, sulfate, boron and nitrate.
2. Undesirable results if 2/3 of wells exceed MTs
3. Goal met if at least 1/3 of wells meet MO

7

ITEM 10B – DEGRADED WQ SMC SMC ISSUES

1. Causation remains a concern – GSA is only responsible for WQ degradation caused by GW pumping or GSP projects/management actions.
 - a. Review of additional surface water flow and water quality data provides better evidence that changes in concentrations are driven by surface water flow conditions not pumping
 - i. Common ions controlled by VR water quality, esp. chloride and boron
 - ii. Nitrate increases in some wells when VR flows are low – less dilution in aquifer

8

ITEM 10B – DEGRADED WQ SMC SMC ISSUES

2. MTs & MOs are applied at wells

- a. Although other GSAs have identified MTs and MOs at specific wells, this approach is may not be consistent with GSP regulations. (Regs. call for isocontour, volume of water impacted, or number of wells impacted)

9

ITEM 10B – DEGRADED WQ SMC PROPOSED SMC REVISIONS

1. No SMC for naturally occurring constituents (i.e. delete SMC for TDS, chloride, sulfate, and boron).

10

ITEM 10B – DEGRADED WQ SMC PROPOSED SMC REVISIONS

2. Modify SMC for nitrate:

- a. Mira Monte / Meiners Oaks (MMMO) Area – no SMC – this is already impacted
- b. Goal – prevent pumping or GSP projects/mgmt. actions from causing spreading of nitrate to other areas.
- c. Nitrate MT remains 10 mg/L but change from applying at wells to an isocontour.
- d. Undesirable results: Any isocontour >10 mg/L outside of MMO area with active domestic wells that lacks alternative drinking water source
- e. MO - no change in values, but use isocontours instead;

11

ITEM 10B – DEGRADED WQ SMC PROPOSED SMC REVISIONS

2. Modify SMC for nitrate (continued)

- f. If MT or MO is exceeded, UVRGA will investigate to determine if caused by pumping of GSP project/mgmt. action.

12

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

DATE: September 8, 2021
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Carrie Troup C.P.A., Treasurer
SUBJECT: Approve Financial Report for August 2021

July 2021 UVRGA Balance **\$ 115,402.31**

August 2021 Activity:
Revenues:

Groundwater Extraction Fees **\$ 171,777.21**

August Expenditures Paid:

\$ -

Checks Pending Signature:

2241	Rincon Consultants Inc	July services	\$ 200.00
2242	Intera Incorporated	August services	\$ 16,903.50
2243	Carrie Troup, C.P.A.	August services	\$ 1,588.67
2244	Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill LLP	July services	\$ 2,658.25
2245	Bondy Groundwater Consulting, Inc	August services	\$ 10,631.64

Total Expenditures Paid & To Be Paid **\$ 31,982.06**

August 2021 UVRGA Ending Balance: **\$ 255,197.46**

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B. Kuebler____ G. Shephard____ D. Engle____ P. Kaiser____ 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. 8

DATE: September 9, 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 fifth round of semi-annual extraction fee invoices were due in mid-August. Two entities are unpaid, totaling \$1,464.46.*
 - b. GSP Grant:
 - i. *Grant Progress Report and Invoice No. 9 were submitted to DWR on August 23, 2021. Payment in the amount of \$1,316.25 is anticipated following DWR approval and processing.*
3. Legal: *No reportable activity.*
4. Sustainable Groundwater Management:
 - a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development: *Please see Item 10a.*
 - b. Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring:
 - i. *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.*
5. SWRCB / CDFW Instream Flow Enhancement Coordination: *SWRCB released a preliminary draft of the Groundwater-Surface Water Model of the Ventura River Watershed. SWRCB anticipates releasing comprehensive model documentation and a draft version of the model for formal public comment toward the end of 2021.*

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___ P. Kaiser___ S. Rungren___ G. Shephard___ E. Ayala___ L. Rose___

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 9(a)

DATE: September 9, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agency Funding Discussion

SUMMARY

During its August 12, 2021 meeting, the Board began discussing Agency funding approaches for implementation beginning July 1, 2022. The purpose of this item is to continue that discussion. Director Rose also requested an item to discuss related matters. This item is also intended to address Director Rose's request.

The following references are provided to help facilitate the discussion:

- Q&A sheet based on the August 12 discussions (Attachment A).
- Adopted Long Range Budget (Attachment B)
- Draft GSP Section 7 (Attachment C)
- Agency Counsel's funding options memo (Attachment D)

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Discuss options for agency funding beginning fiscal year 2022/2023 and provide direction to staff.

BACKGROUND

The Agency Board of Directors adopted the current groundwater extraction fees on June 13, 2019 via Resolution 2019-04.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The fiscal year 2021/2022 budget includes a modest amount of funding for staff and legal counsel assistance to develop new funding mechanisms.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Q&A Sheet
- B. Adopted Long Range Budget
- C. Draft GSP Section 7 – Implementation
- D. Agency Funding Options Memo from Agency Counsel

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B. Kuebler___ D. Engle___ P. Kaiser___ S. Rungren___ G. Shephard___ E. Ayala___ L. Rose___

Item 9a, Attachment A

Question 1:

Does the GSP implementation budget projection include activities not required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)?

Answer 1:

No, the budget projection was developed to meet the GSP Development Team's understanding of the minimum requirements for SGMA-compliant Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation.

Question 2:

Is UVRGA eligible to obtain grants to help offset some of the GSP implementation costs?

Answer 2:

Yes, the agency is eligible for certain grants. UVRGA already received a \$630,000 grant to offset a significant portion of the GSP development costs and has obtained DWR Technical Support Services (TSS) for the installation of a stream gauge near Santa Ana Blvd.

Going forward, the primary grant UVRGA is eligible for is Proposition 1 SGMA implementation grant, which may cover monitoring facility construction and studies to develop projects or management actions to address indirect depletion of inter-connected surface water. The solicitation for the Proposition 1 SGMA implementation grants will occur in Spring 2022.

UVRGA may also qualify for additional DWR TSS for monitoring well construction. The Executive Director is already in discussions with DWR concerning potential qualification for additional TSS.

Based on currently available information, a Proposition 1 SGMA Implementation Grant and TSS could potentially offset up to approximately \$700,000 of GSP implementation costs.

Other grants may be available to address certain GSP implementation activities.

Question 3:

Does the long-range budget projection include grant funding?

Answer 3:

No, the budget projection does not assume grant funding because there is no guarantee that UVRGA will be awarded a grant.

Question 4:

Can activities performed by other entities satisfy some of the GSP implementation requirements?

Answer 4:

Yes, UVRGA can collaborate with other agencies during GSP implementation. The budget already assumes that member agencies will continue to provide groundwater level, groundwater quality, and streamflow data that will be used for annual reporting and tracking sustainability. UVRGA will seek additional opportunities to leverage data collected by others. For example,

ephemeral stream monitoring is a SGMA requirement and the Executive Director has requested this data from Casitas MWD who already performs this monitoring. Unfortunately, Casitas MWD is not willing to share the data currently. UVRGA will seek to coordinate with State Water Resources Control Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife on any overlapping monitoring associated with the instream flow enhancement program. Lastly, UVRGA will seek to coordinate with monitoring programs that result from a future Ventura Watershed Adjudication judgment.

Question 5:

Does the long-range budget projection include costs for monitoring activities that may be performed by others?

Answer 5:

Yes, the budget projection assumes UVRGA will perform all monitoring necessary for SGMA compliance that is not already performed by others and shared with UVRGA. This is because there is no guarantee that other entities will perform additional monitoring in the future and share the data with UVRGA.

Question 6:

Is the proposed fiscal reserve too high? Is the fiscal reserve driving the extraction fees higher?

Answer 6:

The long-range budget projection includes a fiscal reserve that is approximately 50% of anticipated average annual expenses during the GSP implementation period. A reserve is prudent and necessary to address cash flow during the year and to address potential unanticipated expenses. The fiscal reserve included in the adopted long-range budget projection is \$225,000. This is a one-time cost that would be funded over two years (fiscal years 23/24 and 24/25). If an extraction fee is used to fund the fiscal reserve, the cost would be approximately \$15 per acre-foot during fiscal years 23/24 and 24/25.

Question 7:

Are there alternatives to a fiscal reserve that could lower extraction fees?

Answer 7:

Presuming a willing lender exists, a loan could be used to defer costs for unanticipated expenses or address cash flow fluctuations. A line of credit could be used to address cash flow fluctuations. A loan and/or line of credit could defer some or all fiscal year 23/24 and 24/25 costs associated with increasing the reserve target. However, it is important to note that a loan or line of credit will be a more expensive option in the long run due to the associated legal, administrative, and interest costs. Additionally, any loan funds used to cover unanticipated expenses must be repaid, meaning that it only defers those costs.

Question 8:

Why are some of the year-end fund balances so high? Does this mean the projected fees or fiscal reserve is too high?

Answer 8:

The year-end fund balances vary year to year due to fluctuations in expenses. Years with the lower-than-average costs have higher year-end fund balances and vice versa. Funds are carried over from years with high year-end fund balances to address higher than average costs in subsequent years. The alternative to this would be to have variable fees from year-to-year, which may not be acceptable to some rate payers and may create budget management challenges. The year-end fund balances are not considered a sign of excessive fees because the year-end fund balance approaches the reserve target in some years. If the fees were too high, the year-end fund balances would grow overtime, which it does not – the year 20 ending balance is only slightly greater than the reserve target (Attachment C).

Question 9:

Can UVRGA defer some of the monitoring needs included in the GSP, such as installation of monitoring facilities?

Answer 9:

The proposed monitoring networks and new monitoring facilities are necessary for SGMA compliance. The GSP development team identified the minimum monitoring requirements, including the minimum number of new monitoring facilities necessary to address data gaps identified in the plan. Importantly, SGMA requires GSAs to fill data gaps within the first five years of GSP implementation. Thus, UVRGA must install the new monitoring facilities no later than fiscal year 2026/2027.

Question 10:

Can UVRGA wait until it knows if it is receiving a grant before it decides to construct new monitoring facilities?

Answer 10:

SGMA requires GSAs to fill data gaps within the first five years of GSP implementation. Thus, UVRGA must install the new monitoring facilities no later than fiscal year 2026/2027, with or without grant funding.

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

	-----ADOPTED-----					-----PROJECTED-----					Comments
	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	
Income											
Interest/Penalties	\$0	\$86	\$0	\$86	\$0	\$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. 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. Extraction fees included in prior multi-year budget projection 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.
41000 · Grant Income	\$308,604	\$252,984	\$1,500	\$254,484	\$81,804	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Groundwater Extractions (AF)	4340.8	4340.8		4340.8	4340.8	4880	4880	4880	4880	4880	
Groundwater Extraction Fee - FY 20/21 Budget (\$/AF)	\$79.16	\$79.16		\$79.16	\$74.87	\$54.26	\$48.71	\$50.17			
Proposed Groundwater Extraction Fee (\$/AF)					\$79.16	\$111.17	\$111.17	\$108.39	\$102.83	\$100.05	
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	
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	



7.0 GSP Implementation

This section presents estimated GSP implementation costs and schedule. Please note that the costs and schedule are approximate estimates based on currently available information and will be reviewed and updated during the Agency's annual budgeting process. Importantly, some monitoring activities included in this GSP may overlap with future monitoring programs that may be developed as part of a Ventura River Adjudication judgment and/or implementation of the SWRCB's Instream Flow Enhancement program. UVRGA will coordinate GSP implementation with these and other efforts in the watershed to minimize redundancy and costs to the water users of the Basin.

7.1 Estimate of GSP Implementation Costs [§354.6(e)]

§354.6 Agency Information. *When submitting an adopted Plan to the Department, the Agency shall include a copy of the information provided pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.8, with any updates, if necessary, along with the following information:*

(e) *An estimate of the cost of implementing the Plan and a general description of how the Agency plans to meet those costs.*

This subsection describes the scope and estimated costs for GSP implementation. Implementation cost considerations include UVRGA administration, outreach and engagement, coordination with water management efforts by others, monitoring, addressing data gaps, data management, planning for projects and management actions, GSP assessments, GSP updates, maintaining a prudent fiscal reserve, and other costs estimated over the GSP 20-year implementation horizon. Importantly, implementation costs for any projects and management actions deemed necessary to address the measurable objectives are not included because projects and managements actions that would be implemented by UVRGA are not yet identified and will be developed, as needed, during GSP implementation. Project and management action scope, schedule, and costs will be added to the GSP once data gaps have been addressed and any projects or management actions have been identified.

The following subsections present estimated costs for each major expense category. The estimated costs include annual costs for ongoing activities and estimated costs for one-time activities. This approach enables calculating costs through the first GSP assessment and update to better inform UVRGA's annual and multi-year budgeting processes. Because costs are based on the best available estimates at the time of preparation, actual costs may vary from those included in the projections below. UVRGA will coordinate GSP implementation with other water management efforts in the watershed (e.g., Ventura River Adjudication judgement and SWRCB's Instream Flow Enhancement program) to minimize duplication of effort and costs to the water users of the Basin.

The following subsections describe the scope of the various GSP implementation activities. Associated costs are presented in Table 7.1-01. In general, all costs were developed using 2021 dollars and escalated by 3% per year for the remainder of the 20-year GSP implementation period.

7.1.1 Agency Administration

This category includes administrative staff support, Treasurer (CPA), Executive Director, insurance, organizational memberships and conferences, miscellaneous supplies, and materials. The estimated costs



are presented in Table 7.1-01. Executive management is provided under contract with an independent consultant, Bondy Groundwater Consulting, Inc. (Bryan Bondy). Mr. Bondy serves as the Agency's Executive Director and the GSP Plan Manager. Administrative support is provided by Agency Counsel's administrative staff under contract. Accounting support is provided under contract with Carrie Troup, CPA. This budget category includes finance related costs for routine accounts payable and receivable functions, extraction fee billing, financial reporting, and financial audits. Administrative costs also include annual liability insurance costs, IT services (website, email, and cloud storage), and incidentals (postage, copies, etc.). UVRGA does not own or lease any office space or office equipment.

7.1.2 Legal Counsel

Legal services are provided under contract with Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill. The budget assumes legal review of contracts and access agreements as well as consultation on other matters, such as Brown Act and groundwater extraction fee issues.

7.1.3 Groundwater Management, Coordination, and Outreach

GSP implementation will require certain management and coordination activities:

- **Ongoing SGMA Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement:** The Executive Director and Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee will perform ongoing outreach required by SGMA concerning GSP implementation in accordance with the UVRGA SEP (Appendix E).
- **Monitor and Coordinate with Local Water Management Activities:** The Executive Director will monitor activities of the Member Agencies, land use planning agencies, Ventura River Watershed Council (Integrated Regional Water Management program), Ventura Watershed Instream Flow Enhancement and Water Resiliency Regional Framework planning process, Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (GSA for the adjacent Ojai Basin), and the Ventura River Watershed Adjudication.
- **San Antonio Creek Water Management:** As described in Section 3.____, inflows from San Antonio Creek are part of the water balance for the UVRGB and the creek provides important habitat for aquatic species that also inhabit the Basin Aquatic GDE areas. Therefore, UVRGA has an interest in the quantification and management of water flows in San Antonio Creek. Management of San Antonio Creek flows will require focused coordination with OBGMA (for outflows from the Ojai Basin to San Antonio Creek), SWRCB, and others for those portions of the San Antonio Creek drainage that lie outside of OBGMA. The UVRGA Board has requested that the Executive Director work with others to develop an understanding of San Antonio Creek flows and depletions of those flows. This effort is listed as Action No. 1-3 in Table 6.1 Outline of Proposed Implementation Actions for Foster Park Habitat Area SMC.
- **Monitor and Coordinate with the SWRCB Ventura River Instream Flow Enhancement Program:** The Executive Director will continue to participate on the SWRCB Technical Advisory Committee for the Instream Flow Enhancement Program. This effort includes technical review and commenting on SWRCB work products. The Executive Director will also continue work with SWRCB staff on coordination of overlapping elements of the SGMA implementation and the Instream Flow Enhancement Program.



- SGMA Program: The Executive Director will track Department of Water Resources updates concerning SGMA and related programs.

This cost category also includes miscellaneous technical support that may be needed to implement the GSP that is not captured in other cost categories. The specific needs and costs are yet to be identified but it is expected, as the initial GSP implementation efforts proceed, that these needs will become evident. Examples of technical support are potential tasks such as: ongoing data review (outside of annual reporting and GSP evaluation), day-to-day data management, review of funding mechanisms, development of alternative funding mechanisms (grants), and other technical issues that may arise during plan implementation. It is envisioned that much of the work will be completed by the Executive Director with support from other consultants, as needed.

Lastly, the first year (fiscal year 2022) budget includes \$25,000 to apply for a GSP Implementation Grant.

7.1.4 Monitoring Program

UVRGA's proposed monitoring program is presented in the monitoring section (Section 5). The monitoring program consists of the following elements:

- Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Network
- Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network
- Stream Flow Monitoring Network
- Riparian GDE Monitoring
- Aquatic GDE Monitoring

Each monitoring element is described in the sections below. The overall budget for the monitoring program includes project management costs (assumed 10% of the total monitoring costs). It is noted that some monitoring activities may overlap with future monitoring programs that may be developed as part of a Ventura River Adjudication judgment and/or implementation of the SWRCB's Instream Flow Enhancement program. UVRGA will coordinate GSP implementation with these and other efforts in the watershed to minimize redundancy and costs to the water users of the Basin.

7.1.4.1 Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Network

As discussed in Section 5.3, the groundwater elevation monitoring network consists of wells monitored by UVRGA, member Agencies, and the VCWPD. The GSP implementation budget includes costs for ongoing monitoring by UVRGA and incorporation of new wells described below. The costs for ongoing groundwater elevation by others are included in their budgets. UVRGA's approximate cost for groundwater elevation monitoring is approximately \$7,000 in 2021 dollars. However, it is noted that the monitoring costs are projected to increase as new wells are added to the monitoring network, as described below.



7.1.4.1.1 Expansion of Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Network to Address Data Gaps

As discussed in Sections 5.3.4, certain data gaps in the groundwater elevation monitoring network will be addressed as part of GSP implementation. In summary, it was concluded that five monitoring wells are needed between Highway 150 and Foster Park to (1) address a data gap within the South Santa Ana Riparian GDE Unit and the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area; (2) monitor groundwater storage and flow upstream of and entering the South Santa Ana Riparian GDE Unit and the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area; (3) monitor groundwater levels and storage up- and downstream of the confluence with San Antonio Creek; (4) monitor groundwater storage and flow upstream of and entering the Foster Park Riparian GDE Unit and Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area; (5) correlate groundwater levels with stream gages; and (6) determine whether or how the groundwater levels and storage SMC impact attainment of the measurable objective for the depletions of interconnected surface water sustainability indicator. Five groundwater monitoring well sites are proposed in Section 5 to address these data needs (Figure 5.3-01). Pursuant to GSP Emergency Regulations § 354.38(d), the data gaps must be addressed prior to the first five-year GSP assessment. The budget assumes that three of the five sites will be addressed by obtaining access to existing wells for monitoring. There are no known existing wells located in the vicinity of the other data gap areas; these areas will require construction of two monitoring wells.

The estimated costs to address the groundwater level data gaps is (i.e., add three existing wells and construct two new monitoring well) is approximately \$290,000 in 2021 dollars. The estimated costs include access agreements, permitting, project management, and construction costs. These approximate costs are estimates, as there are uncertainties such as site-specific considerations, construction bid environment at the time of bidding, as well as a variety of other factors that will ultimately determine the all-in construction costs.

In addition to the monitoring wells described above, it is proposed that UVRGA add existing wells in other areas of the monitoring network, if opportunities arise. Incorporating additional wells will help improve UVRGA's understanding of basin conditions and numerical model calibration. The budget includes costs to incorporate up to six additional existing wells to enhance the monitoring network. For budgeting purposes, it is assumed these wells would be added before Fiscal Year 2026.

7.1.4.2 Groundwater Quality Monitoring

The current groundwater quality monitoring network consists of wells sampled by VCWPD and public water system well owners who are required to report to the DDW (Table 5.6-01). Monitoring is described in detail in Section 5.6. The costs for ongoing monitoring of the existing monitoring network are included in the budgets of the current monitoring entities. Most wells in the network are sampled to comply with DDW regulations, which generally have infrequent sampling requirements. To meet the GSP's water quality monitoring needs, the GSP implementation budget includes \$4,000 (in 2021 dollars) for labor to coordinate more frequent sampling from eight wells and payment of laboratory analytical fees.



7.1.4.3 Stream Flow Monitoring Network

7.1.4.3.1 Stream Gaging

As discussed in Section 5.8, the proposed stream flow monitoring network consists of gages maintained by UVRGA and other agencies, including VCWPD, City of Ventura, Department of Water Resources, and the United States Geological Survey. UVRGA installed stream gage infrastructure at the Camino Cielo crossing in 2020 and plans to activate the gage in 2022. As discussed in Section 5.8.4, a stream flow data gap exists in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. The GSP implementation budget includes approximately \$60,000 (in 2021 dollars) to install a stream gage in this area (inclusive of access, permitting, CEQA, equipment, and installation). The GSP implementation budget includes approximately \$12,650 (in 2021 dollars) per gage for ongoing operation and maintenance.

7.1.4.3.2 Ephemeral Flow Visual Monitoring

As discussed in Section 5.8.1, GSP Emergency Regulations § 354.34(c)(6)B requires monitoring to determine the “approximate date and location where ephemeral or intermittent flowing streams and rivers cease to flow.” UVRGA will perform the ephemeral flow monitoring to identify the spatial and temporal distribution of ephemeral flow in the Basin. The GSP implementation budget includes approximately \$16,400 (in 2021 dollars) for this monitoring.

7.1.4.3.3 Riparian GDE Monitoring

As discussed in Section 5.8.4, monitoring of the South Santa Ana and Foster Park Riparian GDE Units will be performed to monitor and document conditions and trends to assess potential effects on the GDEs. The monitoring will consist primarily of tracking satellite and aerial imagery (publicly available and collected using drones) in comparison with measured groundwater levels. The GSP implementation budget includes approximately \$5,000 per year (in 2021 dollars) for this effort.

7.1.4.4 Aquatic GDE Monitoring

7.1.4.4.1 Confluence Aquatic GDE

As discussed in Sections 4.9 and 5.8, available data were insufficient to determine if existing depletion rates of interconnected surface water in the Confluence Aquatic GDE area result in significant and unreasonable effects. A multiyear focused monitoring program will be implemented to assess potential effects of interconnected stream flow depletion on instream habitat and aquatic species. A monitoring plan will be developed in Fiscal Year 2022 to outline the specific schedule and field methods. A data assessment report will be completed at the end of the monitoring period to evaluate data and summarize findings to guide the first GSP assessment. The GSP implementation budget includes approximately \$162,000 (in 2021 dollars) for the monitoring program, data evaluation, and findings report.

If potential significant and unreasonable effects are identified during the focused monitoring period, a long-term monitoring program will be developed. The GSP implementation budget includes approximately \$9,000 per year (in 2021 dollars) for ongoing monitoring, if needed.



7.1.4.4.2 Foster Park Aquatic GDE

As discussed in Sections 4.9 and 5.8, monitoring is required to document the performance of the depletions of interconnected surface water sustainable management criteria. It is anticipated that a monitoring program will eventually be developed and implemented as part of a judgment for the Ventura River Watershed Adjudication. However, there is currently not a definitive timeline for either a judgment and or implementation of a physical solution. Therefore, UVRGA has included scope and budget for monitoring of the Foster Park Aquatic GDE, with the understanding that monitoring may transition to or be shared with others in the future.

A work plan will be developed during fiscal year 2022 to lay out the proposed monitoring activities. It is anticipated that the work plan will include a greater degree of monitoring activities during the four years leading up to the first five-year GSP assessment to establish baseline information, followed by a more limited and streamlined monitoring program for the remainder of the GSP implementation period. The initial five-year “baseline” program may include field monitoring activities like field observations of instream habitat and aquatic species and continuous in-situ water quality monitoring. It is anticipated that collected data will be correlated with flow measurements made by USGS and the City of Ventura. The study plan will detail a specific schedule, monitoring parameters, field methods, and data interpretation/evaluation methodology. UVRGA will develop the monitoring plan in coordination with the adjudication parties to seek consistency in potential monitoring activities that may be envisioned post-judgment. The GSP implementation budget includes approximately \$110,000 (in 2021 dollars) for workplan development, baseline monitoring activities, and a report at the conclusion of the baseline monitoring phase. The GSP implementation budget includes approximately \$9,000 per year (in 2021 dollars) for ongoing monitoring after the baseline monitoring phase has concluded.

7.1.4.5 Groundwater Extraction Monitoring

A groundwater extraction reporting program will be developed to facilitate monitoring of extractions in the Basin. The GSP implementation budget includes approximately \$5,000 (in 2021 dollars) to develop the extraction reporting program and approximately \$2,000 per year (in 2021 dollars) for implementation.

7.1.5 Annual Reporting

SGMA regulations require submittal of annual reports to DWR concerning GSP implementation status and basin conditions. The reporting requirements are presented in GSP Emergency Regulations §356.2. In general, the annual report must include an executive summary, description and graphical presentation of basin conditions (groundwater levels and storage), reporting of groundwater extractions, surface water supplies to the basin, total water use in the basin, and a discussion of the GSP implementation progress relative to the sustainable management criteria. It is anticipated that the annual reports will be prepared by the Executive Director with consultant support. The cost for the first annual report is anticipated to be greater than the cost for subsequent reports because the first report must be developed from scratch and will include several years of data to bridge the gap between data presented in the GSP and water year 2020/2021. The first annual report is due in April 2022.

Ongoing costs for maintaining the SMGA-required data management system (DMS) are included in the annual reporting costs. Please see Section 5.10 and Appendix T for more information concerning the DMS.



7.1.6 Projects and Management Actions

As discussed in Section 4, it does not appear that any projects or management actions will be needed to meet the measurable objectives for chronic lowering of groundwater levels, groundwater storage reduction, degraded water quality, land subsidence, or seawater intrusion sustainability indicators.

Projects and/or management actions will be needed to meet the measurable objective for depletions of interconnected surface water in Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area. It is currently anticipated that the Foster Park Flow Protocols will address direct depletion by the City of Ventura pumping in the Foster Park Habitat Area (funded by the City). However, the Foster Park Flow Protocols will not address indirect depletion caused by pumping wells located upstream of the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area. The initial GSP does not include project or management actions to address indirect depletion because there are significant groundwater level data gaps that impact the numerical modeling estimates of the indirect depletions. This initial GSP lays out a path over time to address the groundwater level data gaps, update the numerical model to provide better quantification of indirect depletion, and develop appropriately sized projects or management actions to address indirect depletions. These actions are laid out in Table 6.1-01.

Costs are included under the Projects and Management Actions category for Actions 1-7, 2-3, 2-4. The estimated cost for these actions is \$300,000 (escalated dollars). The costs for project or management action implementation (Table 6.1-01 Actions 3-2 and 4-2) are not included because projects and management actions that impact the UVRGA budget are not identified in the initial GSP. If additional projects or management actions are developed, the costs will be added when they are known. The costs for other Table 6.1-01 Actions are included in other budget categories.

7.1.7 GSP Evaluations and Amendments

GSP Emergency Regulations §356.4 require UVRGA to evaluate the GSP at least every 5 years and in conjunction with any GSP amendments. The initial five-year GSP evaluation is due to DWR in 2027. It is assumed that any plan amendments will be timed such that only one GSP evaluation will be performed per five-year period. GSP evaluations are dependent on maintaining and updating the numerical model.

7.1.7.1 Numerical Model Updates and Simulations

Prior to performing each five-year GSP evaluation, the numerical flow model will be updated. The updated model will help inform ongoing performance assessment of the sustainable management criteria. Periodic updates to the groundwater model will be required to continue to refine and improve its capabilities and maintain ongoing functionality. This includes incorporating new model tools and features, updates to data, and updates to calibration. The model will be an important tool to inform the evaluation GSP implementation over time. Simulations will be performed with the updated model for use during the GSA evaluation and update processes. The first model update will incorporate new data from the expanded groundwater and surface water monitoring networks and modeled ungaged surface water inflows to the UVRGB from the final regional watershed-wide model developed by SWRCB. The first model update is anticipated result in a significant recalibration of the model and is therefore anticipated to be more expensive than later updates. The estimated cost for the first model update is \$100,000 (in 2021 dollars). The estimated cost for subsequent model updates is \$50,000 (in 2021 dollars).



7.1.7.2 GSP Evaluation

SGMA regulations require submittal of written evaluation of the GSP to DWR at least once every five years. The GSP evaluation requirements are presented in GSP Emergency Regulations §356.4. In general, the GSP evaluation must include a description of groundwater conditions relative to each sustainability indicator, discussion of GSP implementation, proposed revisions to the basin setting and sustainable management criteria in light of new information or changes in water use, assessment of the monitoring networks, regulatory actions taken by UVRGA, summary of coordination with agencies located within the Basin and adjacent basins, and a description of any proposed or adopted GSP amendments. It is anticipated the GSP evaluation will be led by the Executive Director in collaboration with the GSP Development Team. The estimated cost for the GSP evaluations is \$50,000 (in 2021 dollars).

7.1.7.3 GSP Amendments

To control costs, UVRGA will seek to perform any plan amendments in conjunction with the required five-year evaluations. Pertinent sections of the GSP will be amended, as appropriate, based on new information, groundwater conditions, monitoring results, water use, land use changes, land use plan updates, and management status of adjacent basins. It is anticipated the GSP evaluation will be led by the Executive Director in collaboration with the GSP Development Team. The estimated cost for the GSP amendments is \$150,000 (in 2021 dollars).

7.1.8 Respond to DWR GSP Evaluations and Assessments

UVRGA will address DWR requests for additional information and comments following its review of the adopted GSP. It is assumed that DWR comments on the initial GSP will be received and addressed during fiscal year 2024. UVRGA will respond to DWR comments and requests for information associated with subsequent five-year GSP assessments. It is anticipated the responses will be led by the Executive Director in collaboration with the GSP Development Team. The estimated cost for addressing the DWR assessment comments on the initial GSP in 2024 is \$50,000 (in 2021 dollars). The estimated cost for responding to DWR comments following the five-year GSP evaluations is \$25,000 (in 2021 dollars).

7.1.9 Contingencies

Contingency is included in the budget in recognition that GSP implementation is new and there is potential for unanticipated expenses. For the purposes of conservatively estimating the cost to implement the GSP, the budget estimate includes a 10% contingency. Contingency amounts will be reviewed during each annual budgeting process. It is anticipated that contingency amounts will decline over time as UVRGA becomes more certain about ongoing GSP implementation costs.

7.1.10 Financial Reserves

Prudent financial management requires that UVRGA carry a general reserve in order to manage cash flow. General reserves have no restrictions on the types of expenses they can be used to fund. Current Board Direction policy on reserve level is \$74,000. It is assumed that the reserve will be increased to approximately 50% of annual expenses.



7.1.11 Total Estimated Implementation Costs Through 2042 [§354.6(e)]

§354.6 Agency Information. *When submitting an adopted Plan to the Department, the Agency shall include a copy of the information provided pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.8, with any updates, if necessary, along with the following information:*

(e) An estimate of the cost of implementing the Plan and a general description of how the Agency plans to meet those costs.

GSP implementation costs are presented in Table 7.1-01. The estimated costs are presented by the budget categories discussed in Section 7.1. The estimated total cost of the GSP Implementation over the 20-year planning horizon is [\$10,068,507]. Costs through the first five-year evaluation period are also provided as a subtotal. The total estimated cost through the first five-year evaluation is [\$2,272,885]. The annual costs include an annual rate of inflation of 3.0% factored into the cost projections. These estimated costs are based on the best available information at the time of GSP preparation and represent UVRGA's current understanding of Basin conditions and the current roles and responsibilities of the UVRGA under SGMA. UVRGA will coordinate GSP implementation with other water management efforts in the watershed (e.g., Ventura River Adjudication judgement and SWRCB's Instream Flow Enhancement program) to minimize duplication of effort and costs to the water users of the Basin.

7.2 Funding Sources and Mechanisms [§354.6(e)]

§354.6 Agency Information. *When submitting an adopted Plan to the Department, the Agency shall include a copy of the information provided pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.8, with any updates, if necessary, along with the following information:*

(e) An estimate of the cost of implementing the Plan and a general description of how the Agency plans to meet those costs.

Funding for GSP implementation will be obtained from fees charged to groundwater users and/or landowners in the Basin. UVRGA current utilizes a fee based on groundwater extractions. UVRGA intends to reevaluate the funding methodology during fiscal year 2022 and potentially implement a new fee structure effective fiscal year 2023. Funding options will be reevaluated over time as the GSP implementation progresses. UVRGA obtained a \$630,000 Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant from DWR to fund, in part, development of the GSP. UVRGA will seek additional grants for GSP implementation, although, to be conservative, the budget assumes no additional grant funding.

7.3 Implementation Schedule [§354.44(b)(4)]

§354.44 Projects and Management Actions.

(b) Each Plan shall include a description of the projects and management actions that include the following:

(4) The status of each project and management action, including a time-table for expected initiation and completion, and the accrual of expected benefits.

GSP adoption is anticipated in December 2021 for submittal to DWR no later than January 31, 2022.

Most of the budget categories consist of ongoing tasks and efforts that will be conducted throughout GSP Implementation (i.e., administration, coordination, outreach, monitoring, etc.).



GSP reporting will occur on an annual basis, with reports for the preceding water year due to DWR by April 1.

Periodic evaluations (every five years) and any associated GSP amendments will be submitted to DWR by April 1 at least every five years (no later than 2027, 2032, 2037, and 2042).

The schedule for one-time activities are as follows:

- Stream Gage Installation: The gage is scheduled for installation during Fiscal Year 2023.
- Monitoring Well Construction: The proposed monitoring wells are scheduled for construction during fiscal year 2025. Site identification, access agreements, and permitting, will begin prior to fiscal year 2025.
- Projects and Management Actions: Please see Table 6.1-01.



Table 7.1-01 UVRGA 20-Year Budget for GSP.

Fiscal Year	Agency Administration	Legal Counsel	GW Mgmt., Coord., & Outreach	Monitoring Programs	Annual Reports	Projects and Mgmt. Actions	Model Update and Simulations	GSP Evaluation	GSP Update	Respond to DWR Comments and Requests	Contingency Non-Capital	Monitoring Well Construction	Contingency Capital Projects	Totals	Extraction Fee (\$/AF)	Ending Cash
2022	\$ 61,050	\$ 35,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 71,624	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,767	\$ 17,537	\$ 1,754	\$ 313,732	\$ 79.16	\$ 262,463
2023	\$ 62,602	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,900	\$ 138,511	\$ 32,500	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,451	\$ 72,253	\$ 7,225	\$ 403,441	\$ 111.17	\$ 236,521
2024	\$ 64,207	\$ 25,750	\$ 31,827	\$ 125,815	\$ 33,475	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 33,607	\$ 111,630	\$ 11,163	\$ 492,475	\$ 111.17	\$ 286,546
2025	\$ 65,868	\$ 26,523	\$ 32,782	\$ 137,805	\$ 34,479	\$ 10,000	\$ 54,636	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,209	\$ 167,303	\$ 16,730	\$ 582,336	\$ 108.39	\$ 233,148
2026	\$ 67,844	\$ 27,318	\$ 33,765	\$ 131,465	\$ 35,514	\$ 10,000	\$ 56,275	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 43,718	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 480,900	\$ 102.83	\$ 254,060
2027	\$ 69,880	\$ 28,138	\$ 34,778	\$ 146,132	\$ 36,579	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 45,051	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 495,557	\$ 100.05	\$ 246,753
2028	\$ 71,976	\$ 28,982	\$ 35,822	\$ 107,555	\$ 37,676	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,138	\$ 32,015	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 352,164	\$ 100.05	\$ 382,839
2029	\$ 74,135	\$ 29,851	\$ 36,896	\$ 110,782	\$ 38,807	\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,547	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 457,019	\$ 100.05	\$ 414,070
2030	\$ 76,359	\$ 30,747	\$ 38,003	\$ 114,105	\$ 39,971	\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,419	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 466,604	\$ 100.05	\$ 435,716
2031	\$ 78,650	\$ 31,669	\$ 39,143	\$ 117,529	\$ 41,170	\$ -	\$ 65,017	\$ 28,982	\$ 57,964	\$ -	\$ 46,012	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 506,136	\$ 100.05	\$ 417,829
2032	\$ 81,010	\$ 32,619	\$ 40,317	\$ 121,055	\$ 42,405	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,982	\$ 115,927	\$ -	\$ 46,232	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 508,547	\$ 100.05	\$ 397,532
2033	\$ 83,440	\$ 33,598	\$ 41,527	\$ 124,686	\$ 43,677	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,640	\$ 35,957	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 395,525	\$ 100.05	\$ 490,258
2034	\$ 85,943	\$ 34,606	\$ 42,773	\$ 128,427	\$ 44,988	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,674	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 370,410	\$ 100.05	\$ 608,098
2035	\$ 88,521	\$ 35,644	\$ 44,056	\$ 132,280	\$ 46,337	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,684	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 381,522	\$ 97.27	\$ 701,263
2036	\$ 91,177	\$ 36,713	\$ 45,378	\$ 136,248	\$ 47,727	\$ -	\$ 73,144	\$ 33,598	\$ 67,196	\$ -	\$ 53,118	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 584,300	\$ 97.27	\$ 591,651
2037	\$ 93,912	\$ 37,815	\$ 46,739	\$ 140,335	\$ 49,159	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,598	\$ 134,392	\$ -	\$ 53,595	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 589,545	\$ 97.27	\$ 476,793
2038	\$ 96,730	\$ 38,949	\$ 48,141	\$ 144,545	\$ 50,634	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,862	\$ 41,686	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 458,548	\$ 97.27	\$ 492,933
2039	\$ 99,632	\$ 40,118	\$ 49,585	\$ 148,882	\$ 52,153	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,037	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 429,406	\$ 100.05	\$ 551,777
2040	\$ 102,621	\$ 41,321	\$ 51,073	\$ 153,348	\$ 53,718	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,208	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 442,289	\$ 100.05	\$ 597,738
2041	\$ 105,699	\$ 42,561	\$ 52,605	\$ 157,949	\$ 55,329	\$ -	\$ 82,287	\$ 38,949	\$ 77,898	\$ -	\$ 61,328	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 674,606	\$ 105.61	\$ 438,507
2042	\$ 108,870	\$ 43,838	\$ 54,183	\$ 162,687	\$ 56,989	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,949	\$ 155,797	\$ -	\$ 62,131	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 683,445	\$ 105.61	\$ 270,438
Yrs. 1-5	\$ 321,571	\$ 139,591	\$ 184,274	\$ 605,221	\$ 180,968	\$ 30,000	\$ 110,912	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 169,754	\$ 368,723	\$ 36,872	\$ 2,272,885		
Yrs. 6-20	\$ 1,408,555	\$ 567,169	\$ 701,020	\$ 2,146,545	\$ 737,319	\$ 270,000	\$ 220,449	\$ 228,058	\$ 709,174	\$ 98,640	\$ 708,693	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,795,622		
Total	\$ 1,730,127	\$ 706,759	\$ 885,295	\$ 2,751,766	\$ 918,287	\$ 300,000	\$ 331,361	\$ 253,058	\$ 759,174	\$ 148,640	\$ 878,447	\$ 368,723	\$ 36,872	\$ 10,068,507		

Notes:

Section 7.1 activities wholly funded by Member Agencies are not listed in the table.

Costs escalated for inflation at an assume rate of 3% per year



500 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE ■ 12TH FLOOR ■ LOS ANGELES, CA 90071

PHONE 213.744.0099 ■ FAX 213.744.0093

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGED / ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

To: Keith Lemieux
From: Christine Flier
Date: July 6, 2021
Subject: SGMA/GSA Funding Opportunities

I. Introduction.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) divides a groundwater sustainability agency's (GSA) funding authority into pre- and post-GSP adoption. Before a GSA adopts its GSP, Water Code section 10730 provides the statutory authority for various funding opportunities to fund the groundwater sustainability program. After a GSA adopts its GSP, Water Code section 10730.2 grants the GSA the discretionary authority to impose several additional categories of fees as specified therein. To be clear, section 10730.2 authorizes the imposition of certain fees that can be imposed only after the adoption of a GSP. A GSA may nevertheless continue to collect fees implemented prior to adopting a GSP under section 10730, after a GSP is adopted.

Pre-GSP adoption fees may be used to fund a wide variety of costs, including the development and implementation of a groundwater sustainability program, which includes the preparation and adoption of a GSP, investigations, inspections, compliance

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assistance, enforcement, and general program administration. Pre-GSP fees, however, may not be used for capital improvement projects.

Although the SGMA itself does not require pre-GSP fees to comply with a specific procedural and substantive approval process, such as Prop 26 or 218, there is a good argument that pre-GSP fees fall within the regulatory cost exemption of Prop 218 since the authorizing statute itself (Water Code § 10730) is entitled “regulatory fees authority.” However, it is still unclear which statutory approval process a pre-GSP fee must follow. For example, some courts have concluded a groundwater extraction fee is a property-related fee subject to Prop 218, whereas another court concluded that a groundwater extraction fee was not a property-related fee and should be analyzed under Prop 26.

The fees that are statutorily authorized after a GSP is adopted (§ 10730.2), however, must comply with Prop 218, except for the voter approval requirement. Only a majority protest is required. The fees adopted after a GSP is adopted may be used to fund the costs of groundwater management, such as administration, operation, and maintenance, for acquisitions of land or other property, facilities and services, supply, production, treatment or distribution of water. Section 10730.2 fees can also be imposed on any other fees necessary or convenient to implement the GSP, which is a catchall category for costs that are reasonably necessary to implement the GSP.

II. Funding Opportunities

<u>GSA Funding Opportunities: Pre-GSP Adoption</u>			
Type of Funding	Requirements	Pros	Cons
Groundwater Extraction Fees (Water Code § 10730)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public meeting must be held to allow the public an opportunity to make oral/written comments before imposing the fee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely falls under the “regulatory fee” exemption under Prop 26 May be collected in the same manner as ordinary municipal ad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot be imposed on “de minimis¹” extractors unless they are regulated pursuant to SGMA Cannot be used for any capital improvement projects

¹ “De Minimis” extractor is defined as a person who extracts for domestic purposes 2 acre-feet a year or less.

Item 9a - Attachment D

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Notice must be provided in 3 different ways and include the time/place of meeting, general description of the subject matter, and a statement or report that the data upon which the decision is based is available to the public ▪ The data upon which the proposed fee is based must be made available to the public at least 20 days before the public meeting ▪ Fees must be adopted by ordinance/resolution at a public hearing ▪ Fee should be analyzed under Prop 26 	valorem taxes but must be adopted by GSA via resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
Permit Fees (Water Code § 10730)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public meeting must be held to allow the public an opportunity to make oral/written comments before imposing the fee ▪ Notice must be provided in 3 different ways and include the time/place of meeting, general description of the subject matter, and a statement or report that the data upon which the decision is based is available to the public ▪ The data upon which the proposed fee is based must be made available to the public at least 20 days before the public meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Likely falls under the “regulatory fee” exemption under Prop 26 ▪ May be collected in the same manner as ordinary municipal ad valorem taxes but must be adopted by GSA via resolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cannot be imposed on “de minimis” extractors unless they are regulated pursuant to SGMA ▪ Cannot be used for any capital improvement projects

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fees must be adopted by ordinance/resolution at a public hearing ▪ Fee should be analyzed under Prop 26 		
Fees on “Other Regulated Activity” (Water Code § 10730)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public meeting must be held to allow the public an opportunity to make oral/written comments before imposing the fee ▪ Notice must be provided in 3 different ways and include the time/place of meeting, general description of the subject matter, and a statement or report that the data upon which the decision is based is available to the public ▪ The data upon which the proposed fee is based must be made available to the public at least 20 days before the public meeting ▪ Fees must be adopted by ordinance/resolution at a public hearing ▪ Fee should be analyzed under Prop 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Likely falls under the “regulatory fee” exemption under Prop 26 ▪ May be collected in the same manner as ordinary municipal ad valorem taxes but must be adopted by GSA via resolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cannot be imposed on “de minimis” extractors unless they are regulated pursuant to SGMA ▪ Cannot be used for any capital improvement projects

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EXAMPLES OF GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEES: Pre-GSP Adoption

Metered Extraction Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This type of fee would be based on actual water usage from the various wellhead owners in the basin ▪ Requires meter data on every well, a way to collect that data, and then charges on the actual usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This fee is probably the most equitable because it considers actual water usage ▪ Good long-term solution because these are what the fees are going to be based on post-GSP adoption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meters can be expensive for the GSA (or the well owners) to install/implement (unless meters are already in place) ▪ Metering may not be permitted until after the GSP is written and adopted ▪ Takes time to implement program
Estimated Usage Extraction Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fee based on an estimate using best available data ▪ Requires meter data where it is available, e.g., municipal agencies' meters on groundwater, farmers/growers who meter their water and report to the state, others can self-report ▪ For unmetered areas, requires GSA to look at land use/area, to infer how much water is probably used from the well based on type of crop and amount of acreage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data can be obtained ▪ Not as time consuming as trying to get meters installed ▪ Increased stakeholder engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Self-reporting usage is imperfect ▪ Estimates can be wrong
Flat Parcel Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requires GSA to look at acreage only, and not actual water usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could be used when GSA does not feel confident with water estimates ▪ Data is easier to collect instead of trying to estimate water usage – simply tying land area with wells ▪ Takes less time to gather data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Much less equitable ▪ Identifying the number of acres associated with a particular well is not exact science ▪ May have potentially difficult time defending this fee

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Voluntary Contributions from Member Agencies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good short-term solution to funding while GSA figures out a longer-term option for fees ▪ Doesn't really require much data ▪ Low effort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inequitable for water ratepayers of member agencies since the contributions will technically be paid by retail customers, rather than the agricultural groups or those that are not in the municipal system ▪ Potentially not defensible ▪ Not sustainable for long-term basis
Special Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compliance with Prop 26 required ▪ Requires two-thirds majority vote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If passed, this would be a stable source of revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requires high level of effort ▪ Low certainty that measure will be approved by votes ▪ Expensive process
Special Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compliance with Prop 218 required ▪ Requires simple majority vote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If passed, this would be a stable source of revenue ▪ More equitable than parcel tax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requires high level of effort ▪ Low certainty that measure will be approved by votes ▪ Expensive process

TO: Keith Lemieux
 RE: SGMA/GSA Funding Opportunities
 DATE: July 6, 2021
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<u>GSA Funding Opportunities: Additional Fees Authorized Post-GSP Adoption</u>			
Type of Funding	Requirements	Pros	Cons
Groundwater Extraction Fees (Water Code § 10732.2(a))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GSA's authority to impose fee is not triggered until GSA adopts and submits its GSP ▪ Must comply with Prop 218 requirement, except for the voter approval requirement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May be used to fund costs of groundwater management, such as administration, operation, and maintenance, including a prudent reserve ▪ May be used to purchase land or other property, facilities and services, supply, production, treatment or distribution of water ▪ May include fixed fees or fees charged on volumetric basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GSA authority to impose groundwater extraction fees does not include ability to impose parcel-based fees or assessments

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

DATE: September 9, 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:** No reportable activity.
2. **Outreach:**
 - a. The Executive Director prepared a newsletter concerning the draft GSP 60-day public comment period (Attachment A).
 - b. The Executive Director sent an outreach letter to all well owners in the Basin concerning the draft GSP and comment period (Attachment B).
 - c. The Ojai Valley News published an article on August 26 concerning the draft GSP, 60-day public comment period, and September workshops (Attachment C).
 - d. GSP Workshop 4A (hosted by Ventura River Watershed Council) was held on September 3 at 1pm. The workshop slides are posted on the UVRGA website.
3. **GSP Development Schedule:** The updated GSP Development Schedule is provided in Attachment D.

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. Newsletter, Volume 2, Issue 3
- B. Letter to Well Owners
- C. Ojai Valley News Article published August 26, 2021
- D. GSP Development Schedule

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B. Kuebler____ D. Engle____ P. Kaiser____ S. Rungren____ G. Shephard____ E. Ayala____ L. Rose____



<https://uvrgroundwater.org/>

Special Newsletter

August 2021

Volume 2, Issue 3



Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Available For Review!

**60-Day Public Comment Period
August 10 – October 8, 2021**

Your Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development team completed the public comment draft of the GSP for the Upper Ventura River Basin in early August 2021. The draft GSP describes the groundwater basin, goals for sustainable management of the basin groundwater resources, and an implementation plan to achieve those goals by no later than 2042.

The GSP is organized as follows:

- Section 1 - Introduction to Plan Contents
- Section 2 - Administrative Information
- Section 3 - Basin Setting
- Section 4 - Sustainable Management Criteria
- Section 5 - Monitoring Networks
- Section 6 - Projects and Management Actions
- Section 7 - Plan Implementation
- Section 8 - References and Technical Studies

A 60-day public comment period was initiated on August 10. UVRGA will accept comments on the draft GSP through October 8, 2021. Comments received will be considered and an updated draft GSP will be developed for adoption by the UVRGA Board of Directors no later than January 31, 2022. The draft GSP is available for viewing or download on the UVRGA website at <https://uvrgroundwater.org/sgma-overview/>.

We strongly encourage you to submit comments for consideration. Please use our on-line comment form, which can be found at the bottom of <https://uvrgroundwater.org/sgma-overview/>. Please note that comments submitted via the on-line form will be prioritized for review. If you do not use the on-line comment form, your comments should be submitted electronically in an editable format (e.g., MS Word or an unlocked pdf) via email to bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org.

GSP Workshops

Two workshops will be held to present and discuss the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The workshops will be a key opportunity ask questions and provide feedback on the draft plan for your groundwater basin. Your active participation is highly encouraged!

Workshop 4A

**Hosted by Ventura River Watershed Committee
September 3, 1pm
More Information:
<http://venturawatershed.org/>**

Workshop 4B

**Hosted by UVRGA
September 23, 1pm
More Information:
<https://uvrgroundwater.org/>**

Get Involved!

At the core of SGMA is the idea that locals should make groundwater management decisions, not the State. Your input is critical for ensuring the UVRGA GSP reflects local values. Please join our interested parties list at: <https://uvrgroundwater.org/join-interested-parties-list/> or contact our Executive Director, Bryan Bondy for more information at: bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org



202 W. El Roblar Dr.
Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 646-2114
<https://uvrgroundwater.org/>

August 19, 2021

Subject: Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan Available for Review – Comment Period Ends Oct. 8, 2021

Dear Well Owner:

You are receiving this letter because our records indicate that a water well is located on your property within the Upper Ventura Groundwater Basin. We are reaching out to seek your input on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that is being developed by the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA) to manage the groundwater resources of the Basin. The GSP is an important step toward ensuring the sustainability of your local groundwater resources and is being developed pursuant to the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA). SGMA requires local agencies to form groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) in numerous water basins in the state of California including the Upper Ventura River Basin spanning from Foster Park to the Camino Cielo Bridge in Matilija Canyon. UVRGA was formed in March 2017 and has been working toward the GSP since fall of that year. UVRGA recently released a draft of the GSP and is seeking your comments and input on the plan. UVRGA is accepting comments on the GSP through October 8, 2021. The GSP will then be updated and adopted for submittal to the California Department of Water Resources on or before January 31, 2022. The plan is designed to maintain or achieve sustainable groundwater conditions within 20 years of the adoption date.

UVRGA will be holding two public workshops in September concerning the draft GSP:

Workshop 4A: Hosted by Ventura River Watershed Committee, September 3, 1pm

Visit <http://venturawatershed.org/> for Workshop 4A details.

Workshop 4B: Hosted by UVRGA, September 23, 1pm

Visit <https://uvrgroundwater.org/> for Workshop 4B details.

We encourage you to attend our workshops to learn more about the GSP. We also encourage you to review the draft GSP and submit comments for our consideration. We request that you please use our on-line comment form, which can be found at the bottom of <https://uvrgroundwater.org/sgma-overview/>. Please note that comments submitted via the on-line form will be prioritized for review. If you do not use the on-line comment form, please submit your comments electronically in an editable format (e.g., MS Word or an unlocked pdf) via email to bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org.

Please see our attached newsletter and visit <https://uvrgroundwater.org/> for more information. We look forward to your participation in the planning process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bryan Bondy'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bryan Bondy
Executive Director

Attachment: Newsletter Volume 2, Issue 3

Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency seeks public input on groundwater basin; workshops Sept. 3 and 23

Details

Published: Thursday, 26 August 2021 19:32

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Ojai Valley News photo by Perry Van Houten

The Ventura River, near Meiners Oaks.

By Perry Van Houten, Ojai Valley News senior reporter

A local water agency is holding a pair of public workshops to gather feedback on its plan to manage an Ojai Valley groundwater basin.

On Sept. 3 and Sept. 23, Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency will hold the virtual workshops to present and discuss the agency's state-mandated draft groundwater sustainability plan.

The agency wants to accomplish two things with the workshops, according to UVRGA executive director Bryan Bondy. "One is to give an overview of what's in the groundwater sustainability plan," he said. "What it is and what we're trying to do."

UVRGA's development team completed the 191-page public comment draft of the GSP for the Upper Ventura River Basin in early August. "They're large and complex documents that are written in a regulatory language and we want to try and boil that down into some simple language that folks can understand," Bondy said.

The second main objective of the workshops is to get feedback from stakeholders in the groundwater basin, especially owners of small domestic wells. "Get their input on the goals of the plan and the objectives in the plan that are going to determine what sustainable conditions are going to be and how we're going to achieve those," Bondy told the Ojai Valley News.

According to UVRGA, the draft GSP describes the basin setting, goals for sustainable management of the groundwater basin, and an implementation plan to achieve those goals within 20 years.

Under a state law passed in 2014 — the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act — communities above certain groundwater basins are required to come up with groundwater sustainability plans.

At the core of SGMA is the distinction between the state managing water resources versus a local body like the groundwater sustainability agency, which is comprised of representatives from local water districts that use water in the region, Bondy said. It contrasts with the way surface water is managed at the state level.

If you want to divert water from a river or stream, you go to the state and file an application and get a permit. "Groundwater is not managed by the state, and SGMA wanted to keep it that way," Bondy said. "So the idea of local management is these groundwater sustainability agencies, making the decisions about groundwater management and doing that explicitly with the input of the stakeholders in the basin."

At the workshops, the fourth in a series held by UVRGA, the agency expects to get feedback from the water districts, agriculture and some smaller water companies in the basin.

But the agency would especially like to hear from people who own domestic wells; small wells that are used to serve a single family home. "We'd like to get their input, because they haven't really been participating to any great extent in the planning process. So we want to hear about what's important to them in terms of sustainability of water for their very important uses at their homes," Bondy said.

The agency also wants to hear from the general public and environmental interests. "Groundwater is also used by the environment, and that's a very important issue in this basin," Bondy stated.

UVRGA wanted to expand public outreach on the draft GSP by holding two workshops hosted by two separate agencies.

The first workshop will be hosted by the Ventura River Watershed Council Sept. 3 at 1 p.m.

The second workshop, hosted by UVRGA, is Sept. 23 at 1 p.m.

UVRGA opened a 60-day public comment period on the draft GSP Aug. 10. Comments will be accepted through Oct. 8.

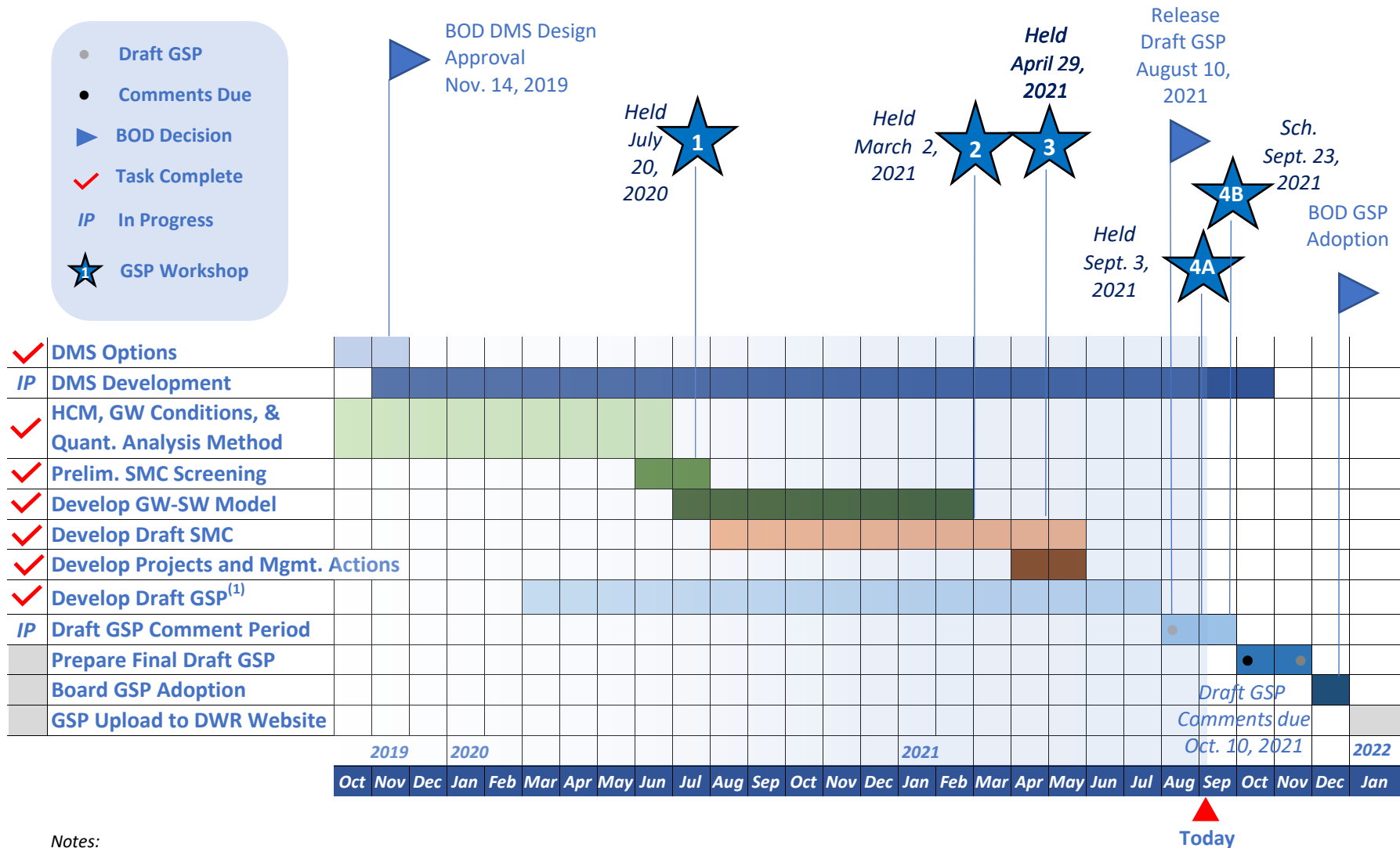
The agency expects to adopt the GSP in November or December, but no date has been set for a public hearing on adoption, Bondy stated.

By state law, the agency's board of directors must adopt the GSP by January 31, 2022. "This is all going to get wrapped up in this calendar year, most likely," Bondy said.

For more information on the public workshops, visit <http://venturawatershed.org/> and <https://uvrga.org/>.

The draft GSP is available for viewing or download at <https://uvrga.org/sgma-overview/>.

**Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency
GSP Development Schedule Updated September 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