

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 14, 2021

The Board meeting was held via teleconference in accordance with Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Board Resolution No. 2021-05. Directors present were Bruce Kuebler, Larry Rose, Susan Rungren, Emily Ayala, Pete Kaiser, Glenn Shephard, and Diana Engle. Also, present: Executive Director Bryan Bondy, Agency Counsel Wayne Lemieux, and Administrative Assistant Maureen Tucker. Identified public members present: Burt Handy (public), Jenny Tribo (City of Ventura staff), Mary Bergen (Casitas MWD director and UVRGA alternate director), and Steve Slack (CDFW staff).

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Engle called the meeting to order at 1:00 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, Susan Rungren, Pete Kaiser, Glenn Shephard, Diana Engle, Emily Ayala

Directors Absent: none

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA & RENEWAL OF RESOLUTION 2021-05

Chair Engle asked for any proposed changes to the agenda. No changes were offered. Chair Engle requested an explanation of the Resolution No. 2021-05 renewal. Agency Counsel Wayne Lemieux briefly explained the requirements.

Director Kaiser moved agenda approval and renewal of Resolution 2021-05. Director Rungren seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y L. Rose – Y D. Engle – Y
 S. Rungren – 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 September 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Approve Minutes from September 23, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- c. Approve Financial Report for September 2021
- d. Approve Rate Increase for Bondy Groundwater Consulting, Inc.

Director Rungren moved approval of the consent calendar items. Director Shephard seconded the motion.

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

Director Absent: none

7) DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Director Kuebler: No time. Reported that he attended a meeting of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency regarding their GSP and made comments on their analysis of San Antonio Creek flows.

Director Rungren: No time. No report.

Director Rose: No time. No report.

Director Shephard: No time. No report.

Director Kaiser: No time. No report.

Director Ayala: No time. No report

Director Engle: No time. Reported that she attended two meetings concerning Matilija Dam removal. Sedimentation in the Kennedy area is an issue that will need to be investigated.

8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Bondy briefly reviewed the written staff report with the Board concerning updates on non-GSP Agency matters since the last Board meeting. He also provided a brief summary of the October 13, 2021 VRIF meeting that he attended.

Director Kaiser asked what the process is for addressing unpaid fees. Executive Director Bondy said there has not been a situation in which the fees have not been paid. The only

issue is penalties and interest for late payments, which the Board has waived in the past. He added that there are several penalties and interest amounts on the books that need to be brought to the Board.

Director Kuebler said that Regina Hirsch is tracking grant opportunities as part of the VRIF process, but he is not sure if she is thinking about opportunities that the GSAs may be interested in. Executive Director Bondy said he has spoken with Ms. Hirsch in the past about UVRGA's interests. He will reach out again to remind her that the Agency is interested in opportunities to obtain funding for monitoring.

Chair Engle asked about grant retention. Executive Director Bondy stated that the grant has 10% retention. He said the Agency will receive the retention payment toward the end of current fiscal year, which is accounted for in the budget.

No public comments.

9) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a. Fiscal Year 2021/2022 First Quarter Budget Report

Executive Director Bondy briefly reviewed the first quarter budget report. He stated there is an error in the budget concerning grant revenue that should be fixed during the mid-year review. \$60,897.06 was accidentally included as income for fiscal year 2021/2022 that had already been booked during a prior fiscal year. The error only affects the income statement; the cash flow projection was correct.

Director Ayala moved to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 First Quarter Budget Report. Director Kaiser seconded the motion.

No public comments.

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

Director Absent: none

10) GSP ITEMS

a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update (Grant Category (d); Task 12: GSP Review and Approvals)

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report with the Board concerning GSP development status. He said the goal is to have a final GSP draft ready in November and hold the required public hearing at the regular Board meeting on

December 9. Ideally the GSP will be adopted in December to provide ample time for upload of the GSP and the data to the DWR web portal.

Comment responses and redline edits to the GSP will be ready in early November for discussion at the November regular board meeting. If a second meeting is needed to discuss the comment responses and edits, that would need to be scheduled too. The Board discussed the November schedule. The normal date for a special meeting would fall on Thanksgiving Day. The next regular board meeting falls on Veteran's Day. The Board discussed changing the date of the next regular meeting. It was decided to cancel the regular board meeting on November 11, 2021 and hold a special meeting on November 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the GSP budget attachment with the Board. Director Ayala thanked Executive Director Bondy for the budget details.

No Public comment.

No motion.

b. Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan Comments (Grant Category (e); Task 12; GSP Reviews and Approvals)

Executive Director Bryan Bondy summarized the GSP comments received. The two primary themes are (1) concerns about identification groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and (2) the minimum threshold for the depletion of interconnected surface water sustainability criterion. He briefly reviewed the scientific analysis included in the GSP concerning these comment subject areas.

Director Kuebler asked if there is guidance on comment response format. Executive Director Bondy said the regulations require a summary of responses. The GSP Development Team is developing a comment response table to meet this requirement.

Director Kaiser thanked the Executive Director for staying focused on the scientific evidence.

Director Rose said that Rice Creek was realigned 8-10 years ago, which may have changed the distribution of vegetation in that area.

Director Ayala said she agrees with the screening out of vegetation near irrigated areas. She said she observed oaks die off after irrigation ceased at an orchard.

Director Shepherd said he likes The Executive Director's approach. It is rooted in logic.

Director Rungren concurred with Director Shepherd.

Director Engle said Meiner's Oaks Water District did not provide comments on the GSP.

Public comments:

Mary Bergen asked about the timing of studies to further evaluate the indirect effect of pumping on GDEs.

Steve Slack expressed appreciation to UVRGA for considering CDFW's comments. CDFW is concerned that SGMA is not accomplishing what they had hoped it would.

c. Intera, Inc. Works Order No. 3 Budget Modification (Grant Category (a); Grant Administration)

Executive Director Bondy briefed the Board on the proposed budget modification for Intera, Inc. Work Order No. 3 to complete the GSP. He referred the Board to the GSP budget analysis presented during Item No. 10(a).

Director Kuebler moved to increase the budget for Intera, Inc. Work Order No. 3 from \$418,780 to \$463,610. Seconded by Director Kaiser.

No public comment.

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

Director Absent: none

d. Rincon Consultants, Inc. Work Order No. 1 Budget Modification (Grant Category (a): Grant Administration)

Executive Director Bondy briefed the Board on the proposed budget modification for Rincon Consultants Work Order No. 1 to complete the GSP. He referred the Board to the GSP budget analysis presented during Item No. 10(a).

Director Kaiser moved to increase the authorized amount on Rincon's Work Order No. 1 from \$77,500 to \$92,141. Director Rose seconded the motion.

No public comment.

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

11) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee

Director Rose said there is no report this month.

No public comments.

12) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Engle confirmed that the November 11, 2021 regular meeting will be cancelled and a special meeting will be held on November 15, 2021 at 10 a.m.

13) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.