

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (“Agency”) Board of Directors (“Board”) will hold a **Special Board Meeting at 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 6, 2022 via**

ON-LINE OR TELECONFERENCE:

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

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81959863612?pwd=M2xBVUhqYXdUV1R5ZHZIQk5BVzFDQT09>

JOIN BY COMPUTER, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81959863612?pwd=M2xBVUhqYXdUV1R5ZHZIQk5BVzFDQT09>

Meeting ID: 819 5986 3612

Passcode: 299828

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

Per Resolution No. 2021-05 by the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency, the Board 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 Board. A physical location accessible for the public to participate in the teleconference is not required.

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

January 6, 2022

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & RENEWAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-05

Pursuant to AB 361, the Board may continue to meet via teleconference, provided it make the findings in section 3 of Resolution No. 2021-05.

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. GSP ITEMS

**a. Adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Upper Ventura River Valley Basin via Resolution 2022-01
(Grant Category (e), Task 12 GSP Reviews and Approvals)**

The Board will consider adopting Resolution 2022-01: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Adopting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Upper Ventura River Valley Basin.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2022 at 1 P.M.

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

DATE: January 6, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Upper Ventura River Valley Basin via Resolution 2022-01
(Grant Category (e), Task 12 GSP Reviews and Approvals)

SUMMARY

On December 9, 2021 UVRGA held a noticed public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Upper Ventura River Valley Basin. Written comments were received from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on December 8, 2021, presumably for the public hearing. No other comments were provided in writing for the public hearing. No oral comments were received during the public hearing. The NMFS comment letter is posted on the Agency website at: https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/12_8DEC2021_NMFS-Comments-breakouts.pdf.

UVRGA's GSP Development Team has carefully considered and responded to the comments received for the public hearing. An updated comment response table (GSP Appendix G) has been posted to the Agency website at <https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/DRAFT-UVRGA-GSP-Appendix-G-Updated-Post-Public-Hearing.pdf> (new comments and responses are nos. 94 through 171).

Pursuant to Board direction provided on December 9, 2021, a redline of the GSP text is posted to the Agency website at: https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/GSP-Redline-Comparison_11172021_to_12302021.pdf. The redline changes are summarized as follows:

1. Removed "Tentative Final" and updated document date.
2. Addressed miscellaneous grammatical, typo, and formatting issues.
3. Added the following text to ES-2, ES-6, Section 2.3.1 (Beneficial Uses and Users, Section 4.3 (Process for Establishing Sustainable Management Criteria), and Sections 4.4.1, 4.5.1, 4.7.1, and 4.9.1 (i.e., the "Undesirable Results" sections for each applicable sustainability indicator):

"UVRGA has considered public trust resources in development of this GSP by considering the impacts to riparian and aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystems, including endangered species therein, and by setting minimum thresholds designed to prevent undesirable results under SGMA."

4. Update Appendix G comment responses to address NMFS comments.
5. Added three new subsections (6.5, 6.6, and 6.7) to Section 6 (Project and Management Actions). These new subsections repeat the monitoring network improvement actions described in Section 5 (Monitoring Networks) in the format of GSP implementation projects. The subsections address the new monitoring wells described in Section 5.3.4, the new stream gages described in Section 5.8.1 and 5.8.4, and the monitoring proposed for the Confluence Habitat Area described in Sections 5.8.1 and 5.8.4. Adding these subsections increases the potential for obtaining GSP implementation grant funding for these actions because these actions were not explicitly identified as “projects” in prior GSP drafts. The proposed changes do not change the scope or budget for GSP implementation.

Proposed Resolution 2022-01 (Attachment A) provides for the Executive Director to make non-substantive edits to the GSP after adoption and prior to submittal to DWR. The following non-substantive edits will be incorporated into the GSP prior to submittal to DWR:

1. Update Appendix F (List of Public Meetings) to include the Board of Directors meetings held in November 2021 through January 6, 2022.
2. Any remaining grammatical, typo, or formatting issues.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Adopt Resolution 2022-01.

BACKGROUND

SMGA provides that a GSA may adopt or amend a GSP after a public hearing held at least 90 days after providing notice to a city or county within the area of the proposed Plan. (Water Code Section 10728.4.)

The Executive Director sent the required city and county consultation notifications via email on August 11, 2021 to the City of Ventura, the City of Ojai, and the County of Ventura. No requests for consultation were received from the cities or Ventura County.

UVRGA held a noticed public hearing on December 9, 2021. Written public comments were received from NMFS on December 8, 2021. No other comments were provided in writing for the public hearing. No oral comments were received during the public hearing. UVRGA’s GSP Development Team has carefully considered and responded to the comments received from NMFS.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Draft Resolution 2022-01

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B. Kuebler ___ D. Engle ___ P. Kaiser ___ S. Rungren ___ G. Shephard ___ E. Ayala ___ L. Rose ___

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
ADOPTING A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR
THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER VALLEY BASIN**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UPPER
VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY as follows:**

WHEREAS, the California Legislature passed a statewide framework for sustainable groundwater management, known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (California Water Code section 10720 *et seq.*), pursuant to Senate Bill 1168, Senate Bill 1319, and Assembly Bill 1739, which was approved by the Governor and Chaptered by the Secretary of State on September 16, 2014; and,

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) went into effect on January 1, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, SGMA requires all high- and medium-priority groundwater basins, as designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118, to be managed by a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA); and,

WHEREAS, the Upper Ventura River Valley Subbasin has been designated by DWR as a medium-priority subbasin of the Ventura River Basin (DWR Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basin: 4-003.01); and,

WHEREAS, the Casitas Municipal Water District, the Ventura River Water District, the Meiners Oaks Water District, the City of San Buenaventura, and the County of Ventura elected on March 9, 2017 to become a GSA for the Subbasin; and,

WHEREAS, SGMA requires that all basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins and not subject to critical conditions of overdraft be managed by a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) by January 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency filed an initial notification of its intent to develop a GSP for the Subbasin in accordance with Water Code section 10727.8 on December 20, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency has prepared a GSP for its boundaries in accordance with Water Code section 10727.2 to include all the components required by SGMA; and,

WHEREAS, Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency gave notice on August 11, 2021, pursuant to Water Code section 10728.4, to affected cities and counties regarding its intent to adopt a GSP; and,

WHEREAS, Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency held a hearing on December 9, 2021 for the purpose of receiving public comment and considering adoption of a GSP for the Subbasin; and,

WHEREAS, upon adoption of a GSP, Water Code section 10733.4 requires that GSP to be submitted to DWR for review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. The GSP, in the form presented this day to the Board of Directors and subject to any final non-substantive edits that may be made at the Executive Director's discretion prior to submittal to DWR, is hereby approved and adopted.
3. The Executive Director is authorized and directed to timely provide notification of this approval and adoption to DWR, including a copy of this Resolution, the approved GSP, and any additional information required by law.

[signature page follows]

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of January 2022.

Diana Engle, Board Chair

ATTEST:

Bryan Bondy
Executive Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Keith Lemieux, Upper Ventura River
Groundwater Agency General Counsel

DRAFT