

**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 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 13, 2022 via**

**ON-LINE OR TELECONFERENCE:**

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

**Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81557447669?pwd=eWsvQWV3M2VLd2dPODFrN2dmUHBPZz09>**

**JOIN BY COMPUTER, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE:**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81557447669?pwd=eWsvQWV3M2VLd2dPODFrN2dmUHBPZz09>**

**Meeting ID: 815 5744 7669**

**Passcode: 807694**

**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**  
**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**January 13, 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. 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 December 9, 2021 Special and Regular Board Meeting**
- b. Approve Minutes from January 6, 2022 Special Board Meeting**
- c. Approve Financial Report for December 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. Resolution 2022-02 Honoring Larry Rose**

The Board will consider adopting Resolution 2022-02 to honor Larry Rose for serving as the Environmental Stakeholder Director from February 2017 through January 2022.

### **b. Appoint Environmental Stakeholder Director**

The Member Directors will review nominations received and consider making an Environmental Stakeholder Director appointment for the balance of the two-year term ending February 1, 2023.

### **c. Fiscal Year 2021/2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Report and Mid-Year Budget Modifications**

The Board will consider receiving and filing the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter budget report and approving mid-year budget modifications.

### **d. 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**

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 scheduled for February 10, 2022.

## **UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY MINUTES OF SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 9, 2021**

The Special and Regular Board meetings were 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 Scott Nave, and Administrative Assistant Maureen Tucker. Identified public members present: Jenny Tribo (City of Ventura staff), Mary Bergen (Casitas MWD director and UVRGA alternate director), Kelly Dyer (Casitas MWD staff), Michael Flood (Casitas MWD staff), Burt Rapp (Ventura River Water District staff), Kevin DeLano (SWRCB staff), and Burt Handy.

### **1) CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Engle called the meeting to order at 12:31 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, and Emily Ayala

Directors Absent: none

### **4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND RENEWAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-05**

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

Director Rose moved agenda approval and renewal of Resolution 2021-05. Director Ayala 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 November 15, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- b. Approve Financial Report for November 2021
- c. Regular Board Meeting Schedule for 2022

Director Rose moved approval of the consent calendar items. Director Kaiser 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

**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. No report.

Director Rungren:            No time. No report.

Director Rose:                No time. Director Rose reported that he has informed Chair Engle and Executive Director Bondy that he will resign from the Board after the GSP is adopted.

Director Shephard:            No time. No report.

Director Kaiser:              No time. No report.

Director Ayala:                No time. The OBGMA meeting was moved to 2 p.m. today.

Director Engle:                No time. No report.

**8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report with the Board concerning updates on non-GSP Agency matters.

No questions from the Board.

No public comment.

**9) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

No administrative items this meeting.

**10) GSP ITEMS**

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

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report with the Board concerning GSP development status.

Chair Engle asked about the GSP deadline. Executive Director Bondy said the GSP must be adopted and uploaded to DWR by January 31, 2022.

No public comment.

**b. PUBLIC HEARING**

**Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Upper Ventura River Valley Basin via Resolution 2021-06 (Grant Category (e); Task 12; GSP Reviews and Approvals)**

Chair Engle opened the public hearing at 12:46 p.m.

Executive Director Bondy briefly explained that the purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment and testimony concerning the proposed GSP. He stated that written comments were received yesterday from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which are included in the staff report for the item.

Director Ayala said that she believes some people are under the impression that the public hearing portion of the meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. and suggested waiting until after 1:00 p.m. to close the public hearing.

Agency Counsel stated the Board could handle Item No. 11 while waiting. Director Rose said there is no report from the Stakeholder Engagement Committee for Item No. 11.

Agency Counsel stated that the Board Chair could recess until 1:00 p.m., if desired. Chair Engle recessed the public hearing at 12:53.

Chair Engle resumed the public hearing at 1:00 p.m. and said the Agency would wait until 1:05 p.m. to provide ample time for anyone who may be trying to join the meeting.

At 1:05 p.m., Director Engle requested public comments on the GSP. No public comments were offered.

Director Engle asked the Executive Director if any additional written comments had been received at the Agency's office at Meiners Oaks Water District (MOWD) or by e-mail.

## Item 6a

Executive Director confirmed with MOWD staff via text and by checking email that no additional comments had been received.

Director Kuebler moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Director Kaiser.

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

Executive Director Bondy summarized the December 8, 2021 letter received from NMFS. He recommended deferring adoption of the GSP until early January to consider and respond to the comments. He suggested adopting the GSP at a special meeting on January 6, 2022. The GSP Development Team would develop responses to the NMFS comments and redline of the GSP text.

Director Kaiser asked the Executive Director if any of the comments concerned him. Executive Director Bondy said that some comments deal with issues downstream of the Basin, such as the Ventura River estuary. Downstream issues are a gray area for the GSA under SGMA, but Public Trust Doctrine is also a consideration. He will be reviewing these issues more carefully with legal counsel. Regardless, there is not enough time to perform any analysis of downstream issues, so he does not expect any big changes to the GSP at this time.

Chair Engle said that UVRGA can't be unique with respect to the downstream issues. Executive Director Bondy said that he believes UVRGA may be the only groundwater sustainability agency where downstream areas are in another groundwater basin that is not subject to SGMA.

Executive Director Bondy said that it is unclear from the comments what it is that UVRGA would analyze. The NMFS letter provides vague statements that UVRGA needs to analyze something. However, nobody has raised any specific concerns for consideration during the three years of GSP development.

Agency Counsel Nave said the GSP is a planning document and is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act requirements to analyze environmental impacts. The GSP is not an EIR. CEQA comes into play if projects are implemented by the Agency.

Chair Engle said UVRGA has no jurisdiction in downstream areas over things such as wastewater plant discharges from Ojai Valley Sanitation District or surface water diversions.

## Item 6a

Director Kaiser said there would be a lot of information that would need to be analyzed to determine effects related to the Upper Ventura River Basin versus other factors.

Director Kuebler expressed concerns about the schedule for uploading the GSP to DWR. He does not want the NMFS letter and response to interfere with submitting the GSP. He read through the NMFS letter and feels NMFS is trying to make SGMA into something it isn't. He asked if the comments could be addressed post-adoption.

Executive Director Bondy said that SGMA requires UVRGA to respond to credible comments on the GSP. Having said that, SGMA does not prescribe when the GSA can stop accepting comments. He feels that there is sufficient time to respond and adopt on January 6. He reminded the Board that DWR is required to review comments and responses when considering whether to approve the GSP. He feels it would be in UVRGA's best interest to provide responses to the NMFS comments as opposed to having DWR make up their own mind. He said it will also further demonstrate to DWR that UVRGA was committed to considering all input received on the GSP.

Chair Engle asked if it is practical and possible to limit the GSP changes to minor redline edits, i.e., no new technical analysis, just clarifications.

Executive Director Bondy said he does not anticipate any new technical analysis.

Director Rose asked if there are any required actions or process after the draft GSP public comment period closed?

Executive Director Bondy said that SGMA does not mandate a public comment period on the draft GSP. Most GSA's chose to do that as matter of process, which is what UVRGA did. The only requirements for adopting a GSP are to provide written notice to the cities and county in the Basin and hold a public hearing prior to adopting the GSP.

Agency Counsel said they can do a motion to continue the public hearing to a future date and restrict discussion.

Chair Engle said she does not want to keep things open for additional comments and is not in favor of extending the public hearing.

Executive Director Bondy recommended directing staff to address the NMFS comments and schedule a special meeting to adopt the GSP on January 6, 2022, at 1 p.m. He offered to send the draft comment responses to Casitas MWD and City of Ventura staff because some of the comments are specific to facilities owned and operated by those agencies.



Item 6a

Director Rungren said the City of Ventura plans to meet with NMFS to discuss comments pertaining to the City’s facilities.

Director Kaiser said Mike Flood, Casitas MWD’s General Manager is present and asked if he has any thoughts. Mike Flood said he supports responding to the comments but added that the process cannot go on forever. Director Kaiser requested that the Executive Director coordinate with Casitas MWD staff on the comment responses.

Director Kuebler moved to direct staff to prepare responses to the NMFS comments, make redline changes to the GSP, review comment responses with Casitas MWD and City of Ventura staff as necessary, and schedule a Special Board Meeting on January 6, 2022 at 1 p.m. for a GSP adoption vote. Director Kaiser 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

**11) COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
**a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee**

This item was discussed during the public hearing.

**12) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Appoint Director Rose’s replacement.

**13) ADJOURNMENT**

A Special Board Meeting was scheduled for January 6, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

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

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

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

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY MINUTES  
OF SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 6, 2022**

A Special 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 Scott Nave, and Administrative Assistant Maureen Tucker. Identified public members present: Shahab Araghinejad, Jenny Tribo (City of Ventura staff), Mary Bergen (Casitas MWD director and UVRGA alternate director), and Kevin DeLano (SWRCB staff).

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Executive Director Bryan Bondy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3) ROLL CALL**

Executive Director Bondy called the roll.

Directors Present: Bruce Kuebler, Larry Rose, Susan Rungren, Pete Kaiser, Glenn Shephard, Diana Engle, and Emily Ayala

Directors Absent: none

**4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND RENEWAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-05**

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

Director Kaiser moved agenda approval and renewal of Resolution 2021-05. 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

**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) 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)**

Executive Director Bondy explained that the Board held a public hearing concerning the GSP on December 9, 2021. Written testimony was received from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) dated December 8, 2021 for the public hearing. Following the December 9, 2021 public hearing, the Board directed staff to address the NMFS comments and prepare a redline GSP for the Board to consider adopting on January 6, 2022. He explained that the GSP Development team prepared comment responses and redline text that were made available on the Agency website, with links also provided in the staff report. He then summarized changes made to the GSP, including cover page edits, grammatical edits, addition of text concerning the Public Trust Doctrine, and new text to formally present the data gap actions as projects.

Executive Director Bondy said he received requests for minor edits from several Board members and that they will be addressed post-adoption. He explained that Resolution 2022-1 authorizes the Executive Director to make any necessary non-substantive changes to the GSP prior to uploading to Department of Water Resources.

Executive Director Bondy suggested turning the meeting back over to Chair Engle to take questions and comments from the public and Board.

Chair Engle asked for Director comments or questions.

Director Kaiser thanked the Executive Director and team for developing the comment responses. He noted the “CMWS” in comment no. 99 should be “CMWD” and wondered if it was a typo in the comment letter. Executive Director Bondy said he would check and correct it if it was a UVRGA error.

Director Rungren thanked the Executive Director and team for developing the comment responses and said they look great.

Chair Engle called for public comments.

Mary Bergen complimented the Board, Executive Director, and staff.

Director Kuebler moved to adopt Resolution 2022-01 and recognize the work completed by the Executive Director and team. Director Rungren seconded the motion.

Chair Engle thanked the Executive Director and team.

Director Kuebler thanked Larry Rose for his service on the Board.

Director Rose thanked everyone for the long journey and said Vivon Crawford from Ojai Valley Land Conservancy has been identified as a potential replacement.

Director Shephard thanked the Executive Director for putting the Agency in a position to be able to respond to the substantial comments received at the end of the process. He also thanked Director Rose for his service.

Director Kaiser thanked Chair Engle for her leadership.

No public comment on 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) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Environmental Stakeholder Director appointment
- Agency Funding
- Resolution to honor Larry Rose

**8) ADJOURNMENT**

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

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

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

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

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

**DATE:** January 10, 2022  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Carrie Troup C.P.A., Treasurer  
**SUBJECT:** Approve Financial Report for December 2021

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**November 2021 UVRGA Balance** \$ 181,927.03

**December 2021 Activity:**

**Revenues:**

CA Dept. of Water Resources DWR \$ 1,316.25

**Revenues:**

**December Expenditures Paid:**

Debit GoDaddy.com \$ 199.99

**Checks Pending Signature:**

2269	Void	\$	-
2270	Bondy Groundwater Consulting, I December Services	\$	8,809.75
2271	Carrie Troup, C.P.A. December Services	\$	1,261.60
2272	Intera Incorporated December Services	\$	10,244.00
2273	Rincon Consultants Inc November Services	\$	1,903.75
2274	Rincon Consultants Inc December Services	\$	647.50
2275	Mitech Solutions Email Services	\$	2,446.56
2276	Ojai Valley News Advertising	\$	210.00

Total Expenditures Paid & To Be Paid \$ 25,523.16

**December 2021 UVRGA Ending Balance:** \$ 157,520.13

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:** January 13, 2022

**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. One entity is unpaid, totaling \$554.12. A statement will be sent with the next semi-annual fee invoice.
    - ii. The sixth round of semi-annual extraction fee invoices are scheduled for mailing in mid-January.
  - b. GSP Grant: A grant agreement amendment was approved by Department of Water Resources (DWR) on December 24, 2021. The purpose of the amendment is to reconcile the grant category budgets so unused grant funds in one budget category can be invoiced under another category. A final grant invoice for \$21,090 will be submitted to DWR soon.
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. Access for Groundwater Level Monitoring in Well 04N23W20A01S: No update.
    - ii. 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 its draft model report on December 17, 2021. Comments are due April 1, 2022. SWRCB is planning a 12-hour technical workshop, spread over two days, on the draft model. The dates and venue of the workshop are to-be-determined but is expected to occur in February or March 2022.
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\_\_\_



*Resolution 2022-02*

*HONORING*

*Mr. Larry Rose*

**WHEREAS**, Director Rose has faithfully served as the Environmental Stakeholder Director during three terms (February 2017 to January 2022), on the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency, and

**WHEREAS**, Director Rose has given freely of his time, experience, and knowledge at the expense of his family and business activities in order to contribute to the success and accomplishments of the Agency, and

**WHEREAS**, Director Rose was instrumental in UVRGA's stakeholder outreach efforts, developing groundwater extraction estimates for the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP), and other aspects of the GSP development process, and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure, Director Rose has served with dignity and distinction and has contributed significantly to the successful operation of the Upper Ventura Groundwater Agency, now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency take great pleasure in honoring Mr. Larry Rose for his dedicated, loyal, and honorable service.

**PRESENTED BY THE UVRGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS THIS 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2022.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair  
Diana Engle

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Emily Ayala

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Pete Kaiser

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Bruce Kuebler

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Susan Rungren

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Glenn Shephard



## **UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 9(b)**

**DATE:** January 13, 2022

**TO:** Member Directors

**FROM:** Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Appoint Environmental Stakeholder Director

### **SUMMARY**

On November 15, 2021 Director Larry Rose provided written notice of his intent to resign from the Environmental Stakeholder Director position following GSP adoption (Attachment A). Director Rose's resignation was effective January 7, 2022.

On December 10, 2021 the Executive Director issued a call for nominations in accordance with the UVRGA joint powers agreement requirements. The call for nominations was emailed to the UVRGA interested parties list and distributed through the Ventura River Watershed Council (Attachment B). One nomination was received from Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC). OVLC nominated their Restoration Program Manager, Vivon Crawford. OVLC's nomination and Ms. Crawford's resume are included in Attachment C to this staff report.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Review nominations received and consider making an appointment for the balance of the Environmental Stakeholder Director two year term ending February 1, 2023.

### **BACKGROUND**

Pursuant to Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) Section 6.5, Environmental Stakeholder Director appointments are to be made by an affirmative vote of all Member Directors.

### **FISCAL SUMMARY**

None.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Director Larry Rose Resignation E-mails
- B. Call For Nominations E-mails
- C. OVLC Nomination for Vivon Crawford

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

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

B. Kuebler\_\_\_ D. Engle\_\_\_ P. Kaiser\_\_\_ S. Rungren\_\_\_ G. Shephard\_\_\_

**Bryan Bondy**

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**From:** Larry Rose <larryrose@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 12:17 PM  
**To:** Bryan Bondy  
**Cc:** Diana Engle  
**Subject:** Environmental Director  
**Attachments:** Vivon Crawford\_Resume.pdf

Dear Bryan,

I will be resigning from the Environmental Director position once the GSP is adopted on December 9.

Good news; Vivon Crawford, OVLC's Restoration Program Manager, is excited about participating. Her qualifications in water policy and environmental monitoring are exemplary for developing monitoring and restoration projects during the implementation phase of the GSP. This is an unsurpassed opportunity for collaboration with OVLC on environmental issues on the river. She has ED Tom Maloney's support as well.

At the outset, I could have never imagined the complexity of our GSP, and it was with great relief that we were able to get you to carry us along the way. I feel privileged to have worked with you and know the GSP implementation will develop smoothly because of the exhaustive work you have done.

Sincerely  
Larry Rose

## Item 9b, Attachment A

### **Bryan Bondy**

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**From:** Larry Rose  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 9, 2021 10:06 AM  
**To:** Bryan Bondy  
**Cc:** Diana Engle  
**Subject:** GSP Adoption

Hi Bryan,

Got your call. I will certainly stay on the board until the GSP is adopted

Thanks  
Larry

**Bryan Bondy**

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**From:** Bryan Bondy  
**Sent:** Friday, December 10, 2021 10:52 AM  
**To:** Bryan Bondy  
**Cc:** Diana Engle; Larry Rose; Scott Nave; Keith Lemieux  
**Subject:** UVRGA Environmental Stakeholder Director Call for Nominations

Dear UVRGA Interested Party,

We are very sad to learn that Larry Rose intends to resign from his Environmental Stakeholder Director seat on the UVRGA Board of Directors following adoption of the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP). Larry has served UVRGA very well; he was instrumental in our stakeholder outreach efforts, developing groundwater use estimates for the GSP, and other aspects of the GSP development process. UVRGA was very lucky to have Larry serve on the Board during the last four years.

In anticipation of Director Rose's resignation and in accordance with Article 6.3.6(b) of the UVRGA Joint Powers Agreement, this e-mail is a call for nominations for the UVRGA Environmental Stakeholder Director appointment. Please note that only environmental nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organizations meeting the following criteria may submit nominations:

1. Is currently active within Ventura County;
2. Has an adopted budget; and
3. Has a mission that advances, or is furthered by, groundwater sustainability.

Please note that nominees must be an active member of a 501(c)(3) organization that meets the above-listed criteria.

Please submit nominations to my attention at the above email address by January 6, 2022. Nominations should include a resume or CV and documentation of compliance with the above-listed eligibility criteria.

The UVRGA Member Directors will consider the nominees at a regular meeting (tentatively January 13, 2022) and will appoint the Environmental Stakeholder Director upon a vote of all Member Directors.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for your nominations.

Best Regards,

--

Bryan Bondy, PG, CHG  
Executive Director  
UVRGA  
805-212-0484

**Bryan Bondy**

---

**From:** Ventura River Watershed Council <info@venturawatershed.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 10, 2021 12:10 PM  
**To:** Bryan Bondy  
**Subject:** UVRGA Environmental Stakeholder Director Call for Nominations

[View this email in your browser](#)

December 10, 2021



Dear Ventura River Watershed Council,

Please find below an announcement on behalf of UVRGA

--

Dear UVRGA Interested Party,

We are very sad to learn that Larry Rose intends to resign from his Environmental Stakeholder Director seat on the UVRGA Board of Directors following adoption of the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP). Larry has served UVRGA very well; he was instrumental in our stakeholder outreach efforts, developing groundwater use estimates for the GSP, and other aspects of the GSP development process. UVRGA was very lucky to have Larry serve on the Board during the last four years.

In anticipation of Director Rose's resignation and in accordance with Article 6.3.6(b) of the UVRGA Joint Powers Agreement, this e-mail is a call for nominations for the UVRGA Environmental Stakeholder Director appointment. Please note that only environmental nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organizations meeting the

following criteria may submit nominations:

1. Is currently active within Ventura County;
2. Has an adopted budget; and
3. Has a mission that advances, or is furthered by, groundwater sustainability.

Please note that nominees must be an active member of a 501(c)(3) organization that meets the above-listed criteria.

Please submit nominations to my attention at the above email address by January 6, 2022. Nominations should include a resume or CV and documentation of compliance with the above-listed eligibility criteria.

The UVRGA Member Directors will consider the nominees at a regular meeting (tentatively January 13, 2022) and will appoint the Environmental Stakeholder Director upon a vote of all Member Directors.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for your nominations.

Best Regards,

--

Bryan Bondy, PG, CHG  
Executive Director  
UVRGA  
805-212-0484

---

Best regards,  
The Ventura County RCD team

Email: [venturawatershed@gmail.com](mailto:venturawatershed@gmail.com)

---

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You are receiving this email because you requested to be on the Ventura River Watershed Council's email list.

**Our address is:**

Ventura River Watershed Coordinator

Physical: 3380 Somis Road, Somis, CA 93066

Mailing: 3349 Unit 147, Somis, CA 93066

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).





**Bryan Bondy**

---

**From:** Tom Maloney <tom@ovlc.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2021 10:13 AM  
**To:** Bryan Bondy  
**Cc:** Larry Rose; Roger Essick; Vivon Crawford; Emily Thacher  
**Subject:** Re: UVRGA Environmental Stakeholder Director Call for Nominations  
**Attachments:** Vivon Crawford\_Resume.pdf

Hi Bryan --

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy is pleased to nominate Vivon Crawford as Environmental Stakeholder Director on the UVRGA Board of Directors. As you are aware, OVLC fits all the eligibility criteria. Specifically, OVLC is:

- currently active in Ventura County;
- the OVLC Board adopts an annual plan and budget annually on a July 1 fiscal year timing (if necessary I will send the budget to you);
- **OVLC's mission is to** protect and restore the open space, wildlife habitat, watersheds, and views of the Ojai Valley for current and future generations. Since water is so vital to these objectives and since most of OVLC's preserves are located on the Ventura River, there is very clear alignment in our purposes;
- Vivon is a senior staff person with OVLC so definitely meets the standard of being active in the organization!

Since Vivon will lead OVLC restoration activities, her involvement as a board member makes a lot of sense. Also, the ecological monitoring to refine subsequent management plans will need to align with OVLC's activities on our preserves. Having Vivon "in the room" should facilitate the implementation of these monitoring and research activities.

As you will see in Vivon's CV, she has a Master's from the UCSB Bren School with a strong emphasis on Sustainable Water Management. This deepens the potential for meaningful contributions with Vivon on the Board.

Please don't hesitate to call me on my cell 805-602-2294 to discuss this nomination.

Best wishes to you and yours for the Holidays!

Tom.

## Item 9b, Attachment C

On Fri, Dec 10, 2021 at 10:51 AM Bryan Bondy <[bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org](mailto:bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org)> wrote:

Dear UVRGA Interested Party,

We are very sad to learn that Larry Rose intends to resign from his Environmental Stakeholder Director seat on the UVRGA Board of Directors following adoption of the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP). Larry has served UVRGA very well; he was instrumental in our stakeholder outreach efforts, developing groundwater use estimates for the GSP, and other aspects of the GSP development process. UVRGA was very lucky to have Larry serve on the Board during the last four years.

In anticipation of Director Rose's resignation and in accordance with Article 6.3.6(b) of the UVRGA Joint Powers Agreement, this e-mail is a call for nominations for the UVRGA Environmental Stakeholder Director appointment. Please note that only environmental nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organizations meeting the following criteria may submit nominations:

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Please note that nominees must be an active member of a 501(c)(3) organization that meets the above-listed criteria.

Please submit nominations to my attention at the above email address by January 6, 2022. Nominations should include a resume or CV and documentation of compliance with the above-listed eligibility criteria.

The UVRGA Member Directors will consider the nominees at a regular meeting (tentatively January 13, 2022) and will appoint the Environmental Stakeholder Director upon a vote of all Member Directors.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for your nominations.

Best Regards,

## Item 9b, Attachment C

--

Bryan Bondy, PG, CHG

Executive Director

UVRGA

805-212-0484

--

Tom Maloney

Executive Director

(805) 649 - 6852 ext. 1

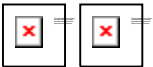


[Ojai Valley Land Conservancy](#)

PO Box 1092

Ojai, California 93024

[805-649-6852 x1](#)



**VIVON DODSON CRAWFORD**

+1 (408) 472 – 7173 | [vivon@ovlc.org](mailto:vivon@ovlc.org) | [vivoncrawford3@gmail.com](mailto:vivoncrawford3@gmail.com) | [LinkedIn](#)

**EDUCATION**

---

**Master of Environmental Science and Management** (June 2018)

**Bren School of Environmental Science & Management**, University of California, Santa Barbara

Thesis: “Securing Water Rights from Decommissioning Coal Power Plants for Instream Flows in the Western United States”

Emphases: Economics & Politics Specialization | Water Resources Management Emphasis | Strategic Communication & Media Focus

Awards: Sustainable Water Markets Fellowship Award (Walton Family Foundation, \$16,000) | California Planning Foundation Award (American Planning Association, \$1,000)

**Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies** (June 2016)

**University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)**

Thesis: “Integrated Regional Water Management Strategy Assessment, Santa Barbara County”

Emphasis & Minor: Chemical Hydrology Emphasis | Professional Writing Minor

Awards: UCSB Dean’s List, American Planning Association California Planning Foundation Award

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy**, Ojai, CA

**Restoration Program Manager** (Aug. 2021 – Present)

- Manage restoration portfolio across 2,300+ acres of preserved lands, including riparian, oak woodland, chaparral, and coastal sage scrub habitats.
- Identify multi-benefit restoration projects to make meaningful progress towards climate resiliency. Pursue opportunities to expand restoration portfolio and secure grant funds to advance these objectives.
- Manage grants and contracts, secure permits, develop implementation plans, conduct biological monitoring, and ensure timely reporting for ongoing restoration projects.
- Collaborate with agency partners, NGOs, and private firms in restoration project planning. Conduct local landowner outreach to build community support for new projects.
- Oversee restoration field staff and manage native plant nursery operations.

**Wildlife Conservation Society**, South America

**Drone Analyst**, Argentina Program (Nov. 2018 – Nov. 2020)

- Facilitate project planning between organization executives, board members, country directors, and government researchers; plan and conduct drone surveys of wildlife; and analyze spatial data outputs.
- Design aerial surveys of guanaco habitat using a fixed-wing drone with dual thermal and RGB cameras throughout the Mendoza-Neuquén Guanaco Corridor to compare with ground transects.
- Conduct first island-wide drone surveys of black-browed albatross and southern rockhopper penguins on Steeple and Grand Jason Island, Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and collaborated with Duke Marine Robotics Laboratory engineers to develop an automated detection and enumeration algorithm—results published in The Condor: Ornithological Applications.

**Rincon Consultants**, Oakland, CA

**Environmental Planning Intern** (Jun. 2017 – Sept. 2017)

- Assess environmental impacts of proposed land use development projects in the Bay Area.
- Lead author on environmental impact reports for schools, medical facilities, mixed-use development, affordable housing, and open space, in compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Conduct biological resources, hydrologic resources, water supply, and wastewater analyses.

## Item 9b, Attachment C

### **Higginsland Environmental**, Santa Barbara, CA

#### **Land Use Planner** (Jun. 2015 – Jun. 2017)

- Represent clients to potential lessors, communicate lease terms to lessors, analyze and interpret findings from technical studies to clients and government officials, and assess compliance with CEQA.
- Present more than 20 projects to city and county planning commissions and architectural boards of review (15+ approved).

### **Environmental Studies Department**, University of California, Santa Barbara

#### **Teaching Assistant** – Environmental Ethics, Introduction to Environmental Studies, and Water Policy in the West (4 Quarters, Sept. 2016 – Jan. 2018)

- Lead discussion section for 70+ undergraduate students.
- Develop and present two-part lecture about water markets to supplement water policy course.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

---

### **Outreach Manager**, Securing Water Rights from Decommissioning Coal Power Plants for Instream Flows (Mar. 2017 – Jun. 2018)

- Risk characterization and assessment for investments in water rights from retiring coal plants.
- Map coal plants and diversions throughout the west, analyze water use of coal plants, understand state-specific water law for 13 western states, investigate water rights and transfer options, perform financial analyses for investment options, and model conservation outcomes.
- Clients: Brian Richter and Charles Wight (The Nature Conservancy – Global Water Program) | Advisors: James Salzman, Robert Wilkinson (UCSB Bren School).
- *Link to summary of thesis findings here.*

### **Project Manager**, Primer on Alternative Transfer Methods for Colorado Decision-Makers (Jan. 2018 – Jun. 2018)

- Identify opportunities for Colorado decision-makers to leverage alternative transfer methods to augment local water supplies and ensure long-term viability of agriculture in Colorado. Collaborate with Colorado-based organizations and conduct stakeholder meetings.
- Client: Lindsay Rodgers (WaterNow Alliance) | Advisor: Lisa Leombruni (UCSB Bren School).
- *Link to full outreach document here.*

### **Project Manager**, Communicating Colorado Water Trust's 2017 Successes with Water Rights Transfers for Instream Flows (Jan. 2018 – Jun. 2018)

- Develop story map to convey successful water rights transfers for instream flows to CWT board.
- Client: Zach Smith (Colorado Water Trust) | Advisor: Lisa Leombruni (UCSB Bren School).

## **SKILLS & LEADERSHIP**

---

Computer Skills: Adobe (Illustrator, InDesign), Geographic Information Systems (ArcGIS, QGIS), Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), R/RStudio, Tableau, Wix/Drupal.

Language Skills: Spanish (fluent).

Drone Certifications: Licensed drone pilot (Argentina).

Conferences: CA American Planning Association, CA Water Policy Conference, Washington Water Law Seminar, Colorado River Water Transfers Workshop, Colorado Water Congress.

Leadership: Development Committee (2020 – current), Sustainable Water Markets Alumni Network; Student Chair, American Planning Association & Association of Environmental Professionals (2015 – 2018)

## UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 9(c)

**DATE:** January 11, 2022

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Executive Director and Treasurer

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Year 2021/2022 2nd Quarter Budget Report and Mid-year Budget Modifications

### SUMMARY

The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter budget report and proposed mid-year budget modifications are enclosed (Attachment A). Proposed budget modifications are presented in the “Profit Loss Budget vs Actual” table (Attachment A). The following is a summary of noteworthy budget status items and recommended budget modifications.

- Income:
  - GSP Grant income was lower than budget because invoicing of the remaining grant funds was pending a grant agreement amendment. The amendment has since been approved and the remaining grant funds will be invoiced during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. It is proposed that the GSP Grant budget be reduced by \$60,897.06 to correct an error in the original budget. This amount reflects grant retainer that was already booked during prior fiscal years. This amount is properly accounted for in accounts receivable and should not be shown as income on the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 profit and loss statement.
  - Groundwater Extraction Fee revenue was per budget expectations.
- Administrative Expenses: No significant deviations. Minor budget adjustments are proposed (Attachment A).
- Professional Services Fees:
  - Legal and Agency Administrator fees are under budget. No budget adjustment is proposed because counsel’s workload will increase during the remainder of the fiscal year for fee development and because the budget assumed quarterly meetings after GSP adoption, but more frequent meetings are anticipated to be necessary to develop fees.
  - Accounting fees are slightly higher than 50% of the annual budget because the first half of the fiscal year is busier due to the financial audit.
  - Executive Director fees are under budget. No budget adjustment is proposed because the budget assumed quarterly meetings after GSP adoption, but more frequent meetings are anticipated to be necessary to develop fees.

- Other Professional Services - This budget category includes costs to complete and submit the GSP, prepare the first SGMA annual report, perform monitoring, perform outreach, coordinate with other related programs, and prepare a grant application. As a reminder, it is noted that costs for the Executive Director's non-administrative activities are captured in this account. It is proposed that the Other Professional Services budget be reduced by \$45,700 to account for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 work completed ahead of schedule during the last two months of Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and for coming in under budget on GSP during Fiscal Year 2021/2022.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. Receive and file the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter budget report.
2. Approve the proposed mid-year budget modifications.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Fiscal Year 2021/2022 budget was adopted on May 27, 2021.

## **FISCAL SUMMARY**

Please see Attachment A.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Report and Proposed Mid-Year Budget Modifications

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

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

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

Profit Loss Budget vs Actual  
July through December 2021

	Actuals Dec 21	Jul - FY Budget Apopted 5/27/21	% of Annual Budget	Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Remaining	Proposed Mid- Year Budget Update	Proposed Budget Change	Comments
Ordinary Income/Expense Income								
41100 · DWR GSP Grant Income	\$ -	\$ 81,804.00	0.0%	\$ 81,804.00	100.0%	\$ 20,906.94	\$ (60,897.06)	\$60,897.06 of budgeted amount is grant retainer that was already booked during prior fiscal years and is included in accounts receivable. This amount should be removed from the FY 22 budget. Does not affect the Agency's cash flow. Balance of grant to be invoiced in January or February 2022.
43000 · Groundwater Extraction Fee	\$ 171,808.87	\$ 343,618.00	50.0%	\$ 171,809.13	50.0%	\$ 343,618.00	\$ -	Semi-annual extraction fees to be issued in January 2022.
Total Income	\$ 171,808.87	\$ 425,422.00	40.4%	\$ 253,613.13	59.6%	\$ 364,524.94	\$ (60,897.06)	
Expense								
55000 · Administrative Exp								
55005 · Rent Expense	\$ 22.58	\$ -	100.0%	\$ (22.58)	N/A	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	Non-refundable reservation fees for board mtg. room. Increase budget for board room rental when in-person meetings resume.
55011 · Computer Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0.0%	\$ 500.00	100.0%	\$ 500.00	\$ -	Includes cloud storage and backups.
55015 · Postage & Shipping	\$ 341.64	\$ 100.00	341.6%	\$ (241.64)	-241.6%	\$ 700.00	\$ 600.00	Update based on actual cost-to-date.
55020 · Office Supplies & Software	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0.0%	\$ 500.00	100.0%	\$ 500.00	\$ -	
55025 · Minor Equipment	\$ -	\$ 250.00	0.0%	\$ 250.00	100.0%	\$ 250.00	\$ -	
55035 · Advertising and Promotion	\$ 420.00	\$ 1,000.00	42.0%	\$ 580.00	58.0%	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 970.00	Includes public notices for GSP adoption and fees. Update based on costs-to-date for GSP public notices (VC Star bill not yet received). Assume fee hearing in June 2022.
55055 · Insurance Expense-SDRMA	\$ 4,147.67	\$ 4,500.00	92.2%	\$ 352.33	7.8%	\$ 4,147.67	\$ (352.33)	Actuals hard edited to show pre-paid expenses. Update based on actual costs.
55060 · Memberships-CSDA	\$ 1,366.00	\$ 1,600.00	85.4%	\$ 234.00	14.6%	\$ 1,366.00	\$ (234.00)	Actuals hard edited to show pre-paid expenses. Update based on actual costs.
Total 55000 · Administrative Exp	\$ 6,297.89	\$ 8,450.00	74.5%	\$ 2,152.11	25.5%	\$ 9,933.67	\$ 1,483.67	
58000 · Professional Fees								
58005 · Executive Director /GSP Mgr.	\$ 8,881.50	\$ 21,600.00	41.1%	\$ 12,718.50	58.9%	\$ 21,600.00	\$ -	This account captures costs for Executive Director's administrative activities only.
58010 · Legal Fees	\$ 10,725.45	\$ 35,000.00	30.6%	\$ 24,274.55	69.4%	\$ 35,000.00	\$ -	This account includes Admin. Asst. costs. Actuals do not include Dec. charges.
58015 · Website	\$ 2,646.55	\$ 3,000.00	88.2%	\$ 353.45	11.8%	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	Includes email costs billed annually.
58020 · Accounting	\$ 8,000.71	\$ 15,000.00	53.3%	\$ 6,999.29	46.7%	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	
58040 · Audit Expense	\$ -	\$ 13,000.00	0.0%	\$ 13,000.00	100.0%	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -	Audit will be billed in Q3.
58050 · Other Professional Services	\$ 149,702.81	\$ 382,536.00	39.1%	\$ 232,833.19	60.9%	\$ 336,836.00	\$ (45,700.00)	FY 22 includes costs to complete and submit GSP, first SGMA annual report, monitoring, outreach, coordination with other related programs, and grant application. Executive Director's non-administrative activity costs are captured in this account. Reduce budget to account for FY 22 work completed in May/June of FY 21 and coming in under budget on GSP in FY 22.
Total 58000 · Professional Fees	\$ 179,957.02	\$ 470,136.00	38.3%	\$ 290,178.98	61.7%	\$ 424,436.00	\$ (45,700.00)	
Total Expense	\$ 186,254.91	\$ 478,586.00	38.9%	\$ 292,331.09	61.1%	\$ 434,369.67	\$ (44,216.33)	Note: approved budget also includes \$26,767 in contingency not shown on this report.
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (14,446.04)	\$ (53,164.00)	27.2%	\$ (38,717.96)	72.8%	\$ (69,844.73)	\$ (16,680.73)	
Net Income	\$ (14,446.04)	\$ (53,164.00)	27.2%	\$ (38,717.96)	72.8%	\$ (69,844.73)	\$ (16,680.73)	



**Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of December 31, 2021**

	Dec 31, 21	Dec 31, 20	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Checking/Savings				
Bank of the Sierra	157,520.13	187,350.47	-29,830.34	-15.9%
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	157,520.13	187,350.47	-29,830.34	-15.9%
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>				
11000 · Accounts Receivable	60,897.06	53,036.65	7,860.41	14.8%
11001 · DWR Grant Retention 10%	554.12	159,215.73	-158,661.61	-99.7%
11000 · Accounts Receivable - Other				
<b>Total 11000 · Accounts Receivable</b>	61,451.18	212,252.38	-150,801.20	-71.1%
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	61,451.18	212,252.38	-150,801.20	-71.1%
<b>Other Current Assets</b>				
13000 · Prepaid Expenses	4,888.67	6,906.18	-2,017.51	-29.2%
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	4,888.67	6,906.18	-2,017.51	-29.2%
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	223,859.98	406,509.03	-182,649.05	-44.9%
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>223,859.98</b>	<b>406,509.03</b>	<b>-182,649.05</b>	<b>-44.9%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable				
20000 · Accounts Payable	2,110.00	0.00	2,110.00	100.0%
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	2,110.00	0.00	2,110.00	100.0%
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	2,110.00	0.00	2,110.00	100.0%
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>				
28000 · Notes Payable				
28100 · Member Agency Zero-Int Loan	90,000.00	90,000.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total 28000 · Notes Payable</b>	90,000.00	90,000.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	90,000.00	90,000.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	92,110.00	90,000.00	2,110.00	2.3%
<b>Equity</b>				
32000 · Retained Earnings	141,932.35	248,181.92	-106,249.57	-42.8%
Net Income	-10,182.37	68,327.11	-78,509.48	-114.9%
<b>Total Equity</b>	131,749.98	316,509.03	-184,759.05	-58.4%
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>223,859.98</b>	<b>406,509.03</b>	<b>-182,649.05</b>	<b>-44.9%</b>

**Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
July through December 2021

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	<u>Jul - Dec 21</u>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Net Income	-10,182.37
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to net cash provided by operations:	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	4,022.84
20000 · Accounts Payable	805.00
	<u>-5,354.53</u>
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	-5,354.53
Net cash increase for period	-5,354.53
Cash at beginning of period	162,874.66
Cash at end of period	<u><u>157,520.13</u></u>

## **UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 9(d)**

**DATE:** January 13, 2022

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Agency Funding Discussion

### **SUMMARY**

During its August 12, 2021 and September 9, 2021 meetings, the Board began discussing Agency funding approaches for implementation beginning July 1, 2022. The purpose of this item is to continue that discussion.

Staff recommends that the Board develop a short list of possible funding approaches for staff to model. The model results can then be presented at the next Board meeting to facilitate selection of a preferred option.

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\_\_\_

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
	WILL BE RE-EVALUATED ANNUALLY										
	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	Assumes quarterly meetings, admin support, and no litigation
58015 · Website	\$4,000	\$2,629	\$200	\$2,829	\$3,000	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377	\$3,478	Includes web domain and email hosting fees
58020 · Accounting	\$20,000	\$15,515	\$1,500	\$17,015	\$15,000	\$15,450	\$15,914	\$16,391	\$16,883	\$17,389	
58030 · Agency Administrator	\$1,618	\$1,618	\$0	\$1,618	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Admin support included in legal fees
58040 · Audit Expense	\$14,000	\$12,500	\$0	\$12,500	\$13,000	\$13,390	\$13,792	\$14,205	\$14,632	\$15,071	
											FY 22 includes costs to complete and submit GSP, first SGMA annual report, monitoring, outreach, coordination with other related programs, and grant application. Projected costs include some monitoring activites that may be funded through an approved physical solution and/or SWRCB Instream Flow Enhancement Program. UVRGA will coordiante closely with those programs to minimize duplication of effort and costs to the ratepayers.
58050 · Other Professional Services	\$366,838	\$304,964	\$87,000	\$391,964	\$382,536	\$206,911	\$246,117	\$269,702	\$342,020	\$352,489	
Total 58000 · Professional Fees	\$647,956	\$517,515	\$137,465	\$654,979	\$470,136	\$286,089	\$327,671	\$353,702	\$428,540	\$441,605	May services will be paid in FY 21, June services will be booked in FY 21, but paid in FY 22
Contingency - Non Capital Expenditures					\$26,767	\$29,451	\$33,607	\$36,209	\$43,718	\$45,051	
Total Expense	\$657,706	\$520,073	\$141,848	\$661,921	\$505,354	\$323,964	\$369,682	\$398,302	\$480,900	\$495,557	
Net Ordinary Income	-\$5,485	\$76,616	-\$140,348	-\$63,733	-\$79,932	\$218,536	\$172,818	\$130,635	\$20,912	-\$7,307	
Net Income	-\$5,485	\$76,616	-\$140,348	-\$63,733	-\$79,932	\$218,536	\$172,818	\$130,635	\$20,912	-\$7,307	
Capital Project Expenditures - Monitoring Wells & Stream Gage					\$17,537	\$72,253	\$111,630	\$167,303	\$0	\$0	Projected costs include some monitoring activites that may be funded through an approved physical solution and/or SWRCB Instream Flow Enhancement Program. UVRGA will coordiante closely with those programs to minimize duplication of effort and costs to the ratepayers.
Capital Project Expenditures - Contingency					\$1,754	\$7,225	\$11,163	\$16,730	\$0	\$0	
Capital Project Expenditures - Total					\$19,291	\$79,478	\$122,793	\$184,034	\$0	\$0	
Net After Capital Expenditures	-\$5,485	\$76,616	-\$140,348	-\$63,733	-\$99,223	\$139,059	\$50,025	-\$53,399	\$20,912	-\$7,307	
Projected Cash Flow											
Beginning Cash Balance, July 1	\$167,986			\$166,493	\$285,186	\$262,463	\$236,521	\$286,546	\$233,148	\$254,060	
Grant Payments	\$277,079	\$290,302	\$69,427	\$359,729	\$83,304	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
GW Extraction Fees	\$343,618	\$341,300	\$0	\$341,300	\$343,618	\$542,500	\$542,500	\$528,938	\$501,813	\$488,250	
Projected Cash Inflows*	\$620,697	\$631,602	\$69,427	\$701,029	\$426,921	\$542,500	\$542,500	\$528,938	\$501,813	\$488,250	
Expenses	-\$664,328	-\$520,073	-\$62,265	-\$582,337	-\$430,354	-\$398,964	-\$369,682	-\$398,302	-\$480,900	-\$495,557	Assume June 2021 services will be booked in FY 21, but paid in FY 22
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$19,291	-\$79,478	-\$122,793	-\$184,034	\$0	\$0	
Loan Repayment (with interest)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$90,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Projected Cash Outflows	-\$664,328	-\$520,073	-\$62,265	-\$582,337	-\$449,644	-\$568,441	-\$492,475	-\$582,336	-\$480,900	-\$495,557	
Projected Ending Cash Balance, June 30	\$124,355			\$285,186	\$262,463	\$236,521	\$286,546	\$233,148	\$254,060	\$246,753	
Designated Reserve for Capital Project (Monitoring Wells)	\$0			\$0	\$188,463	\$162,521	\$136,546	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Designated for General Reserve	\$74,000			\$74,000	\$74,000	\$74,000	\$150,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	Assumes new reserve target and ramp up to new target in FY 23 and 24.
Projected Unreserved Cash, June 30	\$50,355			\$211,186	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,148	\$29,060	\$21,753	





## 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 gaps 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



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**CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM**

**ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGED / ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT**

---

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

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**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

TO: Keith Lemieux  
 RE: SGMA/GSA Funding Opportunities  
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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

<b><u>GSA Funding Opportunities: Pre-GSP Adoption</u></b>			
<b>Type of Funding</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
Groundwater Extraction Fees  (Water Code § 10730)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public meeting must be held to allow the public an opportunity to make oral/written comments before imposing the fee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Likely falls under the “regulatory fee” exemption under Prop 26</li> <li>May be collected in the same manner as ordinary municipal ad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cannot be imposed on “de minimis<sup>1</sup>” extractors unless they are regulated pursuant to SGMA</li> <li>Cannot be used for any capital improvement projects</li> </ul>

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

# Item 9d - Attachment D

TO: Keith Lemieux  
 RE: SGMA/GSA Funding Opportunities  
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ The data upon which the proposed fee is based must be made available to the public at least 20 days before the public meeting</li> <li>▪ Fees must be adopted by ordinance/resolution at a public hearing</li> <li>▪ Fee should be analyzed under Prop 26</li> </ul>	valorem taxes but must be adopted by GSA via resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
Permit Fees (Water Code § 10730)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public meeting must be held to allow the public an opportunity to make oral/written comments before imposing the fee</li> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ The data upon which the proposed fee is based must be made available to the public at least 20 days before the public meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Likely falls under the “regulatory fee” exemption under Prop 26</li> <li>▪ May be collected in the same manner as ordinary municipal ad valorem taxes but must be adopted by GSA via resolution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cannot be imposed on “de minimis” extractors unless they are regulated pursuant to SGMA</li> <li>▪ Cannot be used for any capital improvement projects</li> </ul>

Item 9d - Attachment D

TO: Keith Lemieux  
 RE: SGMA/GSA Funding Opportunities  
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fees must be adopted by ordinance/resolution at a public hearing</li> <li>▪ Fee should be analyzed under Prop 26</li> </ul>		
Fees on “Other Regulated Activity” (Water Code § 10730)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public meeting must be held to allow the public an opportunity to make oral/written comments before imposing the fee</li> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ The data upon which the proposed fee is based must be made available to the public at least 20 days before the public meeting</li> <li>▪ Fees must be adopted by ordinance/resolution at a public hearing</li> <li>▪ Fee should be analyzed under Prop 26</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Likely falls under the “regulatory fee” exemption under Prop 26</li> <li>▪ May be collected in the same manner as ordinary municipal ad valorem taxes but must be adopted by GSA via resolution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cannot be imposed on “de minimis” extractors unless they are regulated pursuant to SGMA</li> <li>▪ Cannot be used for any capital improvement projects</li> </ul>

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### **EXAMPLES OF GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEES: Pre-GSP Adoption**

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



# Item 9d - Attachment D

TO: Keith Lemieux  
 RE: SGMA/GSA Funding Opportunities  
 DATE: July 6, 2021  
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Voluntary Contributions from Member Agencies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good short-term solution to funding while GSA figures out a longer-term option for fees</li> <li>▪ Doesn't really require much data</li> <li>▪ Low effort</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ Potentially not defensible</li> <li>▪ Not sustainable for long-term basis</li> </ul>
Special Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compliance with Prop 26 required</li> <li>▪ Requires two-thirds majority vote</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If passed, this would be a stable source of revenue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requires high level of effort</li> <li>▪ Low certainty that measure will be approved by votes</li> <li>▪ Expensive process</li> </ul>
Special Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compliance with Prop 218 required</li> <li>▪ Requires simple majority vote</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If passed, this would be a stable source of revenue</li> <li>▪ More equitable than parcel tax</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requires high level of effort</li> <li>▪ Low certainty that measure will be approved by votes</li> <li>▪ Expensive process</li> </ul>

TO: Keith Lemieux  
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**GSA Funding Opportunities: Additional Fees Authorized Post-GSP Adoption**

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

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

**DATE:** January 13, 2022

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update (Grant Category (e); Task 12: GSP Reviews and Approvals)

### SUMMARY

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

1. **GSP**: The UVRGA Board adopted the GSP on January 6, 2022. The GSP Development team is working on uploading the GSP and supporting information to the DWR SGMA web portal.
2. **Outreach**: No activity.
3. **GSP Development Schedule**: The updated GSP Development Schedule is provided in Attachment A.
4. **GSP Budget Status**: \$25,010 of budget was remaining for completion of the GSP and DWR uploads as of December 31, 2021. The estimated remaining cost to finalize and upload the GSP and closeout the GSP grant is \$20,000.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

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

### BACKGROUND

Not applicable.

### FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable.

### ATTACHMENTS

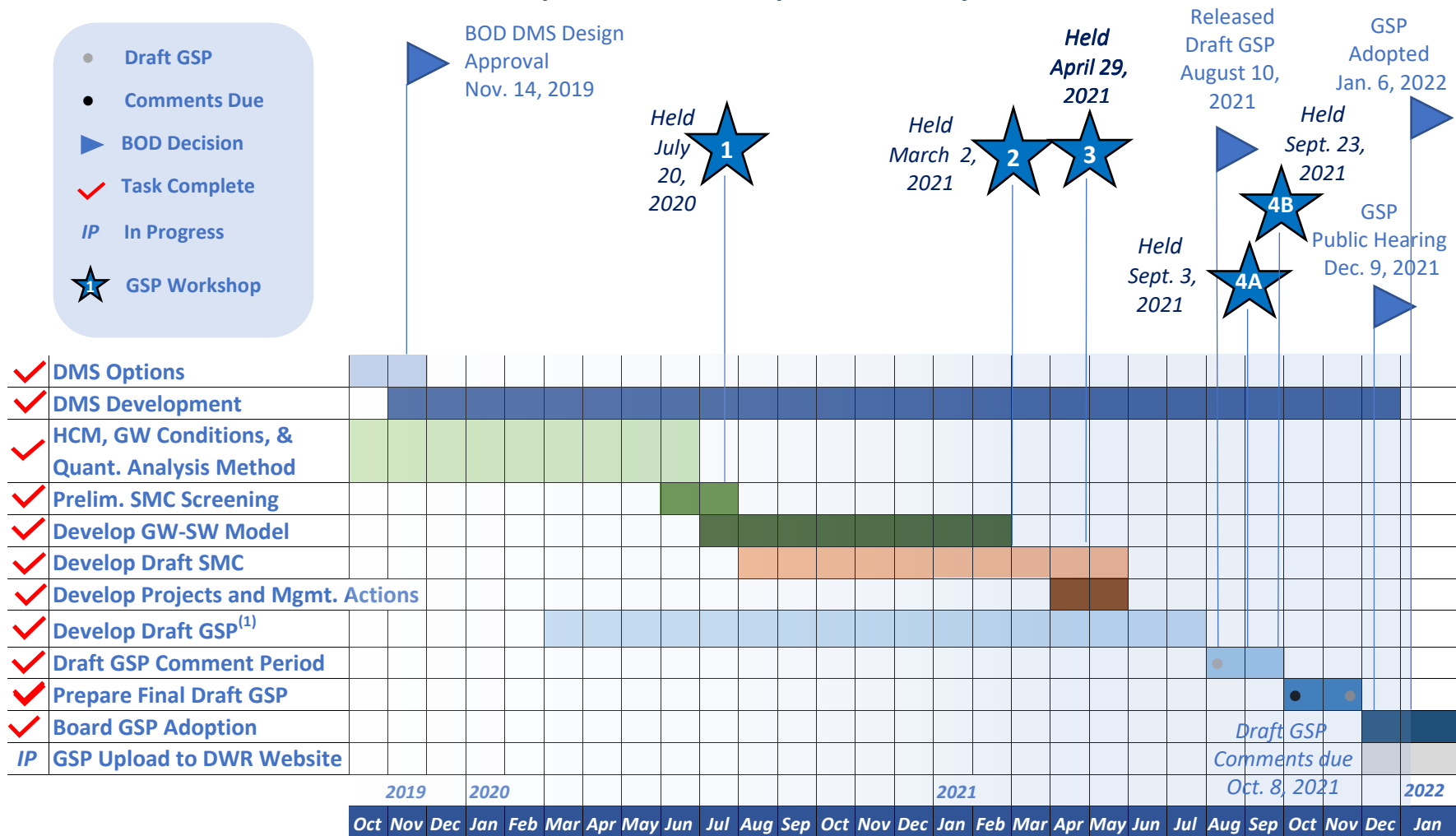
A. GSP Development Schedule

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

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

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

## Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency GSP Development Schedule Updated January 6, 2022



**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