

**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, March 10, 2022 via**

**ON-LINE OR TELECONFERENCE:**

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

**Find your local number: Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87309264702?pwd=Sk1haDBwVHk3dzg3enFJaUNzSk9YZz09>**

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

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87309264702?pwd=Sk1haDBwVHk3dzg3enFJaUNzSk9YZz09>**

**Meeting ID: 873 0926 4702**

**Passcode: 483997**

**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**

**March 10, 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 February 10, 2022 Regular Board Meeting**
- b. Approve Financial Report for February 2022**

## **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 Agency matters and correspondence. The Board may provide feedback to staff.

## **9. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

- a. Second Reading of February 10, 2022 Motion Concerning Ojai Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Review**

The Board will consider directing the Executive Director to review the Ojai Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to determine whether the GSP includes required elements under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act for depletions of interconnected surface water and assessment of effects of the GSP on sustainable management of the Upper Ventura River Basin and report findings to the Board of Directors.

- b. Groundwater Extraction Fees**

The Board will receive an update from Agency Counsel concerning groundwater extraction fees beginning fiscal year 2022/2023 and provide direction to staff.

## **10. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS**

None.

## **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**

A Special Board meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2022 at 1 P.M. The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2022 at 1 P.M.

## **UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2022**

The Regular Board meeting was held via teleconference, in accordance with Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Board Resolution No. 2021-05. Directors present were Vivon Crawford, Bruce Kuebler, Susan Rungren, Emily Ayala, Pete Kaiser, Glenn Shephard, and Diana Engle. Also, present: Executive Director Bryan Bondy, Agency Counsel Keith Lemieux, and Administrative Assistant Maureen Tucker. Identified public members present: Jennifer Tribo, Mary Bergen, William Weirick, Kelly Dyer, Michael Flood, and Bert Rapp.

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

Chair Engle called the meeting to order at 1:02 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, Susan Rungren, Pete Kaiser, Glenn Shephard, Diana Engle, and Emily Ayala.

Directors Absent: Vivon Crawford (arrived during Item No. 5).

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

Chair Engle asked for any proposed changes to the agenda. Director Kaiser moved agenda approval and renewal of Resolution 2021-05. Director Rungren seconded the motion.

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

Director Absent: Crawford

Director Crawford arrived after the vote.

### **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 January 13, 2022, Regular Board Meeting
- b. Approve Financial Report for January 2022
- c. Approve Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Fiscal Audit Report

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

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

**7) DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Directors may provide oral report on items note appearing on the agenda.

Director Crawford:        Director Crawford met with Director Ayala to learn about UVRGA.

Director Kuebler:        No report.

Director Rungren:        No report.

Director Shephard:       No report.

Director Kaiser:        No report.

Director Ayala:        No report.

Director Engle:        No report.

**8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report concerning Agency matters since the last Board meeting.

Chair Engle asked whether Intera Inc. should attend the SWRCB webinar. Executive Director Bondy suggested it is not necessary because the webinar will be recorded.

Director Ayala congratulated Executive Director Bondy for getting the GSP completed and submitted.

Public comments: none.

**9) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee**

Executive Director Bondy provided an overview of the item.

The Board discussed whether the committee should be reinstated. Varying opinions were offered. After discussion Chair Engle moved to reinstate the Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee consisting of Directors Kuebler, Ayala, and Crawford for a term ending on 1/31/2023 with no changes in the committee duties. Director Rungren seconded the motion.

Public comments: none.

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

**b. Agency E-Mail Policy**

Executive Director Bondy explained that Resolution 2022-03 would modify Article 10 of the Agency Bylaws to make use of the Agency email optional for Member Directors. This would align the Bylaws with actual practices and allow the Agency to delete unused e-mail accounts.

Chair Engle asked a few clarifying questions.

Director Kuebler moved adoption of Resolution 2022-03. Director Ayala seconded the motion.

Public comment: none

Executive Director Bondy requested that the Member Directors let him know whether they intend to use an Agency email account or not.

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

**c. Ojai Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Comments**

Executive Director Bondy stated that Director Kuebler requested that this item be placed on the agenda. He asked Director Kuebler to provide the background.

Director Kuebler stated he believes there are three issues with the Ojai Basin GSP (OBGSP) that UVRGA should comment to DWR on: (1) incomplete analysis of effects on UVRGA's ability to sustainably manage the Upper Ventura River Basin (UVRB); (2) procedural issues related to his comments not being addressed; and (3) data issues related to discrepancies between San Antonio Creek inflows and outflows. Director Kuebler read a prepared statement that is attached to these minutes.

Chair Engle thanked Director Kuebler for attending the OBGMA meetings. She asked for Director comments.

Director Kaiser expressed concerns about a comment letter to DWR creating conflict with OBGMA and said UVRGA should be working with OBGMA instead. He also expressed concerns about costs and the adjudication.

Chair Engel expressed an interest in getting the Executive Director's opinion about whether the OBGSA addresses the GSP regulations before deciding whether and how to communicate any findings.

Director Shephard asked whether UVRGA had an opportunity to comment on the GSP before it was adopted. Executive Director Bondy said that the Board directed him to review and comment on the GSP at the OBGMA GSP public hearing, but he was unable to complete that task because the National Marine Fisheries Service comments on the UVRGA GSP were received and took priority.

Public comments:

Bill Weirick introduced himself as a member of the Ojai City Council and OBGMA Board of Directors. He expressed concerns about Director Kuebler's comments being conclusion driven, rather than evidence driven. He agreed with Chair Engle's recommendation for the Executive Director to get familiar with the OBGSP and vice versa.

Burt Rapp said that UVRGA has completed the required streamflow depletion analysis and OBGMA has not. He said it is important because the GSAs are supposed to work together.

Mike Flood said that this is starting to look like the adjudication and statements are being made in fact when they are not. He expressed concerns about the State Water Resources Control Board model. It is important to have a good relationship with OBGMA.

Mary Bergen said she has followed both GSPs and she does not believe that OBGSA concluded no impacts exist, rather it says OBGMA needs more data and analysis.

After further Board discussion, Director Engle moved to direct the Executive Director to review the OBGSP to determine whether it includes required elements under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act for depletions of interconnected surface water and assessment of effects of the GSP on sustainable management of the Upper Ventura River Basin and report findings to the Board of Directors. Seconded by Director Kuebler

Roll Call Vote:            B. Kuebler – Y     D. Engle – Y   G. Shephard – Y  
                                 S. Rungren – Y   P. Kaiser – N   V. Crawford – Y

Abstained: E. Ayala (She stated that she is an OBGMA alternate director).

The motion failed on first reading per the Agency Bylaws and will be scheduled for a second reading at the next regular Board meeting.

**d. Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Grant Program Update**

Executive Director Bondy summarized the upcoming Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Grant program. He said that Board could consider adding optional actions to the GSP that could be included in the grant application. The additional optional actions would be added to the GSP by identifying them in the upcoming annual report. He said OVLC and VRIF may have projects that may help achieve the sustainability goal. He suggested including additional monitoring wells in anticipation of DWR comments on the GSP.

The Board discussed potential projects and additional monitoring wells.

Chair Engle moved to direct the Executive Director to start planning for a grant application and to include optional monitoring wells in the annual report. Seconded by Director Kaiser.

After discussion, Chair Engle withdrew her motion.

Chair Engle moved to direct the Executive Director to add optional monitoring wells to the GSP via the annual report. Seconded by Director Kaiser.

Public comments: none.

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

Chair Engle adjourned the meeting for a brief break at 2:37 p.m.

Chair Engle called the meeting back to order at 2:45 p.m.

**e. Agency Funding Discussion**

Executive Director Bondy reviewed information requested by the Board during its most recent meeting. He reviewed the rate models presented in Attachment B to the staff report.

Director Ayala asked if the Board needs to ask private pumpers what their average pumping per year is? Executive Director Bondy said no because the extraction fee for private well owners will be calculated using their actual extractions.

Chair Engle asked why extraction fees rates for the fixed average scenarios are not a perfect “stair step.” Executive Director Bondy said it is because the revenue requirements are not the same each year.

Director Kuebler complemented Executive Director Bondy on the rate model graphs. He suggested the Agency use a 3-year fixed average.

Director Rungren said a 3-year average is the most accurate for the City’s operations and fixed is best for budgeting.

Agency Counsel briefly reviewed the fee process and said he believes that Prop 218 may apply.

Chair Engle moved to direct staff to develop Prop 218 documents based on 3-year fixed average extractions for Member Agencies, private pumpers to be charged based on meters retroactively on a semi-annually basis, and with extraction fees providing the sole source of revenue.

Director Kuebler seconded the motion.

No further discussion.

Public comments: none.

Roll Call Vote:                    B. Kuebler – Y      D. Engle – Y    G. Shephard – Y

   S. Rungren – Y   P. Kaiser – Y   E. Ayala – Y   V.Crawford - Y



## **10) GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS**

### **a. Rincon Consultants, Inc. Work Order Nos. 5-7 for GSP Implementation Tasks**

Executive Director reviewed three proposed work orders for Rincon Consultants to perform water year 21/22 and 22/23 field monitoring and reporting, develop work plans for aquatic GDE monitoring for the Confluence and Foster Park Aquatic GDE areas, and planning and permitting support for one new stream gage and three monitoring wells pursuant to GSP Chapter 5.

Board comments:

Chair Engle said she would like one month to review the work plans.

Public comments: none.

Chair Engle moved approval of Rincon Work Orders Nos. 5-7 with one month to review the work plan deliverables included in Work Order No. 6. Director Kaiser seconded the motion.

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

## **11) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee**

No report.

## **12) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Second reading of Item No. 9c
2. Annual report for approval.

Executive Director Bondy said a special meeting may be needed for the annual report on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in March.

## **13) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

DRAFT

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

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

B.Kuebler\_\_ D.Engle\_ P.Kaiser\_\_S.Rungren\_\_ G.Shephard\_\_ E.Ayala\_\_ V.Crawford\_\_

## Comments on Ojai GSP

3 Issues in order of importance

Incomplete analysis

Procedural

Data

### INCOMPLETE ANALYSIS

Section 10733(c) says DWR “shall evaluate whether a groundwater sustainability plan adversely affects the ability of an adjacent basin to implement their groundwater sustainability plan or impedes achievement of sustainability goals in an adjacent basin.”

The Ojai Basin GSP contains no data or computer scenarios that would enable DWR to conduct that evaluation. The OBGMA Board was urged to use their computer model to assess effects of varying amounts of pumping (from 0 to 4,000 AFY) on San Antonio Creek flow at the September 30 Board Meeting during a presentation by the GSP consultant, Dudek. The 0 AFY scenario is a “no depletion” scenario that would indicate if pumping is causing an impact downstream. Instead, future pumping is a constant 4,000 AFY. Despite that, and without any supporting data other than minor subsurface outflow of 90 AFY, the GSP concludes “... the minimum threshold of groundwater elevations ... are not expected to cause undesirable results in adjacent basins or adversely affect the ability of adjacent basins to achieve sustainability goals.” Reference sections 3.3.1.3 and 3.3.2.3 pages 3-19 and 3-22 respectively. The only other reference to adjacent basins is, “The presence and potential interconnectedness of groundwater basins adjacent to the Ojai Valley Basin, including the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Subbasin ... are described and considered in this GSP,

though the focus of the GSP is on defining the criteria under which the OVGB will continue to be managed sustainably”. (Page 1-1).

The most significant issues for UVR Basin are the Confluence and Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Areas and the Foster Park Riparian GDE Unit, all of which would be significantly affected by San Antonio Creek flow.

Increases in creek flow from less Ojai Basin pumping are likely to be similar in amount to our direct and indirect pumping depletions and therefore affect achievement of sustainability goals for those areas.

The Ojai GSP appears to be a justification of the ‘no effect of pumping on SAC flow’ viewpoint rather than an objective analysis. At pumping of 4,000 AFY, there is probably little effect on SAC flow because of reduced pressure in confined aquifers, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t an effect at lower pumping amounts.

#### PROCEDURAL

Speaking as an individual at the Sept 30 OBGMA Board meeting during Dudek presentation, I suggested the GSP include an unimpaired flow scenario and evaluate effects of pumping from 0 to 4,000 AFY. Dudek acknowledged my comment in a Oct-1 email and Trey Driscoll said they “will look into this question further.” I followed up on Oct-1, -3, and -4 with emails giving details on my suggestion, i.e., develop hydrographs of pumping amount vs SAC flow for two scenarios; one for a median rainfall year and one for a dry year.

My comment is not included in GSP and the suggestion was not followed. Was this an oversight or purposeful?

#### DATA

There is an apparent discrepancy in SAC flows in GSPs for Ojai and UVR basins.

2006 thru 2016 Ojai outflow averages 1,653 AFY (2.3 cfs) less than inflow (2,258 AFY vs 3,911 AFY).

2017 thru 2019 Ojai outflow averages 4,665 AFY (6.4 cfs) than inflow (2,755 AFY vs 7,420 AFY).

However, long term (about 70 years) averages are about equal.

A more detailed hydrologic evaluation may explain the differences.

#### ANOTHER ISSUE

Is it fair for our groundwater users to solely bear the burden of SGMA compliance downstream of San Antonio Creek confluence or should Ojai Basin groundwater users share the burden because they contributing to the problem by an amount not yet determined?

#### RECOMMENDATION

I recommend the Board direct the Executive Director to prepare comments to DWR on the Ojai Basin GSP, including a request the DWR require a thorough analysis of the effect of a range of pumping amounts on San Antonio Creek flow so DWR could evaluate the effect of the Ojai GSP on UVRB's GSP achievement of sustainability.

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

**DATE:** March 8, 2022  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Carrie Troup C.P.A., Treasurer  
**SUBJECT:** Approve Financial Report for February 2022

---

**January 2022 UVRGA Balance** \$ 119,110.81

**February 2022 Activity:**

**Revenues:**

Groundwater Extraction Fees \$ 171,452.96

**Checks Pending Signature:**

2286 Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill LLP Feb. Services	\$ 1,754.40
2287 Intera Incorporated Feb. Services	\$ 17,008.00
2288 Carrie Troup, C.P.A. Feb. Services	\$ 1,196.12
2289 Bondy Groundwater Consulting, Inc. Feb. Services	\$ 7,107.25
Total Expenditures Paid & To Be Paid	<u>\$ 27,065.77</u>

**February 2022 UVRGA Ending Balance:** \$ 263,498.00

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

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

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

Item 6(b), Page 1 of 1

## UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 8

**DATE:** March 10, 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. All fifth-round invoices have now been paid.
    - ii. The sixth round of semi-annual extraction fee invoices was mailed in January. Payments were due February 13, 2022. One invoice totaling \$910.34 is unpaid.
  - b. GSP Grant: No change in status. The final quarterly progress report and invoice were submitted to DWR on January 25, 2022. Payment in the amount of \$18,981.00 is expected before the end of the fiscal year. The grant completion report and retention release request were submitted to DWR on January 25, 2022. A retention payment in the amount of \$63,006.06 is expected before the end of the fiscal year.
3. Legal: No reportable activity.
4. GSP Implementation:
  - a. Annual Report: The GSP Team worked on the first annual report due on April 1, 2022.
  - b. Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring:
    - i. Field Monitoring Services Contracting: Rincon Consultants, Inc. Work Order No. 5 was issued following the February Board meeting.
    - ii. Access for Groundwater Level Monitoring in Well 04N23W20A01S: No update.

- iii. Camino Cielo Crossing Surface Water Flow Gauge: Gauge activation was previously deferred to spring 2022 and continues to be on hold pending rain.
5. SWRCB / CDFW Instream Flow Enhancement Coordination: SWRCB released its draft model report on December 17, 2021. The Executive Director attended SWRCB's webinar on February 28, 2022 which provided an overview of the draft model and draft model documentation report. Comments on the draft model documentation report are due April 1, 2022. The Executive Director is reviewing the draft model report and will submit comments as in the past, time permitting. SWRCB also provided on-line technical training on how to use the Draft Model during two sessions (March 2 and 4). As previously discussed, neither the Executive Director nor Intera, Inc. staff attended the training workshops because they were recorded and can be referred to later if UVRGA ever desires to operate the SWRCB model.
6. Ventura River Watershed Instream Flow & Water Resilience Framework (VRIF): The VRIF toolkit development process will be ending soon.
7. Miscellaneous: N/A

## **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

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

## **BACKGROUND**

Not applicable

## **FISCAL SUMMARY**

Not applicable

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Letter from County of Ventura dated February 4, 2022, RE: Notification of End of Ventura County Water Well and Water Well Permit Prohibitions
- B. Well Permit GWP-08588 issued January 27, 2022
- C. Well Permit GWP-08634 issued March 1, 2022
- D. Letter from City of Ojai dated February 17, 2022, RE: Formal Request Regarding City of Ojai Membership in the UVRGA

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

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

B. Kuebler\_\_ P. Kaiser\_\_ G. Shephard\_\_ D. Engle\_\_ S. Rungren\_\_ V. Crawford\_\_ E. Ayala\_\_





# COUNTY of VENTURA

Jeff Pratt  
Agency Director

David Fleisch  
Assistant Director

Central Services  
Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services  
Christopher Cooper, Director

Roads & Transportation  
Christopher Kurgan, Director

Water & Sanitation  
Joseph Pope, Director

Watershed Protection  
Glenn Shephard, Director

February 4, 2022

RECEIVED

FEB 14 2022

BY RL

Diana Engle, Chair  
Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency  
202 W. El Roblar Dr.  
Ojai, CA 93023

**Subject: Notification of End of Ventura County Water Well and Water Well Permit Prohibitions – Ventura River Valley Basin, Upper Ventura River Subbasin (DWR Basin No. 4-003.01)**

Dear Chair Engle:

Ventura County Ordinance Code Section 4826.1 prohibits issuance of permits for, and the construction of, new water wells within groundwater basins designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as High or Medium Priority Basins.

Section 4826.2 identifies certain exceptions to the water well and permit prohibitions in Section 4826.1. An exception is created when a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) adopts a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and submits it to DWR in accordance with Section 4826.2.F. of the ordinance:

Water well permit applications within groundwater basins designated as high or medium priority under the Department of Water Resources ("DWR") California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program (CASGEM) Groundwater Basin Prioritization for which designations are made pursuant to Water Code Section 10722.4 and for which a groundwater sustainability agency has adopted and submitted to DWR a groundwater sustainability plan pursuant to Water Code Section 10727 or for which a groundwater sustainability agency has submitted an alternative plan pursuant to Water Code Section 10733.6 and the alternative plan has been approved by DWR...

The Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA) formally adopted the *Upper Ventura River Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan* on January 6, 2022 and submitted it to DWR on January 24, 2022. As of the date of GSP submittal to DWR, wells and well permit applications within the Ventura River Valley Basin, Upper Ventura River



Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency  
February 4, 2022  
Page 2 of 2

---

Subbasin (DWR Basin No. 4-003.01) are exempt from the Water Well and Water Well Permit Prohibitions in Ventura County Ordinance Code Section 4826.1.

As a courtesy, Ventura County Public Works Agency (VCPWA) will forward copies of approved well permits to the UVRGA for its records. Additionally, VCPWA would like to call your attention to Section 4813.E of the well ordinance regarding well permits:

Permits shall be issued or denied within fifteen (15) days from the day on which the completed application and fee are received by the Agency. If a proposed water well is located within one of the following agencies, the well permit application is not considered complete unless accompanied by the respective agency authorization:

- Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
- Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
- Any other government agency authorized to regulate new well construction

Please notify VCPWA if UVRGA adopts an ordinance regulating new well construction.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Loeb at (805) 650-4083 or me at (805) 654-2073.

Sincerely,



Jeff Pratt, P.E.  
Director

C: Glenn Shephard, Director, VCPWA, Watershed Protection  
Arne Anselm, Deputy Director, VCPWA, Watershed Protection  
Kim Loeb, Manager, VCPWA, Watershed Protection

K:\Programs\Groundwater\Groundwater Sustainability  
Agencies\Upper\_Vta\_Rvr\_Basin\_GSA\Correspondence\Letters\20220204\_Moratorium  
Notification\_UVRGA.docx





## County of Ventura WELL PERMIT

800 South Victoria Avenue; Ventura, CA 93009-1610

<b>Property Owner</b>	HKC El Roblar LLC	<b>Driller</b>	Hansen Well-Do Service
<b>Address</b>	1921 Meiners Rd Ojai, CA 93023	<b>Address</b>	P.O. Box 729 Oak View, CA 93022
<b>Telephone</b>	(805) 896-8521	<b>Telephone</b>	(805) 646-4802

<b>Type of Work</b>	<b>Water Supply Well – New (1)</b>	<b>Sealing Zone</b>	1	<b>Main Use</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>
<b>SWN (Partial)</b>	04N23W03N	<b>ID</b>	NA	<b>APN</b>	017-0-160-150
<b>Fee</b>	\$1,335.00	<b>Receipt No.</b>		<b>Prep by:</b>	J. Dorrington
<b>Well Location</b>	75 feet SW of El Roblar & La Luna Rds., Ojai	<b>Proposed Construction</b>	<b>Well Depth 1200 ft Bore Diameter 16 in</b>		
<b>Basin</b>	Upper Ventura River		<b>Perforations</b> Top- 240 ft Bottom- 1180 ft		

### Conditions

1. Permit issue and expiration dates are as follows:

**Issue Date:** 01/27/2022

**Expiration Date:** 07/27/2022

**The Contractor shall keep a copy of this approved permit at the work site.**

2. Property Owner and Driller ("Contractor") shall comply with all provisions of Ventura County Well Ordinance No. 4468, and all applicable State of California and local regulations pertaining to well construction, repair, modification and destruction.
3. All work involved in installation of the well, including but not limited to drilling, installation of casing, placement of gravel pack, and placement of sealing material shall be performed by a licensed water well contractor (C-57), who must also be registered with the Ventura County Public Works Agency, Groundwater Section ("Agency").
4. Contractor shall retain all drilling fluids and groundwater discharges within the drilling site, unless an NPDES permit has been obtained from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region. The NPDES permit shall be obtained prior to drilling operations.
5. All required structural setbacks must be met along with the minimum separation from sewage lines, septic tanks, leach fields, cesspools, seepage pits, and animal or fowl enclosures in accordance with California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 74-90. Relocation of the well site from the site proposed on the permit application must be reviewed by the County prior to the commencement of drilling. Failure to have the County review proposed site relocation may cause the well to not meet setback requirements and result in the County requiring the well to be destroyed or in the suspension or termination of this permit.
6. Well must be constructed with a sounding tube, taphole with plug, or similar access for water level measuring equipment.
7. Sealing Requirements:
  - a. A permanent conductor casing shall be installed into the competent bedrock formation to seal the well from the overlying alluvial aquifer and weathered bedrock. Contractor shall provide an elog and provide borehole cuttings for examination to the Groundwater Section to determine the depth of seal for the conductor casing.
  - b. Annular Sealing material shall be placed between the production casing and conductor casing from a depth of **25 feet to ground surface**.
  - c. Concrete, cement grout or neat cement annular sealing material shall be placed by means of a grout pipe





## County of Ventura WELL PERMIT

800 South Victoria Avenue; Ventura, CA 93009-1610

positioned within 2 feet of the base of the sealing zone. For Sealing Zones 1 and 2, if the standing water level in the annulus is below the base of the sealing zone and the sealing depth is 25 feet or less, a grout pipe will not be necessary.

- d. A concrete base or pad shall be constructed at ground surface around the top of the well casing and shall contact the annular seal. The pad shall extend at least two feet laterally in all directions from the outside of the well boring and shall be a minimum of 4 inches thick. The upper surface of the concrete base and ground surface immediately surrounding the base shall slope away from the top of the well casing.
  - e. Diameter of the well bore shall be a minimum of 4 inches larger than the outside diameter of the casing for the full depth of seal.
  - f. The Groundwater Section Inspector shall inspect all placement of sealing material. **Provide a minimum 48-hour advance notice. Call 654-2907 to arrange for this inspection. Inspector availability cannot be guaranteed without this minimum advance notice.**
  - g. Annular seal on well casing must be allowed to set for a minimum of 24 hours before construction operations on the well can be resumed.
8. After work involved in installation of the well is completed, a cover shall be placed over the top of the casing that locks or requires tools to remove until such time as a pump is installed and the top of the casing is securely covered. If a pump is not installed within 365 days, the County will classify the well as abandoned. If the well becomes abandoned the Property Owner shall obtain a well destruction permit from the Agency and destroy it within 60 days.
9. Borehole Destruction Requirements:
- a. If the well is not completed, the borehole shall be destroyed immediately.
  - b. The borehole shall be filled with clean sand, gravel or cement sealing material **from the base of the borehole to within 25 feet of ground surface**. Neat cement, concrete, or cement grout shall be placed **from a depth of 25 feet to within 5 feet of finish grade** by means of a grout pipe positioned within 2 feet of the base of the sealing zone. If the standing water level in the borehole is below the base of the sealing zone and the sealing depth is 25 feet or less, a grout pipe will not be necessary. Bentonite chips, inert imported fill or clean native materials shall be placed from a depth of 5 feet to ground surface.
10. Post Requirements:
- a. Well Completion Report: Within 30 days after well installation work is completed, the Contractor shall submit a copy of the DWR Well Completion Report to the Division. Mail report to Ventura County Public Works Agency, Watershed Protection - Groundwater Section; 800 South Victoria Avenue; Ventura, CA 93009-1610; 800 South Victoria Avenue; Ventura, CA 93009-1600. **Failure to submit this report within 30 days will preclude Well Owner and his Contractor from obtaining future permits until report is received and may result in the issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance and Administrative Fines may be imposed.**
  - b. Water Quality Sampling and Analysis: Within 60 days after pump has been installed, Property Owner shall submit results of a water quality analysis to the Groundwater Section. A water sample shall be collected from the well and tested for General Minerals. Testing shall be conducted by a State DOHS approved laboratory. Mail analysis to Ventura County Public Works Agency, Watershed Protection - Groundwater Section; 800 South Victoria Avenue; Ventura, CA 93009-1610. **Failure to submit analysis within 60 days will preclude Property Owner from obtaining future permits until results of sampling are received and may result in the issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance and Administrative Fines may be imposed.**
  - c. Water Level Elevation Measurement: Following installation and development of the new well, the applicant shall





## County of Ventura WELL PERMIT

800 South Victoria Avenue; Ventura, CA 93009-1610

measure the elevation of the groundwater to a surveyed reference point and provide this information to the Groundwater Section within 90 days of well completion. **Failure to submit elevation measurement within 90 days will preclude Property Owner from obtaining future permits until results of sampling are received and may result in the issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance and Administrative Fines may be imposed.**

### 11. Post Sealing Conditions

Work such as installation of pump, flowmeter, etc., does not require a C-57 license. This work should be performed by an appropriately licensed contractor.

a. Well discharge piping shall contain a water sampling port or valve for obtaining water samples for water quality analysis.

b. If pump discharge pipes do not discharge or open to the atmosphere a backflow prevention device or check valve must be installed to prevent backflow and/or siphonage into the well. Irrigation well systems or other well systems that employ chemical feeders or injectors shall be equipped with a backflow prevention device or check valve.

c. Water well shall be equipped with a flow meter. Flow meters will be calibrated and a report submitted to the Agency at a minimum of every three years.

d. The Groundwater Section Inspector shall inspect completed well to confirm installation of taphole with plug, or similar access for water level measuring equipment, water sampling port or valve, and concrete base or pad, check valve/backflow prevention device, and flowmeter (if it is required by the conditions of this permit). **Call 654-2907 to arrange for this inspection.**

e. The well owner shall provide access to Ventura County Public Works Agency and Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency personnel and/or their contractors to measure the groundwater level in the well and/or collect water quality samples upon 72 hour notification

12. The information contained in the Application for Well Permit becomes a part of this permit.

### **Proposed well meets Sec 4826.3 WAIVERS OF THE WATER WELL AND PERMIT PROHIBITIONS**

**- Conditional waiver for installation of an agricultural well was approved by the Public Works Agency Director, Jeff Pratt, 9/01/2021.**

Manager, Groundwater Section

Date 1/28/2022

### Conductor casing

Inspector observed placement of annular seal as required by permit conditions.

Inspector Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Production casing

Inspector observed placement of annular seal as required by permit conditions.

Inspector Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

County of Ventura  
**WELL PERMIT**

800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009

	Property Owner	Driller
Name	Robert R - Merlyn M Beck Trust	Hansen Well-Do Service
Address	351 Verano Dr. Ojai, CA 93023-1624	P O Box 729 Oak View, CA 93022
Telephone	(310) 775-7515	(805) 646 4802

Type of Work	Water Supply Well New (1)	Sealing Zone	1	Main Use	Domestic	
SWN (Partial)	04N23W11D	Well ID	N/A	APN	0190082030	
Fee	\$1,335.00	Receipt No.	681208	Prep by:	J Dorrington	
Well Location	351 Verano Dr., Ojai	Proposed Construction	Well Depth	400 ft	Bore Dia.	12.00 in.
Basin	Ventura River - Upper		Perforations	From 200.00 ft. to 400.00 ft.		

**Conditions**

1. Permit issue and expiration dates are as follows:

Issue Date: 03/01/2022

Expiration Date: 09/01/2022

**The Contractor shall keep a copy of this approved permit at the work site.**

2. Well Owner and Driller ("Contractor") shall comply with all provisions of Ventura County Well Ordinance No. 4468, and all applicable State of California and local regulations pertaining to well construction, repair, modification and destruction.
3. Work shall be performed by a licensed water well contractor (C-57), who must also be registered with the Watershed Protection District, Groundwater Section ("District").
4. Contractor shall retain all drilling fluids and groundwater discharges within the drilling site, unless an NPDES permit has been obtained from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region. The NPDES permit shall be obtained prior to drilling operations.
5. All required structural setbacks must be met along with the minimum separation from sewage lines, septic tanks, leach fields, cesspools, seepage pits, and animal or fowl enclosures in accordance with California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 74-90. Relocation of the well site from the site proposed on the permit application must be reviewed by the County prior to the commencement of drilling. Failure to have the County review proposed site relocation may cause the well to not meet setback requirements and result in the County requiring the well to be destroyed or in the suspension or termination of this permit.
6. Well must be constructed with a sounding tube, taphole with plug, or similar access for water level measuring equipment.
7. Sealing Requirements:
  - a. Annular Sealing material shall be placed **from a depth of 25 feet to ground surface.**
  - b. Concrete, cement grout or neat cement annular sealing material shall be placed by means of a grout pipe positioned within 2 feet of the base of the sealing zone. For Sealing Zones 1 and 2, if the standing water level in the annulus is below the base of the sealing zone and the sealing depth is 25 feet or less, a grout pipe will not be necessary.





County of Ventura  
**WELL PERMIT**

800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009

c. A concrete base or pad shall be constructed at ground surface around the top of the well casing and shall contact the annular seal. The pad shall extend at least two feet laterally in all directions from the outside of the well boring and shall be a minimum of 4 inches thick. The upper surface of the concrete base and ground surface immediately surrounding the base shall slope away from the top of the well casing.

d. Diameter of the well bore shall be a minimum of 4 inches larger than the outside diameter of the casing for the full depth of seal.

e. Permanent conductor casings must be sealed following the requirements listed above. Sealing depth requirement is waived.

f. The Groundwater Section Inspector shall inspect all placement of sealing material. **Provide a minimum 48-hour advance notice. Call (805) 654-2907 to arrange for this inspection. Inspector availability cannot be guaranteed without this minimum advance notice.**

g. Annular seal on well casing must be allowed to set for a minimum of 24 hours before construction operations on the well can be resumed.

8. After work is completed, a steel plate shall be welded over the top of the casing or a pump shall be installed. If a pump is not installed within 365 days, the well will be considered abandoned. If work is not completed and the well becomes abandoned, Property Owner shall obtain a well destruction permit from the District and destroy it within 60 days.

9. Borehole Destruction Requirements:

a. If the well is not completed, the borehole shall be destroyed immediately.

b. The borehole shall be filled with clean sand, gravel or cement sealing material **from the base of the borehole to within 25 feet of ground surface.** Neat cement, concrete, or cement grout shall be placed **from a depth of 25 feet to within 5 feet of finish grade** by means of a grout pipe positioned within 2 feet of the base of the sealing zone. If the standing water level in the borehole is below the base of the sealing zone and the sealing depth is 25 feet or less, a grout pipe will not be necessary. Bentonite chips, inert imported fill or clean native materials shall be placed from a depth of 5 feet to ground surface.

10. Post Requirements:

a. Well Completion Report: Within 30 days after work is completed, the Contractor shall submit an original DWR Well Completion Report to the Division. Mail report to County of Ventura Public Works Agency - Watershed Protection, Groundwater Section; (Re: WCR); 800 South Victoria Avenue; Ventura, CA 93009-1600. **Failure to submit this report within 30 days will preclude Well Owner and his Contractor from obtaining future permits until report is received and may result in the issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance.**

b. Water Quality Sampling and Analysis: Within 60 days after work is completed, Property Owner shall submit results of a water quality analysis to the Groundwater Section. A water sample shall be collected from the well and tested for General Minerals. Testing shall be conducted by a State DOHS approved laboratory. Mail analysis to County of Ventura Public Works Agency - Watershed Protection, Groundwater Section; (Re: WQS); 800 South Victoria Avenue; Ventura, CA 93009-1600. **Failure to submit analysis within 60 days will preclude Property Owner from obtaining future permits until results of sampling are received and may result in the issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance.**

11. Post Sealing Conditions:

Work such as installation of pump, flowmeter, etc., does not require a C-57 license. This work should be performed by an appropriately licensed contractor.

a. Well discharge piping shall contain a water sampling port or valve for obtaining water samples for water quality analysis.



County of Ventura  
**WELL PERMIT**

800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009

b. If pump discharge pipes do not discharge or open to the atmosphere a backflow prevention device or check valve must be installed to prevent backflow and/or siphonage into the well. Irrigation well systems or other well systems that employ chemical feeders or injectors shall be equipped with a backflow prevention device or check valve.

c. Water well shall be equipped with a flow meter. Flow meters will be calibrated and a report submitted to the Agency at a minimum of every three years.

12. The information contained in the Application for Well Permit becomes a part of this permit.

Manager, Groundwater Section

Date

3/1/2022

Inspector observed placement of annular seal as required by permit conditions.

Inspector Signature

Date





## CITY OF OJAI

401 South Ventura Street, Ojai California 93023

(805) 646-5581 · fax (805) 653-2236 ·

[www.ojai.ca.gov](http://www.ojai.ca.gov)

February 17, 2022

**EMAILED LETTER:** BBONDY@UVRGROUNDWATER.ORG

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

ATTN: BRYAN BONDY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

202 W. EL ROBLAR DRIVE

OJAI, CA 93023

**RE: Formal Request Regarding City of Ojai Membership in the UVRGA**

Dear Mr. Bondy,

The Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA) includes members from five agencies collectively known as the Formation Committee: Ventura River Water District, Meiners Oaks Water District, City of Ventura (Ventura Water), Casitas Municipal Water District, and the County of Ventura.

As you know, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) mandates that local agencies establish locally-controlled groundwater sustainability agencies for managing groundwater resources, with local agencies defined as those that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin. The City of Ojai has land use responsibilities within the groundwater basin managed by the UVRGA – namely approximately a quarter of the City's land area. These land use responsibilities extend beyond the City limits into the Ojai Sphere of Influence and the Ojai Area of Interest as defined by Local Area Formation Commission's (LAFCO) adopted Guidelines for Orderly Development.

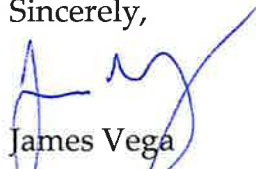
Section 5.2 of the UVRGA joint powers agreement states that additional public agencies "may become members of the Agency upon such terms and conditions

established by the Board of Directors and upon the unanimous consent of the existing members.”

As City Manager, I hereby submit a formal request for membership in the UVRGA, subject to final confirmation by the Ojai City Council. This request includes an expectation of a financial assessment from the City on behalf of the UVRGA. Please let me know the expected amount of such support needed from the City and if you need any additional information to submit such a request. Once we have determined the final terms of the City’s joining UVRGA, the City Council will then consider whether to approve joining at an upcoming City Council meeting.

The City of Ojai appreciates your cooperation on this matter, and if you have additional questions you can reach me by email at [James.Vega@ojai.ca.gov](mailto:James.Vega@ojai.ca.gov) or by phone at (805) 646-5581 ext. 102.

Sincerely,



James Vega  
City Manager

Cc: Ojai City Council  
UVRGA Board of Directors

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

**DATE:** March 10, 2022

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Second Reading of February 10, 2022 Motion Concerning Ojai Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Review

**SUMMARY**

Pursuant to Article 9 of the UVRGA Joint Powers Agreement, a matter may be approved on the first reading pursuant to a unanimous vote of all Directors. The following motion did not receive a unanimous vote during the February 10, 2022 Board meeting:

*“Direction to Executive Director to review the Ojai Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to determine whether the GSP includes required elements under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act for depletions of interconnected surface water and assessment of effects of the GSP on sustainable management of the Upper Ventura River Basin and report findings to the Board of Directors.”*

Pursuant to Article 9 of the UVRGA Joint Powers Agreement, the Board shall continue a final vote on the matter for a second reading at the next regular meeting unless the Board voted to continue the second reading of the matter to another regular or special meeting of the Board. No such vote occurred; therefore, the second reading of the matter must occur during the March 10, 2022 regular Board meeting.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Conduct a second reading of the above-described matter.

**BACKGROUND**

Not applicable

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

Not applicable

**ATTACHMENTS**

None.

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

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

B. Kuebler\_\_ P. Kaiser\_\_ G. Shephard\_\_ D. Engle\_\_ S. Rungren\_\_ V. Crawford\_\_ E. Ayala\_\_

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

**DATE:** March 10, 2022

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Groundwater Extraction Fees

**SUMMARY**

Agency counsel will provide an update on groundwater extraction fees beginning fiscal year 2022/2023. The Board may provide direction to staff.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Receive an update from Agency Counsel concerning groundwater extraction fees beginning fiscal year 2022/2023 and provide direction to staff.

**BACKGROUND**

Not applicable

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

Not applicable

**ATTACHMENTS**

None.

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

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

B. Kuebler\_\_ P. Kaiser\_\_ G. Shephard\_\_ D. Engle\_\_ S. Rungren\_\_ V. Crawford\_\_ E. Ayala\_\_