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, May 12, 2022 via**

ON-LINE OR TELECONFERENCE:
DIAL-IN: 1-669-900-6833
Find your local number: Find your local number: https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kbvAOpXSTn
JOIN BY COMPUTER, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89109664080?pwd=Vit5Nm9PeVNyQWpiQzZiazJMMlZ4Zz09
Meeting ID: 891 0966 4080
Passcode: 461558

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

May 12, 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 April 14, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

b. Approve Financial Report for April 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. Agency Officer Appointments

The Board will consider addressing the vacancy in the Chair position for the balance of fiscal year 2021/2022.

b. City of Ojai Request to Join Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Joint Powers Agreement

The Board will receive a report from the ad hoc committee and may provide direction to the ad hoc committee and/or staff.

c. Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget and Multi-Year Budget Projection

The Board will consider approving a fiscal year 2022/2023 budget and multi-year budget projection and consider scheduling a public hearing to adopt groundwater extraction fees for fiscal year 2022/2023.

10. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. Draft Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance

The Board will review a draft groundwater well registration, metering, and extraction reporting ordinance, provide direction to staff, and considered scheduling a public hearing to consider ordinance adoption.

b. Draft Aquatic Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Monitoring Workplans

The Board will receive an update concerning the draft aquatic GDE monitoring workplans and consider authorizing a public comment period on the draft workplans.

c. Intera Work Order No. 5 for As-Needed GSP Implementation Support

The Board will consider authorizing the Executive Director to issue Work Order No. 5 to Intera, Inc. for as-needed GSP implementation support for an amount not to exceed $50,000.

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 June 9, 2022 at 1 P.M.

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 14, 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, Pete Kaiser, Glenn Shephard, Emily Ayala, Jim Kentosh (alternate director). Also present: Executive Director Bryan Bondy, Agency Counsel Keith Lemieux, and Administrative Assistant Maureen Tucker. Identified public members present: Jennifer Tribo, Mary Bergen (UVRGA alternate director), William Weirick, Michael Flood, Burt Handy, Trey Driscoll, Kelly Dyer, Laura Ward, Burt Rapp, Emily McCord, Matthew Summers, John Mundy, and Kiernan Brtalik.

1) CALL TO ORDER

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

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Executive Director Bryan Bondy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) ROLL CALL

Executive Director Bondy called roll.

Directors Present: Bruce Kuebler, Susan Rungren, Pete Kaiser, Glenn Shephard, Vivon Crawford, Emily Ayala, and Jim Kentosh (alternate director)

Directors Absent: none

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

Vice Chair Kuebler asked for any proposed changes to the agenda.

Director Shephard said he needs to leave the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Director Shephard moved agenda approval and renewal of Resolution 2021-05. Director Ayala seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y J. Kentosh – Y G. Shephard – Y E.Ayala - Y

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

Directors Absent: None

5) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

Vice Chair Kuebler asked for public comments on items not appearing on the agenda. None were offered.

6) CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approve Minutes from March 10, 2022, Regular Board Meeting
b. Approve Minutes from March 24, 2022, Special Board Meeting
c. Approve Financial Report for March 2022
d. Receive and File 3rd Quarter Budget Report

Vice Chair Kuebler asked if there needs to be discussion of any of the consent calendar items.

Director Kaiser moved to approve the consent calendar items. Director Shephard seconded the motion.

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

Directors Absent: None

7) DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Director Crawford: No report.

Director Kuebler: No report.

Director Rungren: Director Rungren announced that she will be retiring at the end of May. The City of Ventura will identify its new UVRGA director before the June meeting.

Director Shephard: No report.

Director Kaiser: No report.

Director Ayala: No report.

Director Kentosh: No report.

8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Bondy reported on Agency matters since the last Board meeting and reviewed correspondence for a Public Records Act request from Ojai Valley News, correspondence with Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC) regarding GSP comments, and a letter sent to the State Water Resources Control Board concerning model documentation report comments.

Director Ayala asked questions about the well monitoring on Burnham Road. Executive Director Bryan Bondy said that staff has been in communication with the owner and is evaluating options.

Director Crawford explained why OVLC did not comment on the draft GSP and will be commenting to the Department of Water Resources. Director Crawford hopes she can improve outreach to environmental stakeholders now that she is a stakeholder director on the UVRGA Board. Vice Chair Kuebler expressed disappointment with OVLC and said he hopes communication will improve.

Public comments: none.

9) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a. Resolution 2022-04 Honoring Diana Engle

Executive Director Bryan Bondy reviewed the draft resolution and summarized the contributions to the Agency by former Director Diana Engle.

Board comments:

Vice Chair Kuebler stated Diana gave her heart and soul on this GSP process.

Director Rungren stated Diana was a great leader with lots of knowledge and appreciated her time and effort.

Director Shephard agreed with Vice Chair Kuebler and Director Rungren. She was technically very well versed. She led the Board through the GSP development.

Director Ayala will miss Diana's thoroughness, thoughtfulness, and scientific mind.

Director Kentosh states she was an amazing Director and will be a big loss for the Meiners Oaks Water District Board.

Director Kaiser said Director Engle did a fantastic job on the Board.

Director Kaiser moved to approve Resolution 2022-04 honoring Diana Engle. Seconded by Director Rungren.

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

Directors Absent: None

b. Groundwater Extraction Fee, Well Registration, Metering, and Reporting Requirements

Executive Director Bondy gave the Board an update concerning the process for implementing the fiscal year 2022-2023 groundwater extraction fees and developing well registration, metering, and reporting requirements.

Executive Director Bondy explained that fee adoption is a two-step process. The annual budget would be adopted in May and then the fees would be based on the budget and adopted in June following a public hearing. He said there are some outstanding issues that staff and counsel need the Board's feedback on.

1. Member Agency invoicing. Staff proposes to bill the Member Agencies up front at the beginning of the fiscal year to address cash flow issues. No objections were voiced.

2. Private well invoicing. Executive Director Bondy said the Board needs to figure out how to transition in to metering by July 1, 2022. It is unreasonable to adopt a fee in June, and then ask everyone to be compliant with the forthcoming metering requirements by July 1st. Staff proposes to make the 2022/2023 be a transitional year, unless the well owner already has a meter installed and can meet the forthcoming metering requirements.

Director Ayala asked if the public hearing would be online or in person. She would like to reach out to the pumpers. Executive Director Bondy said it is up to the Board.

Public Comments:

Burt Handy noted a typo on page 2 of the staff report.

Regarding well registration, metering, and reporting requirements, Executive Director Bondy explained that staff proposes that UVRGA adopt an ordinance based on the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) rules. He said the meeting packet

includes an FCGMA ordinance and resolution that addresses the requirements and the staff report requested that the Directors review and identify any concerns.

Director Ayala proposed giving the private pumpers a one-year grace period for meter calibration and accept "uncalibrated" meter readings during that period for fee calculations. After some discussion, the Board agreed on the waiver period and that private pumper fees during fiscal year 2022/2023 would be based on meter readings regardless of calibration status, subject to a reasonableness check by the Executive Director. If a private pumper does not have a meter, the fee would be based on the 2017 extraction estimate.

Director Ayala asked about the notification requirement for meter maintenance. Executive Director Bondy clarified that it is only for planned maintenance. Director Kentosh said he is somewhat concerned about the notification requirement for planned maintenance.

Director Ayala asked about reporting – snail mail vs e-mail? Executive Director Bondy suggested accepting both, but he hopes that everyone can use e-mail. He added that it may be possible to set something up on the website, budget permitting.

Vice Chair Kuebler wants to make sure that it is clear the de minimis wells are exempted.

Director Shephard said he thinks the approach presented by staff is good and recommends combining the FCGMA ordinance and resolution into a single document.

Executive Director Bondy explained the proposed extraction reporting and fee invoicing schedule. The proposal is to require quarterly reporting of extractions, but to only bill twice a year. Quarterly reporting is necessary because SGMA reporting requirements are on a water year basis, but the Agency's fiscal year is not.

Public Comments:

No additional public comments were offered.

Executive Director Bondy said he will work with Agency Counsel to put together a draft ordinance for the May 2022 Board meeting.

c. City of Ojai Request to Join Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Joint Powers Agreement.

Executive Director Bondy said that Staff and Agency Counsel reviewed the request and determined that the City of Ojai is eligible to become a member of the Agency. Executive Director Bondy reviewed a map showing the location of the City's boundary and sphere of influence relative the UVRGA boundary. Executive Director Bondy explained the joint powers agreement requirements for adding a member, including unanimous approval by the member agency boards and terms and conditions to be developed by the UVRGA Board. Executive Director Bondy said that the joint powers agreement does not require terms and conditions and does not provide any guidance. He said that the Board could consider terms and conditions related to financial assistance. He also suggested that the Board consider potential issues related to having an even number of directors on the Board and that the Board could discuss voting privileges. Executive Director Bondy suggested that the Board receive a presentation from Matthew Summers, City Attorney for the City of Ojai.

Mr. Summers presented a slide show a copy of which is attached to these minutes (Attachment A). Bill Weirick said the Ojai City Council has been moving in a direction of more collaboration on water issues since UVRGA was formed.

Vice Chair Kuebler called for Board member comments and questions.

Director Kaiser said the presentation was well done and believes UVRGA should collaborate with the City of Ojai. He views this request from a collaborative outreach perspective and thinks there are many beneficial aspects, including financial.

Director Kaiser asked Executive Director Bondy what the estimated costs would be for the City of Ojai to join. Executive Director Bondy it would be a relatively minor expense

Director Kaiser asked Executive Director Bondy how much each member agency pays. Executive Director Bondy did not know off the top of his head, but researched during the discussion and posted the following in the Zoom chat window:

- Casitas MWD: ~$15K/yr
- City of Ventura: ~$188K/yr
- Meiners Oaks Water District: ~$43K/yr
- Ventura River Water District: ~$68K/yr
- County of Ventura does not pay because it does not extract groundwater.

Director Kaiser asked Executive Director Bondy what the beneficial aspect would be of the City of Ojai joining the Agency. Executive Director Bondy said staff does not have an opinion on political matters.

Director Shephard said he supports the request, and an even number of board members does not concern him. He departed the meeting at 2:25pm.

Director Kentosh said he supports the request but wonders about conflict of interest related to the City's participation in the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA). Executive Director Bondy noted that Casitas MWD is already a member of both agencies, and he is not sure it is a conflict. Agency Counsel and Matthew Summers both agreed there is no conflict of interest; they are not incompatible offices.

Director Kaiser asked why the member agency boards must approve adding a member versus their UVRGA appointees. Agency Counsel explained that the joint powers agreement is a contract and can only be amended by the contracting parties, which are the member agencies.

Director Kaiser asked who would draft the amendments? Agency counsel proposed having Matthey Summers prepare a draft for him and an ad hoc Board committee to review.

Vice Chair Kuebler said he has not seen this matter before the Ojai City Council. He said that Ventura River Water District's position is that the Ojai City Council should vote on the request before moving forward. He would like more information on the City's interests, why it wants to join, and proposed compensation.

Matthew Summers stated that the Ojai City Council voted on this matter in closed session in March 2022 and they need the terms and conditions before an open session vote will take place. He added that the adjudication case is stayed pending mediation until September. Some solutions proposed would rely on the groundwater sustainability agencies. The City of Ojai wants to join UVRGA to promote successful mediation, which is why the subject of joining UVRGA was discussed in closed session.

Director Kentosh said the City needs to sort out the terms and conditions to join and has not heard anything offered up to them yet. He shares Vice Chair Kuebler's concern regarding closed session vs. open session. He would like to consider a limitation on the City of Ojai's voting on matters that have conflict between OBGMA and UVRGA. He departed the meeting at 2:35pm.

Director Kaiser suggested having the attorneys work on the amendments.

Vice Chair Kuebler said the Board needs to develop terms and conditions.

Director Kaiser said he thinks it is wise to have the City of Ojai join.

Director Rungren suggested an ad hoc committee to develop draft terms and conditions.

Director Ayala thanked Bill Weirick for his involvement in water issues over the years and getting the City of Ojai more engaged. She would like to hear from the rest of the Ojai City Counsel in open session. She does not have an issue with the City of Ojai becoming a member and thinks it would help bring OBGMA and UVRGA together.

Director Crawford likes the idea of having representation from more entities and would like to add the Chumash to the UVRGA Board.

Vice Chair Kuebler called for public comments from non-City of Ojai attendees. No comments were offered.

After further discussion, the Board agreed to form an ad hoc committee consisting of Directors Kaiser and Rungren to develop draft terms and conditions. Vice President Kuebler suggested including Director Kentosh if he is interested. Director Kaiser will chair the ad hoc committee.

Director Kaiser moved formation of an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Director Kaiser and Rungren, and possibly Director Kentosh, to discuss the terms and conditions of the City of Ojai joining UVRGA and for Agency Counsel Lemieux and City Attorney Summers to discuss joint powers agreement amendments. Director Rungren seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y E.Ayala - Y

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

Director Absent: Kentosh and Shephard

10) GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. Executive Director Review of Ojai Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

The Executive Director explained the scope of his Ojai Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) review that was requested by the Board. The scope was limited to assessing whether the GSP includes required elements under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act for depletion of interconnected surface water and assessment of effects of the GSP on sustainable management of the Upper Ventura River Basin. He said that the detailed review findings are included in the staff report if there are any questions. He summarized the findings by saying he feels the GSP probably has some elements that do currently not meet the regulations, but OBGMA recognizes that they need to collect more data and the GSP will be updated. He said this is a path that many GSAs are on, and he is not particularly concerned about it. He said the proposed actions to address data gaps are vague and suggested that OBGSA provide more information.

Director Ayala thanked Executive Director Bondy for his review and said she is uncomfortable with sending a letter to DWR. She would rather send a letter to OBGMA. She would like to see the two agencies to work together.

Director Kaiser echoes Director Ayala and wants to see the two agencies working together.

Director Rungren agreed with the other director's comments.

Vice Chair Kuebler said he is comfortable with receiving the report and moving on.

Vice Chair Kuebler called for public comments.

John Mundy, OBGMA Executive Director, thanked Executive Director Bondy for his summary and then read prepared comments, which are attached to these minutes (Attachment B).

Director Kaiser moved to receive and file the report and include the John Mundy's comments in the meeting minutes. Seconded by Director Rungren.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y E.Ayala - Y

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

Director Absent: Kentosh and Shephard.

11) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee

Director Ayala said there is no committee report. She plans to work with the Executive Director on outreach to the private pumpers regarding metering.

12) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No items were requested.

13) ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting May 12, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Action: _____

Motion: _____

B. Kuebler_ M. Etchart_ P. Kaiser_ S. Rungren_ G. Shephard_ V. Crawford_ E. Ayala_

Ojai Membership in Upper Valley Ventura River Groundwater Agency

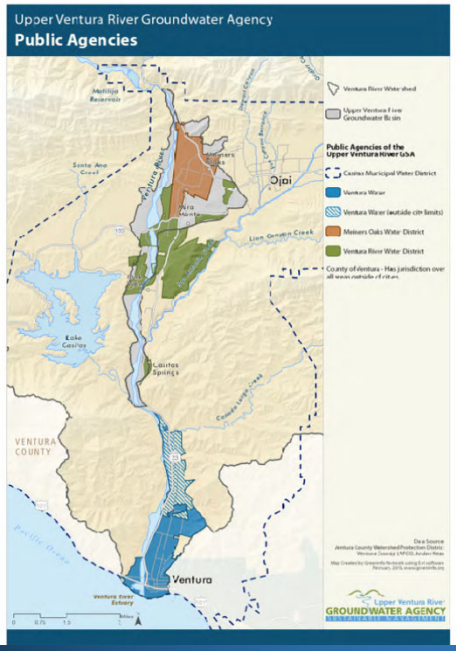
Presented by
Matthew T. Summers
City of Ojai City Attorney
msummers@chwlaw.us
(213) 542-5701

COLANTUONO HIGHSMITH WHATLEY, PC

1

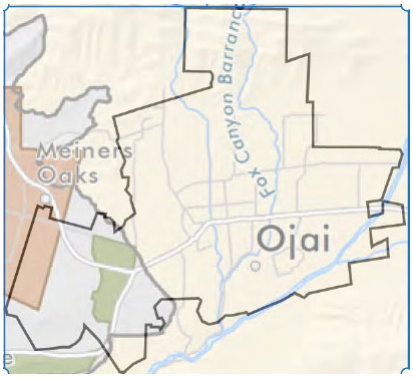
Ojai & UVRGA History

- In a different time, Ojai declined to be a charter member
- Ojai rightly belongs in UVRGA
  - As an overlying agency (Water Code §10723 (a))
  - As a land use regulator (Water Code §10723.2)
  - 1/4 of Ojai is within basin managed by UVGRA
- Ojai is prepared to support UVRGA's work
- Ojai would now like to be a member
- Ojai submitted membership application on Feb. 17, 2022
- Ojai has a number of rate payers to the UVGRA in its jurisdiction and a responsibility to enhance groundwater recharge with its land use management policies.



2

Quarter of Ojai is in UVRGA Basin



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3

SGMA Criteria for Membership

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) mandates that local agencies establish locally-controlled groundwater sustainability agencies
- Any local agency/combination of local agencies overlaying a groundwater basin may become a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA)
- SGMA does not impose additional requirements on new members

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4

Joining a GSA

- Governed by the joint-powers agreement or memorandum of agreement that established the GSA
  - Difference is SGMA authorities exercised by JPA
- Other agencies have joined formed GSAs since SGMA was adopted by the Legislature in 2015
- Example: Monroeville Water District joined the Glenn Groundwater Authority in 2019 (GSA formed in 2017)

5

Joining the UVGRA

- Joint Powers Agreement (December 2016)
- Section 5.2 (New Members)
  - "Additional public agencies or mutual water companies may become members of the Agency upon such terms and conditions as established by the Board of Directors and upon the **unanimous consent** of the existing Members, evidenced by the execution of a written amendment to this Agreement[.]"

6

Ojai Request of UVRGA Board

- Provide UVRGA Board direction re terms and conditions of Ojai joining UVRGA
- Ojai City Council can then formally agree and each agency can approve an amended Joint Powers Agreement
- Goal is to complete this fiscal year, ensuring full funding for UVRGA for next fiscal year

7

Terms of Membership

- City is open to negotiations about its terms of membership
  - Financial contribution amount
  - Voting membership
  - City is open to negotiations related to having even number of board members or selecting an option to add a seventh seat
    - Six Seat Board – promotes collaboration
    - Seven Seat Board – ideas:
      - Local Indigenous Community Representative (Water Code § 10723.2(h) states GSAs have to consider interests of "Native American Tribes")
      - Appointed Public Member at agreement of six agencies
      - Ojai Valley Sanitation District Board seat

8

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OJAI BASIN
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MEMBER AGENCIES
Ojai Water Conservation District
Casitas Municipal Water District
City of Ojai
Community Facilities District

Ojai Basin Mutual Water Companies
Senior Canyon MWC
Siete Robles MWC
Hermitage MWC

April 14, 2022

Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency
202 W. El Roblar Dr.
Ojai, CA 93023
Attention: Board of Directors

Reference: Executive Director Review of Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

This letter is to provide comments to the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA) regarding Mr. Bondy's review memorandum of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan which is part of the meeting package to be presented at its Board of Directors Meeting on April 14, 2022.

UVRGA Comments:

Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water

2. Basin Setting: Executive Director Findings.

Paragraph 2: *Does the GSP estimate the quantity and timing of interconnected surface water system depletions?*

Section 2.3.4.6, page 2-141 of the GSP states:
"The shallow perched aquifer is separated from the deeper confined production aquifers by an extensive clay aquitard (Kear 2005, 2021; OBGMA 2018). Groundwater levels in the shallow perched aquifer exhibit a stable trend with little seasonal fluctuation or response to groundwater extraction while groundwater levels in the primary production aquifer show the effects of groundwater extraction."

I interpret this text to mean the GSP is concluding that there is no depletion of interconnected surface water (i.e., rate of depletion is zero) because the effects of pumping are not observed in the perched groundwater level data. It is noted that the

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GSP describes data gaps for depletion of interconnected surface water and proposes actions to address those gaps and further analyze depletions. The GSP requirements are substantially met because the GSP appears to make a preliminary conclusion that there is no depletion and includes a plan to address data gaps to confirm the conclusion. However, it is noted that the GSP could be improved by more clearly and directly stating that the preliminary conclusion is no depletions.

OBGMA Response: *The preliminary conclusion was presented in the GSP as a result of limited dated collected prior to publication. We believe it is inaccurate to conclude there are no depletions in surface water until further data is collected and analyzed for surface flow, groundwater pumping in the basin and water level measurements taken of the Depth Discrete Monitoring Well recently installed. It is expected this work will result in OBGMA making a more definitive conclusion on the interaction between surface water and pumping within the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin (OVGB).*

UVRGA Comments

5. Monitoring Network §354.34(c): Each monitoring network shall be designed to accomplish the following for each sustainability indicator:

(6) Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water. Monitor surface water and groundwater, where interconnected surface water conditions exist, to characterize the spatial and temporal exchanges between surface water and groundwater, and to calibrate and apply the tools and methods necessary to calculate depletions of surface water caused by groundwater extractions. The monitoring network shall be able to characterize the following:

(A) Flow conditions including surface water discharge, surface water head, and baseflow contribution.

(B) Identifying the approximate date and location where ephemeral or intermittent flowing streams and rivers cease to flow, if applicable.

(C) Temporal change in conditions due to variations in stream discharge and regional groundwater extraction.

(D) Other factors that may be necessary to identify adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water.

Executive Director Findings:

The existing interconnected surface water monitoring network does not meet the §354.34(c) requirements. However, the GSP acknowledges this by identifying data gaps and including a plan to address them, as is provided for in §354.38. Therefore, the question is whether the future monitoring network will meet the §354.34(c) requirements. GSP Section 3.5.7.2 describes the data gaps in very general terms but stops short of identifying data gap locations and other details. GSP Section 4.2.4 describes proposed actions to improve the monitoring network consisting of identifying additional sites for multi-completion monitoring wells and stream gauges. Again, no details are provided, such as the number or approximate location of wells and gauges. While it is perfectly

acceptable to identify data gaps and address them before the first 5-year GSP assessment, the GSP does not provide enough information to determine whether the proposed data gap filling actions will lead to a monitoring network that meets the §354.34(c) requirements. Therefore, I conclude the GSP does not comply with the depletions of interconnected surface water monitoring network requirements.

OBGMA Response: *As part of the planning and implementation of requirements in the GSP OBGMA Chapter 4 speaks to Projects and Management Actions that will be addressed to fully comply with SGMA. As these programs are further developed detail will be provided to clearly define the monitoring actions to be taken by OBGMA in compliance with SGMA. Discussion of the monitoring program is found in the following sub-sections:*

UVRGA Comments:

Assessment of Effects on Sustainable Management of the Upper Ventura River Basin

1. Description of Plan Area §354.8(a)(1): One or more maps of the basin that depict the following, as applicable:

(1) … the name and location of any adjacent basins.

Executive Director Findings:

The GSP does not fully address this requirement. While the location of the Upper Ventura River Basin (UVRB) is depicted and labeled on Figure 2-1, the entire extent of the UVRB is not shown. Importantly, the Foster Park area of the UVRB, which has numerous beneficial uses and users of water, is not shown.

OBGMA Response: *The entire extent of the UVRB is not depicted on Figure 2-1 due to scale and page size. OBGMA will develop a figure to show the full extent of the UVRB and include it in its annual report.*

UVRGA Comments:

2. Minimum Thresholds §354.28(b)(3): How minimum thresholds have been selected to avoid causing undesirable results in adjacent basins or affecting the ability of adjacent basins to achieve sustainability goals.

Executive Director Findings:

Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels Sustainability Indicator: The requirement is not applicable because there is very limited groundwater underflow between the Ojai and Upper Ventura River Basins.

Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water Monitoring: I was unable to locate any text in the GSP that describes consideration of impacts to the Upper Ventura River Basin in the design of the depletions of interconnected surface water monitoring network. Therefore, it does not appear that the §354.34(f)(3) requirements have been met.

Reduction of Groundwater Storage Sustainability Indicator: The requirement is not applicable because there is very limited groundwater underflow between the Ojai and Upper Ventura River Basins.

Seawater Intrusion Sustainability Indicator: The requirement is not applicable because the GSP concludes that this indicator is not applicable to the Ojai Basin.

Degraded Water Quality Sustainability Indicator: The requirement is not applicable because there is very limited groundwater underflow between the Ojai and Upper Ventura River Basins.

Land Subsidence Sustainability Indicator: The requirement is not applicable because the GSP concludes that this indicator is not applicable to the Ojai Basin.

Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water Sustainability Indicator: The GSP does not establish a minimum threshold for the depletions of interconnected surface water sustainability indicator because data gaps must first be filled, as described above. Therefore, compliance with the §354.28(b)(3) requirements cannot be evaluated until the GSP is updated.

OBGMA Response: *As OBGMA collects and evaluates future data on it Depth Discrete Monitoring Well, surface flow within San Antonio Creek and discharge from the OVGB it is expected to provide a more accurate picture of any effect of pumping within the basin on surface flows and discharges to UVRB. This work will assist OBGMA to develop minimum thresholds, if necessary, to limit any downstream impacts that may exist.*

UVRGA Comments:

4. Assessment and Improvement of Monitoring Network §354.38(e): Each Agency shall adjust the monitoring frequency and density of monitoring sites to provide an adequate level of detail about site-specific surface water and groundwater conditions and to assess the effectiveness of management actions under circumstances that include the following:

(4) The potential to adversely affect the ability of an adjacent basin to implement its Plan or impede achievement of sustainability goals in an adjacent basin.

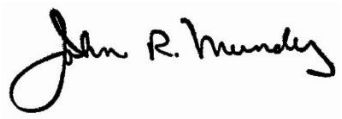
Executive Director Findings:

Same finding as the previous item.

OBGMA Response: *As OBGMA further develops and implements its monitoring program it will be in a better position to determine if there is any effect on adjacent basins.*

The initial OVGB GSP was not expected to fully identify and solve all of the problems and interactions within the basin and adjoining basins. It is a baseline document to help guide the agency over the next 20 years in identifying and establishing a direction for sustainability within the Ojai basin. . Each year an Annual Report will be prepared to identify the actions taken and results that may occur within the OVGB. Over each succeeding five year period OBGMA will identify, evaluate, plan and implement programs and projects that will work toward achieving sustainability. At the end of these five year periods an updated report will be provided to DWR demonstrating the planning and actions taken by the OBGMA. It is expected through this process a better understanding of the basin will be achieved resulting in a balanced approach to water use and management of the OVGB.

It is recommend that the Upper Ventura River GSA provide specific recommendations regarding additional monitoring required to evaluate interconnected surface water – groundwater in respect to potential impacts to the Upper Ventura River GSA. In addition, it is recommend that UVRGA technical staff coordinate directly with OBGMA technical staff to collaboratively discuss these matters further.



John R. Mundy
General Manager

Cc; OBGMA Board of Directors

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

DATE: May 10, 2022
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Carrie Troup C.P.A., Treasurer
SUBJECT: Approve Financial Report for April 2022

March 2022 UVRGA Balance			$	213,169.13
April 2022 Activity:				
Revenues/ Credits:				
			$	-
Checks Pending Signature:				
2295	Rincon Consultants, Inc.	April Services	$	478.60
2296	Ventura Water District	Audit Services	$	13,000.00
2297	Carrie Troup, C.P.A.	April Services	$	1,195.42
2298	Void-(misprint)		$	-
2299	Void-(misprint)		$	-
2300	Void-(misprint)		$	-
2301	Void-(misprint)		$	-
2302	Rincon Consultants, Inc.	April Services	$	8,688.50
2303	Bondy Groundwater Consulting, Inc.	April Services	$	5,463.00
2304	Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neil	March Services	$	3,933.60
2305	Aleshire & Wynder, LLP	April Services	$	3,296.40
Total Expenditures Paid & To Be Paid			$	36,055.52
April 2022 UVRGA Ending Balance:			**$**	**177,113.61**

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B. Kuebler___ G. Shephard___ M. Etchart__ 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.

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 8

DATE: May 12, 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:
    a. Meiners Oaks Water District officially appointed Mike Etchart to serve as UVRGA Director on April 19, 2022. Jim Kentosh remains the alternate.

    b. The Executive Director inquired with Ventura River Water District concerning potential part-time administrative support for UVRGA.

2. Financial:

    a. Groundwater Extraction Fees:

        i. Payments for the sixth round of semi-annual extraction fee invoices 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: Agency Counsel worked with the Executive Director on preparing the draft well registration, metering, and extraction reporting ordinance (please see Item No. 10(a). Agency Counsel also coordinated with City of Ojai's attorney concerning joint powers agreement amendments.

4. GSP Implementation:

    a. GSP: Comments to DWR concerning the GSP were due April 16, 2022. Comments were submitted by (in the order received) National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Ojai Land Conservancy, and an NGO consortium. All comment letters are available on the SGMA Portal at: https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/comments/77

b. Monitoring Networks:

i. Groundwater Level Monitoring:

1. The Executive Director evaluated alternatives to monitoring well 04N23W20A01S to address the well owner's access concerns.

ii. Surface Water Flow Monitoring:

1. Camino Cielo crossing surface water flow gauge activation was previously deferred to spring 2022 and continues to be on hold pending significant rain.

2. The Executive Director sent a letter to Ventura County Watershed Protection District formally requesting annual scheduled processing of streamflow data in a timeframe that supports development of the GSP Annual Report (Attachment A).

iii. Visual Surface Water Monitoring: Rincon Consultants, Inc. continued the monthly monitoring activities.

iv. Aquatic GDE Monitoring Plans: Rincon Consultants, Inc. prepared draft monitoring plans for the Confluence Aquatic GDE and Foster Park Aquatic GDE areas (please see Item No. 10(b).

5. SWRCB / CDFW Instream Flow Enhancement Coordination: No activity.

6. Ventura River Watershed Instream Flow & Water Resilience Framework (VRIF): No update.

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 B. Bondy, UVRGA to G. Shephard, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, dated April 28, 2022 re: Request for Water Year Streamflow Data by December 1 Annually – Streamflow Station Nos. 602B (Matilija Creek at Matilija Hot Springs), 604 (North Fork Matilija Creek at Matilija Hot Springs); and 605A (San Antonio Creek at Old Creek Road)

Action: _____

Motion: _____

B. Kuebler_ M. Etchart_ P. Kaiser_ S. Rungren_ G. Shephard_ V. Crawford_ E. Ayala_

Upper Ventura River
GROUNDWATER AGENCY
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

202 W. El Roblar Dr.
Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 640-1247
https://uvrgroundwater.org/

April 28, 2022

Glenn Shephard, Director
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1600

Transmitted via e-mail to glenn.shephard@ventura.org

RE: Request for Water Year Streamflow Data by December 1 Annually – Streamflow Station Nos. 602B (Matilija Creek at Matilja Hot Springs), 604 (North Fork Matilija Creek at Matilija Hot Springs); and 605A (San Antonio Creek at Old Creek Road)

Dear Glenn:

As discussed, this letter presents Upper Ventura Groundwater Agency's (UVRGA) formal request for annual scheduled processing of streamflow data for the above-listed streamflow stations. As you know, UVRGA is the groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) for the Upper Ventura River Valley Basin (Basin) and is required to submit annual reports to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by April 1 of each year to comply with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulations. Each annual report must include certain information for the preceding water year, including information about streamflow and streamflow depletion. As such, obtaining fully processed streamflow soon after the close of the water year is necessary for UVRGA to comply with its SGMA annual reporting mandate. Please note that UVRGA must update its numerical flow model to prepare certain required report elements and the requested streamflow data are a perquisite for the model update. In short, obtaining streamflow data is the critical path item in the overall annual report development process. Considering the time needed for model updating, annual report preparation, and stakeholder review, UVRGA is requesting that VCWPD provide processed streamflow data annually for the above-listed sites no later than two months following the close of each water year (i.e., by December 1 of each year).

As you know, streamflow depletion is the central issue for UVRGA, its GSP, and SGMA compliance. Therefore, streamflow data are of paramount importance and critical to the success of UVRGA in its mission to comply with SGMA. If the streamflow data cannot be provided in the requested timeframe, UVRGA will be unable to accurately calculate streamflow depletion and will incur significant additional expenses to address the resulting data gaps. As a member agency of the UVRGA, we hope that VCWPD will prioritize and allocate the necessary resources to address this important need.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Bryan Bondy

Bryan Bondy
Executive Director

Cc: PWA.HydroData@ventura.org

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

DATE: May 12, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agency Officer Appointments

SUMMARY

Former Director Engle's recent departure created a vacancy in the Board Chair position. On April 19, Meiners Oaks Water District appointed Mike Etchart to serve as director on the UVRGA Board. Now that this appointment has been made, the Board may wish to appoint a new Chair. Alternatively, the Board may wish to postpone this decision until July when annual officers appointments are to be made pursuant to Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Article 7.

The current officers are:

- Chair: Vacant
- Vice Chair: Bruce Kuebler
- Secretary: Pete Kaiser

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Consider addressing the chair vacancy for the period May 12, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) Article 7, officers of the Agency shall be selected from the Member Directors and shall be elected by, and serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. Pursuant to Agency Bylaws Section 4.2, Board Officers shall be elected at the first meeting at the start of the fiscal year.

FISCAL SUMMARY

None.

Action: _____

Motion: _____

B. Kuebler_ M. Etchart_ P. Kaiser_ S. Rungren_ G. Shephard_ V. Crawford_ E. Ayala_

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

DATE: May 12, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: City of Ojai Request to Join Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Joint Powers Agreement

SUMMARY

During its April 14 meeting, the Board created an ad hoc committee to develop draft terms and conditions for the addition of the City of Ojai to UVRGA. The purpose of this item is to receive a report from the ad hoc committee and consider providing direction to the ad hoc committee and/or staff.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Receive a report from the ad hoc committee and consider providing direction to the ad hoc committee and/or staff.

BACKGROUND

Relevant reference materials:

Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement:
https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/UVRB_-JPA_signed.pdf

Agency Bylaws:
https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/UVRGA-Bylaws.pdf

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

None.

Action: _____

Motion: _____

B. Kuebler_ M. Etchart_ P. Kaiser_ S. Rungren_ G. Shephard_ V. Crawford_ E. Ayala_

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

DATE: May 14, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget and Multi-Year Budget Projection

SUMMARY

The draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/2023 budget has been prepared for consideration (please see Attachment A, any table 4 through 6). In addition, three scenarios of the multi-year budget projection (a.k.a. long-range budget projection) have been prepared for review and discussion. The three scenarios differ only in groundwater extraction assumptions and the resulting per acre-foot extraction fee rates.

Budgeting Assumption – Expenses

Expenses are as per the currently adopted multi-year budget projection, except as follows:

1. Administrative Expenses were increased by approximately $2,500 to include costs for renting meeting rooms for board and other meetings.

2. Professional Fees were increased by approximately $24,000 based actual FY 2021/2022 costs-to-date.

3. Unused grant application budget in the amount of $25,000 was carried over from FY 2021/2022 to FY 2022/2023.

4. Unused capital expenditure budget in the amount of $19,291 was carried over from FY 2021/2022 to FY 2022/2023.

As a reminder, expense assumptions include the following:

1. No litigation.

2. 3% annual inflation.

3. Actual costs will be pursuant to the GSP implementation cost projections.

Budgeting Assumption – Financial Reserve

The assumed financial reserve for FY 2023/2024 of $150,000 and $225,000 thereafter was reduced to $100,000 based on concerns expressed during last year's budgeting process.

Budgeting Assumption – Grants

Although UVRGA is eligible to apply for a Round 2 GSP Implementation Grant later this year, no grant revenue has been included in the budget and forecast because there is no guarantee of a grant award.

Budgeting Assumption - Groundwater Extractions and Extraction Fees

For FY 2022/2023 budget and extraction fee, the Board directed staff to use the most recent 3-year average extractions for the Member Agencies, which was 3,597 acre-feet. For private pumpers, the Board directed staff to charge based on metered extractions reported to the Agency following each semi-annual period. It is assumed that the FY 22/23 extractions will be the same as the 2017 calendar year estimated extractions, which was 368 acre-feet. The total extractions used in the FY 22/23 budget is, therefore, 3,966[1] acre feet. ***It is important to note that groundwater extractions for the FY 22/23 budget are significantly lower than the extractions assumed in the multi-year budget approved last year (3,966 vs 4,880 acre-feet), which is the primary reason why the extraction fee rates in draft Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget have increased relative to the May 2021 multi-year budget.***

Future groundwater extractions for the consideration in the update to the multi-year budget were evaluated using three scenarios (Wet, Average with Single Dry Year, and Dry). The Wet Scenario is intended to represent a best-case scenario and the vice versa for the Dry Scenario. The Average with Single Dry Year Scenario is somewhere in between. It is important to note that the City of Ventura's subsurface intake became non-operation recently and it is assumed that it will not be placed back into service until 2024. This has a significant impact on the estimated extraction fee rates for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 and beyond. The scenario results are summarized in the table below. Details can be found in Attachment A.

Table
Summary of Extractions and Fee Scenario Results

	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	FY 26/27
Wet Extractions (AF)	3,966	3,495	3,799	5,060	6,469
Wet Fees ($/AF)	$146	$147	$128	$101	$82
Ave with 1 Dry Year Extractions (AF)	3,966	3,495	3,223	4,142	3,990
Ave with 1 Dry Year Fees ($/AF)	$146	$147	$151	$124	$132
Dry Extractions (AF)	3,966	3,495	2,738	2,438	2,286
Dry Fees ($/AF)	$146	$147	$178	$210	$231

[1] Sum of values does not match total due to rounding.

Next Steps

Extraction fees for FY 2022/2023 will need to be adopted by the Board following a public hearing. The adopted FY 2022/2023 budget must be published at least 20 days before the public hearing, as required by Water Code Section 10730(b)(3). Assuming the Board adopts a FY 2022/2023 budget today, it is recommended that the Board schedule the public hearing to adopt an extraction fee for FY 2022/2023 during the next Regular Meeting on June 9, 2022. Special meetings will be needed in May and June if the Board does not adopt the FY 2022/2023 budget today.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approve a fiscal year 2022/2023 budget and multi-year budget projection and schedule a public hearing to adopt groundwater extraction fees for fiscal year 2022/2023.

BACKGROUND

The multi-year budget projection was most recently adopted on May 27, 2021.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Please see summary.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Detail Tables

Action: _____

Motion: _____

B. Kuebler_ M. Etchart_ P. Kaiser_ S. Rungren_ G. Shephard_ V. Crawford_ E. Ayala_

Table 1.
Historical and Projected Groundwater Extractions (WET SCENARIO)

Calendar Year	Rainfall (in)	Groundwater Extraction (acre-feet)					
		Casitas MWD[1]	City of Ventura[2]	MOWD	VRWD	Private[3]	Total
2012	17.97	229	3,184	1,021	1,251	368	6,053
2013	14.08	171	2,173	837	908	368	4,457
2014	4.23	42	3,238	512	994	368	5,154
2015	13.30	54	1,298	466	843	368	3,029
2016	4.09	35	1,849	303	757	368	3,312
2017	15.98	164	3,647	668	856	368	5,703
2018	22.54	142	1,876	204	874	368	3,464
2019	12.96	115	2,588	610	572	368	4,253
2020	29.25	179	2,418	486	907	368	4,358
2021	10.72	219	1,364	412	922	368	3,285
2022 proj.[4]	AVE	171	1,000	503	800	368	2,842
2023 proj.[5]	WET	229	2,400	1,021	1,251	368	5,269
2024 proj.[5]	WET	229	4,200	1,021	1,251	368	7,069
2025 proj.[5]	WET	229	4,200	1,021	1,251	368	7,069
3-year Ave 2019-2021	N/A	171	2,123	503	800	368	3,966
3-year Ave 2020-2022 proj.	N/A	190	1,594	467	876	368	3,495
3-year Ave 2021-2023 proj.	N/A	206	1,588	645	991	368	3,799
3-year Ave 2022-2024 proj.	N/A	210	2,533	848	1,101	368	5,060
3-year Ave 2023-2025 proj.	N/A	229	3,600	1,021	1,251	368	6,469

Notes:

(1) 2021 data for Oct-Dec. was not available; used 2020 values for those months.

(2) Years 2017+ are considered representative of Foster Park Protocols implementation; subsurface intake non-operational 2022, assume subsurface intake back on-line in 2024; 2024+ values are per 2020 UWMP.

(3) Values are the 2017 estimated pumping (see Footnote 2).

(4) Values are the three year average for 2019-2021, except City of Ventura (see Footnote 2)

(5) Values are the max annual pumping since 2012, except City of Ventura (see Footnote 2)

Table 2.

Historical and Projected Groundwater Extractions (AVERAGE WITH SINGLE DRY YEAR SCENARIO)

Calendar Year	Rainfall (in)	Groundwater Extraction (acre-feet)					
		Casitas MWD[1]	City of Ventura[2]	MOWD	VRWD	Private[3]	Total
2012	17.97	229	3,184	1,021	1,251	368	6,053
2013	14.08	171	2,173	837	908	368	4,457
2014	4.23	42	3,238	512	994	368	5,154
2015	13.30	54	1,298	466	843	368	3,029
2016	4.09	35	1,849	303	757	368	3,312
2017	15.98	164	3,647	668	856	368	5,703
2018	22.54	142	1,876	204	874	368	3,464
2019	12.96	115	2,588	610	572	368	4,253
2020	29.25	179	2,418	486	907	368	4,358
2021	10.72	219	1,364	412	922	368	3,285
2022 proj.[4]	AVE	171	1,000	503	800	368	2,842
2023 proj.[4]	AVE	171	1,700	503	800	368	3,542
2024 proj.[4]	AVE	171	4,200	503	800	368	6,042
2025 proj.[5]	DRY	35	1,298	204	572	276	2,385
3-year Ave 2019-2021	N/A	171	2,123	503	800	368	3,966
3-year Ave 2020-2022 proj.	N/A	190	1,594	467	876	368	3,495
3-year Ave 2021-2023 proj.	N/A	187	1,355	472	841	368	3,223
3-year Ave 2022-2024 proj.	N/A	171	2,300	503	800	368	4,142
3-year Ave 2023-2025 proj.	N/A	126	2,399	403	724	338	3,990

Notes:

(1) 2021 data for Oct-Dec. was not available; used 2020 values for those months.

(2) Years 2017+ are considered representative of Foster Park Protocols implementation; subsurface intake non-operational 2022, assume subsurface intake back on-line in 2024; 2024+ values are per 2020 UWMP.

(3) 2019-2021 3-yr ave. except City of Ventura (see Footnote 2). Private is 75% of 2017 in dry years.

(4) Values are the three year average for 2019-2021, except City of Ventura (see Footnote 2)

(5) Values are the lowest value during 2012-2021, except City of Ventura (see Footnote 2)

Table 3.
Historical and Projected Groundwater Extractions (DRY SCENARIO)

Calendar Year	Rainfall (in)	Groundwater Extraction (acre-feet)					
		Casitas MWD[1]	City of Ventura[2]	MOWD	VRWD	Private[3]	Total
2012	17.97	229	3,184	1,021	1,251	368	6,053
2013	14.08	171	2,173	837	908	368	4,457
2014	4.23	42	3,238	512	994	368	5,154
2015	13.30	54	1,298	466	843	368	3,029
2016	4.09	35	1,849	303	757	368	3,312
2017	15.98	164	3,647	668	856	368	5,703
2018	22.54	142	1,876	204	874	368	3,464
2019	12.96	115	2,588	610	572	368	4,253
2020	29.25	179	2,418	486	907	368	4,358
2021	10.72	219	1,364	412	922	368	3,285
2022 proj.[4]	AVE	171	1,000	503	800	368	2,842
2023 proj.[5]	DRY	35	1,000	204	572	276	2,087
2024 proj.[5]	DRY	35	1,298	204	572	276	2,385
2025 proj.[5]	DRY	35	1,298	204	572	276	2,385
3-year Ave 2019-2021	N/A	171	2,123	503	800	368	3,966
3-year Ave 2020-2022 proj.	N/A	190	1,594	467	876	368	3,495
3-year Ave 2021-2023 proj.	N/A	142	1,121	373	765	338	2,738
3-year Ave 2022-2024 proj.	N/A	80	1,099	304	648	307	2,438
3-year Ave 2023-2025 proj.	N/A	35	1,199	204	572	276	2,286

Notes:

(1) 2021 data for Oct-Dec. was not available; used 2020 values for those months.

(2) Years 2017+ are considered representative of Foster Park Protocols implementation; subsurface intake non-operational 2022, assume subsurface intake back on-line in 2024; 2024+ values are per 2020 UWMP.

(3) 2017 estimated pumping, except City of Ventura (see note 2). Private is 75% of 2017 in dry years.

(4) Values are the three year average for 2019-2021, except City of Ventura (see Footnote 2)

(5) Values are the lowest value during 2012-2021, except City of Ventura (see Footnote 2)

Table 4
FY 2022 Proposed Budget and Multi-Year Projection
Wet Scenario

	FY 22 Budget	Jul '21 - Mar 22 Actuals	Apr-June 22 Projection	FY 22 Year-End Projection	FY 23 Proposed	FY 24 Projected	FY 25 Projected	FY 26 Projected	FY 27 Projected	Comments
Ordinary Income/Expense										
Income										
Misc. Income	$ -	$ 186.96	$ -	$ 186.96	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
41100 · DWR GSP Grant Income	$ 20,906.94	$ -	$ 21,090.00	$ 21,090.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	Pending DWR approval of invoice submitted in Jan. 2022. ***NOTE: UVRGA plans to apply for GSP Round 2 Implementation Grant in late 2022.***
Member Agency GW Extractions (AF)	3,972.59				3,597	3,127	3,431	4,692	6,101	See Table 1 for more information.
Private Entity GW Extractions (AF)	368.20				368	368	368	368	368	See Table 1 for more information.
Total GW Extractions (AF)	4,340.79				3,966	3,495	3,799	5,060	6,469	
Proposed Groundwater Extraction Fee ($/AF)	$ 79.16				$ 146	$ 147	$ 128	$ 101	$ 82	
43000 · Groundwater Extraction Fee	$ 343,618.00	$ 343,617.74	$ -	$ 343,617.74	$ 578,709.13	$ 513,794.40	$ 487,654.22	$ 512,838.18	$ 528,453.21	
Total Income	$ 373,285.69	$ 343,804.70	$ 21,090.00	$ 364,894.70	$ 586,786.13	$ 520,931.80	$ 495,380.32	$ 523,059.92	$ 541,473.29	
Expense										
55000 · Administrative Exp										
55005 · Rent Expense	$ 500.00	$ 22.58	$ 150.00	$ 172.58	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,060.00	$ 2,121.80	$ 2,185.45	$ 2,251.02	Meeting room rental fees
55011 · Computer Maintenance	$ 500.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 515.00	$ 530.45	$ 546.36	$ 562.75	$ 579.64	
55015 · Postage & Shipping	$ 700.00	$ 341.64	$ 10.00	$ 351.64	$ 103.00	$ 106.09	$ 109.27	$ 112.55	$ 115.93	
55020 · Office Supplies & Software	$ 500.00	$ 65.47	$ 50.00	$ 115.47	$ 515.00	$ 530.45	$ 546.36	$ 562.75	$ 579.64	
55025 · Minor Equipment	$ 250.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 257.50	$ 265.23	$ 273.18	$ 281.38	$ 289.82	
55035 · Advertising and Promotion	$ 1,970.00	$ 872.48	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,872.48	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,545.00	$ 1,591.35	$ 1,639.09	$ 1,688.26	
55055 · Insurance Expense-SDRMA	$ 4,147.67	$ 4,147.67	$ -	$ 4,147.67	$ 4,635.00	$ 4,774.05	$ 4,917.27	$ 5,064.79	$ 5,216.73	Hard edited to show pre-paid expenses
55060 · Memberships-CSDA	$ 1,366.00	$ 1,366.00	$ -	$ 1,366.00	$ 1,648.00	$ 1,697.44	$ 1,748.36	$ 1,800.81	$ 1,854.84	Hard edited to show pre-paid expenses
Total 55000 · Administrative Exp	$ 9,933.67	$ 6,815.84	$ 1,210.00	$ 8,025.84	$ 11,173.50	$ 11,508.71	$ 11,853.97	$ 12,209.59	$ 12,575.87	
58000 · Professional Fees										
58005 · Executive Director /GSP Mgr.	$ 21,600.00	$ 21,907.50	$ 8,500.00	$ 30,407.50	$ 35,000.00	$ 36,050.00	$ 37,131.50	$ 38,245.45	$ 39,392.81	This account is for ED admin activities only. Account is over budget due to unbudgeted activities, including City of Ojai request to join UVRGA, public records act request, extra board meetings, director changes, extra effort on extraction fees, and other board requests.
58010 · Legal Fees	$ 35,000.00	$ 14,901.21	$ 17,230.00	$ 32,131.21	$ 35,000.00	$ 36,050.00	$ 37,131.50	$ 38,245.45	$ 39,392.81	
58015 · Website	$ 3,000.00	$ 1,997.91	$ -	$ 1,997.91	$ 3,000.00	$ 3,090.00	$ 3,182.70	$ 3,278.18	$ 3,376.53	FY 22 is net of $951.44 for cancelled email addresses.
58020 · Accounting	$ 15,000.00	$ 12,031.79	$ 3,750.00	$ 15,781.79	$ 16,500.00	$ 16,995.00	$ 17,504.85	$ 18,030.00	$ 18,570.90	
58040 · Audit Expense	$ 13,000.00	$ -	$ 13,000.00	$ 13,000.00	$ 14,000.00	$ 14,420.00	$ 14,852.60	$ 15,298.18	$ 15,757.12	
58050 · Other Professional Services	$ 336,836.00	$ 243,639.83	$ 28,000.00	$ 271,639.83	$ 231,910.95	$ 246,117.19	$ 269,702.41	$ 342,019.66	$ 352,489.23	This account is for all GSP implementation activities, including ED non-admin activities.
Total 58000 · Professional Fees	$ 424,436.00	$ 294,478.24	$ 70,480.00	$ 364,958.24	$ 335,410.95	$ 352,722.19	$ 379,505.56	$ 455,116.90	$ 468,979.39	
Contingency - Non Capital Expenditures	$ 26,767.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 33,541.09	$ 35,272.22	$ 37,950.56	$ 45,511.69	$ 46,897.94	
Total Expense	$ 461,136.67	$ 301,294.08	$ 71,690.00	$ 372,984.08	$ 380,125.54	$ 399,503.11	$ 429,310.09	$ 512,838.18	$ 528,453.21	
Net Income	**$ (87,850.98)**	**$ 42,510.62**	**$ (50,600.00)**	**$ (8,089.38)**	**$ 206,660.59**	**$ 121,428.69**	**$ 66,070.23**	**$ 10,221.75**	**$ 13,020.09**	
Capital Project Expenditures - Mon. Wells & Stream Gage	$ 17,537.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 89,789.54	$ 111,630.18	$ 167,303.22	$ -	$ -	Carry over unspent capital budget from FY 22 to FY 23
Capital Project Expenditures - Contingency	$ 1,754.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 8,979.25	$ 11,163.02	$ 16,730.32	$ -	$ -	Carry over unspent capital contingency budget from FY 22 to FY 23
Capital Project Expenditures - Total	$ 19,291.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 98,768.80	$ 122,793.20	$ 184,033.54	$ -	$ -	
Net After Capital Expenditures	**$ (107,141.98)**	**$ 42,510.62**	**$ (50,600.00)**	**$ (8,089.38)**	**$ 107,891.79**	**$ (1,364.51)**	**$ (117,963.31)**	**$ 10,221.75**	**$ 13,020.09**	
Projected Cash Flows										
Beginning Cash Balance, July 1	$ 285,185.55	$ 290,785.78	$ 290,785.78	$ 290,785.78	$ 242,299.03	$ 234,191.32	$ 225,689.41	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	
Grant Payments	$ 83,303.70	$ 1,316.25	$ 81,987.06	$ 83,303.31	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
GW Extraction Fees	$ 343,617.73	$ 346,155.38	$ 910.34	$ 347,065.72	$ 578,709.13	$ 513,794.40	$ 487,654.22	$ 512,838.18	$ 528,453.21	
Cash Inflows	$ 426,921.43	$ 347,471.63	$ 82,897.40	$ 430,369.03	$ 578,709.13	$ 513,794.40	$ 487,654.22	$ 512,838.18	$ 528,453.21	
Expense Payments	$ (430,353.73)	$ (425,088.28)	$ (53,767.50)	$ (478,855.78)	$ (398,048.04)	$ (399,503.11)	$ (429,310.09)	$ (512,838.18)	$ (528,453.21)	
Capital Payments	$ (19,290.73)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ (98,768.80)	$ (122,793.20)	$ (184,033.54)	$ -	$ -	
Loan Repayment (with interest)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ (90,000.00)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Cash Outflows	$ (449,644.46)	$ (425,088.28)	$ (53,767.50)	$ (478,855.78)	$ (586,816.84)	$ (522,296.31)	$ (613,343.63)	$ (512,838.18)	$ (528,453.21)	
Projected Ending Cash Balance, June 30	$ 262,462.52			$ 242,299.03	$ 234,191.32	$ 225,689.41	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	
Designated Reserve for Capital Projects	$ 188,462.52			$ 168,299.03	$ 160,191.32	$ 125,689.41	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Designated for General Reserve	$ 74,000.00			$ 74,000.00	$ 74,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	
Projected Unreserved Cash, June 30	$ -			$ -	$ -	$ -	$ (0.00)	$ (0.00)	$ (0.00)	

Table 5
FY 2022 Proposed Budget and Multi-Year Projection
Average with Single Dry Year Scenario

	FY 22 Budget	Jul '21 - Mar 22 Actuals	Apr-June 22 Projection	FY 22 Year-End Projection	FY 23 Proposed	FY 24 Projected	FY 25 Projected	FY 26 Projected	FY 27 Projected	Comments
Ordinary Income/Expense										
Income										
Misc. Income	$ -	$ 186.96	$ -	$ 186.96	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
41100 · DWR GSP Grant Income	$ 20,906.94	$ -	$ 21,090.00	$ 21,090.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	Pending DWR approval of invoice submitted in Jan. 2022. ***NOTE: UVRGA plans to apply for GSP Round 2 Implementation Grant in late 2022.***
Member Agency GW Extractions (AF)	3,972.59				3,597	3,127	2,855	3,774	3,652	See Table 2 for more information.
Private Entity GW Extractions (AF)	368.20				368	368	368	368	338	See Table 2 for more information.
Total GW Extractions (AF)	4,340.79				3,966	3,495	3,223	4,142	3,990	
Proposed Groundwater Extraction Fee ($/AF)	$ 79.16				$ 146	$ 147	$ 151	$ 124	$ 132	
43000 · Groundwater Extraction Fee	$ 343,618.00	$ 343,617.74	$ -	$ 343,617.74	$ 578,709.13	$ 513,794.40	$ 487,654.22	$ 512,838.18	$ 528,453.21	
Total Income	$ 373,285.69	$ 343,804.70	$ 21,090.00	$ 364,894.70	$ 586,786.13	$ 520,931.80	$ 494,251.91	$ 521,246.38	$ 536,565.36	
Expense										
55000 · Administrative Exp										
55005 · Rent Expense	$ 500.00	$ 22.58	$ 150.00	$ 172.58	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,060.00	$ 2,121.80	$ 2,185.45	$ 2,251.02	Meeting room rental fees
55011 · Computer Maintenance	$ 500.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 515.00	$ 530.45	$ 546.36	$ 562.75	$ 579.64	
55015 · Postage & Shipping	$ 700.00	$ 341.64	$ 10.00	$ 351.64	$ 103.00	$ 106.09	$ 109.27	$ 112.55	$ 115.93	
55020 · Office Supplies & Software	$ 500.00	$ 65.47	$ 50.00	$ 115.47	$ 515.00	$ 530.45	$ 546.36	$ 562.75	$ 579.64	
55025 · Minor Equipment	$ 250.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 257.50	$ 265.23	$ 273.18	$ 281.38	$ 289.82	
55035 · Advertising and Promotion	$ 1,970.00	$ 872.48	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,872.48	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,545.00	$ 1,591.35	$ 1,639.09	$ 1,688.26	
55055 · Insurance Expense-SDRMA	$ 4,147.67	$ 4,147.67	$ -	$ 4,147.67	$ 4,635.00	$ 4,774.05	$ 4,917.27	$ 5,064.79	$ 5,216.73	Hard edited to show pre-paid expenses
55060 · Memberships-CSDA	$ 1,366.00	$ 1,366.00	$ -	$ 1,366.00	$ 1,648.00	$ 1,697.44	$ 1,748.36	$ 1,800.81	$ 1,854.84	Hard edited to show pre-paid expenses
Total 55000 · Administrative Exp	$ 9,933.67	$ 6,815.84	$ 1,210.00	$ 8,025.84	$ 11,173.50	$ 11,508.71	$ 11,853.97	$ 12,209.59	$ 12,575.87	
58000 · Professional Fees										
58005 · Executive Director /GSP Mgr.	$ 21,600.00	$ 21,907.50	$ 8,500.00	$ 30,407.50	$ 35,000.00	$ 36,050.00	$ 37,131.50	$ 38,245.45	$ 39,392.81	This account is for ED admin activities only. Account is over budget due to unbudgeted activities, including City of Ojai request to join UVRGA, public records act request, extra board meetings, director changes, extra effort on extraction fees, and other board requests.
58010 · Legal Fees	$ 35,000.00	$ 14,901.21	$ 17,230.00	$ 32,131.21	$ 35,000.00	$ 36,050.00	$ 37,131.50	$ 38,245.45	$ 39,392.81	
58015 · Website	$ 3,000.00	$ 1,997.91	$ -	$ 1,997.91	$ 3,000.00	$ 3,090.00	$ 3,182.70	$ 3,278.18	$ 3,376.53	FY 22 is net of $951.44 for cancelled email addresses.
58020 · Accounting	$ 15,000.00	$ 12,031.79	$ 3,750.00	$ 15,781.79	$ 16,500.00	$ 16,995.00	$ 17,504.85	$ 18,030.00	$ 18,570.90	
58040 · Audit Expense	$ 13,000.00	$ -	$ 13,000.00	$ 13,000.00	$ 14,000.00	$ 14,420.00	$ 14,852.60	$ 15,298.18	$ 15,757.12	
58050 · Other Professional Services	$ 336,836.00	$ 243,639.83	$ 28,000.00	$ 271,639.83	$ 231,910.95	$ 246,117.19	$ 269,702.41	$ 342,019.66	$ 352,489.23	This account is for all GSP implementation activities, including ED non-admin activities.
Total 58000 · Professional Fees	$ 424,436.00	$ 294,478.24	$ 70,480.00	$ 364,958.24	$ 335,410.95	$ 352,722.19	$ 379,505.56	$ 455,116.90	$ 468,979.39	
Contingency - Non Capital Expenditures	$ 26,767.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 33,541.09	$ 35,272.22	$ 37,950.56	$ 45,511.69	$ 46,897.94	
Total Expense	$ 461,136.67	$ 301,294.08	$ 71,690.00	$ 372,984.08	$ 380,125.54	$ 399,503.11	$ 429,310.09	$ 512,838.18	$ 528,453.21	
Net Income	**$ (87,850.98)**	**$ 42,510.62**	**$ (50,600.00)**	**$ (8,089.38)**	**$ 206,660.59**	**$ 121,428.69**	**$ 64,941.82**	**$ 8,408.21**	**$ 8,112.15**	
Capital Project Expenditures - Mon. Wells & Stream Gage	$ 17,537.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 89,789.54	$ 111,630.18	$ 167,303.22	$ -	$ -	Carry over unspent capital budget from FY 22 to FY 23
Capital Project Expenditures - Contingency	$ 1,754.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 8,979.25	$ 11,163.02	$ 16,730.32	$ -	$ -	Carry over unspent capital contingency budget from FY 22 to FY 23
Capital Project Expenditures - Total	$ 19,291.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 98,768.80	$ 122,793.20	$ 184,033.54	$ -	$ -	
Net After Capital Expenditures	**$ (107,141.98)**	**$ 42,510.62**	**$ (50,600.00)**	**$ (8,089.38)**	**$ 107,891.79**	**$ (1,364.51)**	**$ (119,091.72)**	**$ 8,408.21**	**$ 8,112.15**	
Projected Cash Flows										
Beginning Cash Balance, July 1	$ 285,185.55	$ 290,785.78	$ 290,785.78	$ 290,785.78	$ 242,299.03	$ 234,191.32	$ 225,689.41	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	
Grant Payments	$ 83,303.70	$ 1,316.25	$ 81,987.06	$ 83,303.31	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
GW Extraction Fees	$ 343,617.73	$ 346,155.38	$ 910.34	$ 347,065.72	$ 578,709.13	$ 513,794.40	$ 487,654.22	$ 512,838.18	$ 528,453.21	
Cash Inflows	$ 426,921.43	$ 347,471.63	$ 82,897.40	$ 430,369.03	$ 578,709.13	$ 513,794.40	$ 487,654.22	$ 512,838.18	$ 528,453.21	
Expense Payments	$ (430,353.73)	$ (425,088.28)	$ (53,767.50)	$ (478,855.78)	$ (398,048.04)	$ (399,503.11)	$ (429,310.09)	$ (512,838.18)	$ (528,453.21)	
Capital Payments	$ (19,290.73)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ (98,768.80)	$ (122,793.20)	$ (184,033.54)	$ -	$ -	
Loan Repayment (with interest)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ (90,000.00)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Cash Outflows	$ (449,644.46)	$ (425,088.28)	$ (53,767.50)	$ (478,855.78)	$ (586,816.84)	$ (522,296.31)	$ (613,343.63)	$ (512,838.18)	$ (528,453.21)	
Projected Ending Cash Balance, June 30	$ 262,462.52			$ 242,299.03	$ 234,191.32	$ 225,689.41	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	
Designated Reserve for Capital Projects	$ 188,462.52			$ 168,299.03	$ 160,191.32	$ 125,689.41	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Designated for General Reserve	$ 74,000.00			$ 74,000.00	$ 74,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	
Projected Unreserved Cash, June 30	$ -			$ -	$ -	$ -	$ (0.00)	$ (0.00)	$ (0.00)	

Table 6
FY 2022 Proposed Budget and Multi-Year Projection
Dry Scenario

	FY 22 Budget	Jul '21 - Mar 22 Actuals	Apr-June 22 Projection	FY 22 Year-End Projection	FY 23 Proposed	FY 24 Projected	FY 25 Projected	FY 26 Projected	FY 27 Projected	Comments
Ordinary Income/Expense										
Income										
Misc. Income	$ -	$ 186.96	$ -	$ 186.96	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
41100 · DWR GSP Grant Income	$ 20,906.94	$ -	$ 21,090.00	$ 21,090.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	Pending DWR approval of invoice submitted in Jan. 2022. ***NOTE: UVRGA plans to apply for GSP Round 2 Implementation Grant in late 2022.***
Member Agency GW Extractions (AF)	3,972.59				3,597	3,127	2,401	2,131	2,010	See Table 3 for more information.
Private Entity GW Extractions (AF)	368.20				368	368	338	307	276	See Table 3 for more information.
Total GW Extractions (AF)	4,340.79				3,966	3,495	2,738	2,438	2,286	
Proposed Groundwater Extraction Fee ($/AF)	$ 79.16				$ 146	$ 147	$ 178	$ 210	$ 231	
43000 · Groundwater Extraction Fee	$ 343,618.00	$ 343,617.74	$ -	$ 343,617.74	$ 578,709.13	$ 513,794.40	$ 487,654.22	$ 512,838.18	$ 528,453.21	
Total Income	$ 373,285.69	$ 343,804.70	$ 21,090.00	$ 364,894.70	$ 586,786.13	$ 520,931.80	$ 493,308.68	$ 517,924.85	$ 533,256.03	
Expense										
55000 · Administrative Exp										
55005 · Rent Expense	$ 500.00	$ 22.58	$ 150.00	$ 172.58	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,060.00	$ 2,121.80	$ 2,185.45	$ 2,251.02	Meeting room rental fees
55011 · Computer Maintenance	$ 500.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 515.00	$ 530.45	$ 546.36	$ 562.75	$ 579.64	
55015 · Postage & Shipping	$ 700.00	$ 341.64	$ 10.00	$ 351.64	$ 103.00	$ 106.09	$ 109.27	$ 112.55	$ 115.93	
55020 · Office Supplies & Software	$ 500.00	$ 65.47	$ 50.00	$ 115.47	$ 515.00	$ 530.45	$ 546.36	$ 562.75	$ 579.64	
55025 · Minor Equipment	$ 250.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 257.50	$ 265.23	$ 273.18	$ 281.38	$ 289.82	
55035 · Advertising and Promotion	$ 1,970.00	$ 872.48	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,872.48	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,545.00	$ 1,591.35	$ 1,639.09	$ 1,688.26	
55055 · Insurance Expense-SDRMA	$ 4,147.67	$ 4,147.67	$ -	$ 4,147.67	$ 4,635.00	$ 4,774.05	$ 4,917.27	$ 5,064.79	$ 5,216.73	Hard edited to show pre-paid expenses
55060 · Memberships-CSDA	$ 1,366.00	$ 1,366.00	$ -	$ 1,366.00	$ 1,648.00	$ 1,697.44	$ 1,748.36	$ 1,800.81	$ 1,854.84	Hard edited to show pre-paid expenses
Total 55000 · Administrative Exp	$ 9,933.67	$ 6,815.84	$ 1,210.00	$ 8,025.84	$ 11,173.50	$ 11,508.71	$ 11,853.97	$ 12,209.59	$ 12,575.87	
58000 · Professional Fees										
58005 · Executive Director /GSP Mgr.	$ 21,600.00	$ 21,907.50	$ 8,500.00	$ 30,407.50	$ 35,000.00	$ 36,050.00	$ 37,131.50	$ 38,245.45	$ 39,392.81	This account is for ED admin activities only. Account is over budget due to unbudgeted activities, including City of Ojai request to join UVRGA, public records act request, extra board meetings, director changes, extra effort on extraction fees, and other board requests.
58010 · Legal Fees	$ 35,000.00	$ 14,901.21	$ 17,230.00	$ 32,131.21	$ 35,000.00	$ 36,050.00	$ 37,131.50	$ 38,245.45	$ 39,392.81	
58015 · Website	$ 3,000.00	$ 1,997.91	$ -	$ 1,997.91	$ 3,000.00	$ 3,090.00	$ 3,182.70	$ 3,278.18	$ 3,376.53	FY 22 is net of $951.44 for cancelled email addresses.
58020 · Accounting	$ 15,000.00	$ 12,031.79	$ 3,750.00	$ 15,781.79	$ 16,500.00	$ 16,995.00	$ 17,504.85	$ 18,030.00	$ 18,570.90	
58040 · Audit Expense	$ 13,000.00	$ -	$ 13,000.00	$ 13,000.00	$ 14,000.00	$ 14,420.00	$ 14,852.60	$ 15,298.18	$ 15,757.12	
58050 · Other Professional Services	$ 336,836.00	$ 243,639.83	$ 28,000.00	$ 271,639.83	$ 231,910.95	$ 246,117.19	$ 269,702.41	$ 342,019.66	$ 352,489.23	This account is for all GSP implementation activities, including ED non-admin activities.
Total 58000 · Professional Fees	$ 424,436.00	$ 294,478.24	$ 70,480.00	$ 364,958.24	$ 335,410.95	$ 352,722.19	$ 379,505.56	$ 455,116.90	$ 468,979.39	
Contingency - Non Capital Expenditures	$ 26,767.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 33,541.09	$ 35,272.22	$ 37,950.56	$ 45,511.69	$ 46,897.94	
Total Expense	$ 461,136.67	$ 301,294.08	$ 71,690.00	$ 372,984.08	$ 380,125.54	$ 399,503.11	$ 429,310.09	$ 512,838.18	$ 528,453.21	
Net Income	**$ (87,850.98)**	**$ 42,510.62**	**$ (50,600.00)**	**$ (8,089.38)**	**$ 206,660.59**	**$ 121,428.69**	**$ 63,998.59**	**$ 5,086.67**	**$ 4,802.82**	
Capital Project Expenditures - Mon. Wells & Stream Gage	$ 17,537.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 89,789.54	$ 111,630.18	$ 167,303.22	$ -	$ -	Carry over unspent capital budget from FY 22 to FY 23
Capital Project Expenditures - Contingency	$ 1,754.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 8,979.25	$ 11,163.02	$ 16,730.32	$ -	$ -	Carry over unspent capital contingency budget from FY 22 to FY 23
Capital Project Expenditures - Total	$ 19,291.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 98,768.80	$ 122,793.20	$ 184,033.54	$ -	$ -	
Net After Capital Expenditures	**$ (107,141.98)**	**$ 42,510.62**	**$ (50,600.00)**	**$ (8,089.38)**	**$ 107,891.79**	**$ (1,364.51)**	**$ (120,034.95)**	**$ 5,086.67**	**$ 4,802.82**	
Projected Cash Flows										
Beginning Cash Balance, July 1	$ 285,185.55	$ 290,785.78	$ 290,785.78	$ 290,785.78	$ 242,299.03	$ 234,191.32	$ 225,689.41	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	
Grant Payments	$ 83,303.70	$ 1,316.25	$ 81,987.06	$ 83,303.31	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
GW Extraction Fees	$ 343,617.73	$ 346,155.38	$ 910.34	$ 347,065.72	$ 578,709.13	$ 513,794.40	$ 487,654.22	$ 512,838.18	$ 528,453.21	
Cash Inflows	$ 426,921.43	$ 347,471.63	$ 82,897.40	$ 430,369.03	$ 578,709.13	$ 513,794.40	$ 487,654.22	$ 512,838.18	$ 528,453.21	
Expense Payments	$ (430,353.73)	$ (425,088.28)	$ (53,767.50)	$ (478,855.78)	$ (398,048.04)	$ (399,503.11)	$ (429,310.09)	$ (512,838.18)	$ (528,453.21)	
Capital Payments	$ (19,290.73)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ (98,768.80)	$ (122,793.20)	$ (184,033.54)	$ -	$ -	
Loan Repayment (with interest)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ (90,000.00)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Cash Outflows	$ (449,644.46)	$ (425,088.28)	$ (53,767.50)	$ (478,855.78)	$ (586,816.84)	$ (522,296.31)	$ (613,343.63)	$ (512,838.18)	$ (528,453.21)	
Projected Ending Cash Balance, June 30	$ 262,462.52			$ 242,299.03	$ 234,191.32	$ 225,689.41	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	
Designated Reserve for Capital Projects	$ 188,462.52			$ 168,299.03	$ 160,191.32	$ 125,689.41	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Designated for General Reserve	$ 74,000.00			$ 74,000.00	$ 74,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	
Projected Unreserved Cash, June 30	$ -			$ -	$ -	$ -	$ (0.00)	$ (0.00)	$ (0.00)	

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

DATE: May 14, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Draft Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance

SUMMARY

Pursuant to Board direction provided on April 14, 2022 Agency Counsel and the Executive Director have prepared a draft Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance for Board review. As discussed on April 14, the draft ordinance is based on the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency's rules concerning groundwater extraction well registration, metering, and extraction reporting. The Board's request for a one-year grace period on meter installation and calibration is included in the draft ordinance (please refer to draft ordinance sections 3.1.1 and 3.2).

It is requested that the Board review the draft ordinance, provide edits to staff, and consider scheduling a public hearing to consider ordinance adoption.

The Executive Director plans to work with Director Ayala to issue outreach letters to the private pumpers well ahead of the public hearing. The outreach letter will address the draft ordinance and upcoming extraction fee resolution.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Review a draft groundwater well registration, metering, and extraction report ordinance, provide direction to staff, and considered scheduling a public hearing to consider ordinance adoption.

BACKGROUND

Please see summary.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

A. Draft Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance

Action: _____

Motion: _____

B. Kuebler_ M. Etchart_ P. Kaiser_ S. Rungren_ G. Shephard_ V. Crawford_ E. Ayala_

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

CHAPTER 1.0
Definitions

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings stated below:

1.1. **"Agency"** means the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency.

1.2. **"Agency Boundary"** shall be the Upper Ventura River Valley Groundwater Basin (Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin 4-3.01) as may be modified in accordance with Water Code Section 10722.2.

1.3. **"Agricultural Extraction Facility"** means a facility from which the groundwater produced is used on lands in the production of plant crops or livestock for market, and uses incidental thereto.

1.4. **"Annual"** means the water year October 1 through September 30.

1.5. **"Aquifer"** means a geologic formation or structure that yields water in sufficient quantities to supply pumping wells or springs. A confined aquifer is an aquifer with an overlying less permeable or impermeable layer.

1.6. **"Board"** means the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency.

1.7. **"County"** means the County of Ventura.

1.8. **"Due Date"** means, unless otherwise specifically provided, within 45 days of the date of the Agency's mailing the Quarterly Extraction Statement, the recipient (Well Operator and/or Well Owner) is to return (have postmarked) the completed forms along with any required payment of extraction charges, and surcharges.

1.9. **"Executive Director"** means the individual appointed by the Board to administer Agency functions, or his/her designee.

1.10. **"Exempt Wells"** means all wells operated by *de minimis extractors* as defined in Water Code Section 10721(e) and those operators granted an exemption by the Board.

1.11. **"Extraction"** means the act of obtaining groundwater by pumping or other controlled means.

1.12. "Extraction Facility" means any device or method (e.g. water well) for extraction of groundwater within a groundwater basin or aquifer.

1.13. "Flowmeter" means a manufactured instrument for accurately measuring and recording the flow of water in a pipeline.

1.14. "Groundwater" means water beneath the surface of the earth within the zone below the water table in which the soil is completely saturated with water.

1.15. "Groundwater Extraction Fee" shall mean fees adopted by the Board of the Agency pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

1.16. "Inactive Well" An inactive well is a well that conforms to the County Water Well Ordinance requirements for an active well, but is being held in an idle status in case of future need. Idle status means the well is pumped no more than 8 hours during any 12- month period. Inactive wells are not required to have a flowmeter. Pumping to maintain status as an active well under the County Water Well Ordinance shall not exceed 8 hours in a 12 month period, shall be for beneficial use, and shall be estimated and reported to the Agency. Prior to removing a well from idle status, the operator shall install a flowmeter in accordance with the requirements in Chapter 3 of the Ordinance.

1.17. "Municipal and Industrial (M & I) Provider" means person who provides water for domestic, industrial, commercial, or fire protection purposes within the Agency Boundary.

1.18. "Municipal and Industrial (M & I) Operator" An owner or operator that supplied groundwater for M & I use during the historical allocation period and did not supply a significant amount of agricultural irrigation during the historical period."

1.19. "Municipal and Industrial (M & I) User" means a person or other entity that used or uses water for any purpose other than agricultural irrigation.

1.20. "Municipal and Industrial (M & I) Use" means any use other than agricultural irrigation.

1.21. "Non-Operating Flowmeter" – A non-operating flowmeter includes a flowmeter that is out of calibration by plus or minus 5%, and/or a flowmeter that has not been calibrated within the flowmeter calibration schedule adopted by the Board.

1.22. "Operator" means a person who operates a groundwater extraction facility. In the event the Agency is unable to determine who operates a particular extraction facility, then "operator" shall mean the person to whom the extraction facility is

assessed by the County Assessor, or, if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

1.23. "Ordinance" means the present Ordinance, the Well Registration, Metering, and Reporting Ordinance, as adopted by the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency.

1.24. "Owner" means a person who owns a groundwater extraction facility. Ownership shall be determined by reference to whom the extraction facility is assessed by the County Assessor, or if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

1.25. "Person" includes any state or local governmental agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, individual, group of individuals, or, to the extent authorized by law, any federal agency.

1.26. "Resolution" means a formal statement of a decision adopted by the Board.

1.27. "Section" as used in this Ordinance, is a numbered paragraph of a chapter.

1.28. "Quarterly Groundwater Extraction Statement" is a form filed by each operator containing the information required by Section 2.2 and 2.3.1 and shall cover the periods from January 1 to March 31, April 1 to June 30, July 1 to September 30, and from October 1 to December 31 annually.

1.29. "Shall" as used in this Ordinance, is an imperative requirement.

1.30. "Well Flushing" means the act of temporarily discharging extracted groundwater through a connection located upstream of the water distribution system at the beginning of an extraction cycle. Well flushing is typically performed until the quality of the extracted water is suitable for beneficial use and/or will not damage the distribution system. In some cases, the flushing flows may be discharged upstream of the distribution system, including the flowmeter. Flushing flows discharged upstream of the flowmeter shall be estimated and reported to the Agency in accordance with the requirements accordance with the requirements in Chapter 2 of this Ordinance.

1.31. "Well Rehabilitation" means the act of restoring a well to its most efficient condition by various treatments, development, or reconstruction methods. In most cases, groundwater extracted during well rehabilitation is not discharged through the extraction facility piping and, consequently, is not flow metered. In these cases, the volume of water extracted shall be estimated and reported to the Agency in accordance with the requirements accordance in Chapter 2 of this Ordinance.

CHAPTER 2.0
Registration of Wells and Levying of Charges

2.1. Registration of Wells

2.1.1. Agency Water Well Permit Requirement (No-Fee Permit) – All new extraction facilities constructed within the Agency Boundary shall obtain a no-fee permit from the Agency prior to the issuance of a well permit by the County.

2.1.2. Registration Requirement – All groundwater extraction facilities within the boundaries of the Agency shall be registered with the Agency within 30 days of the completion of drilling activities or within 30 days after notice is given to the owner of such facility. No extraction facility may be operated or otherwise utilized so as to extract groundwater within the Agency Boundary unless that facility is registered with the Agency, flow metered and permitted, if required, and all extractions reported to the Agency as required. The owner of an extraction facility shall register his extraction facility and provide in full, the information required to complete the form provided by the Agency that includes the following:

2.1.2.1. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the owner(s) of the land upon which the extraction facility is located

2.1.2.2. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the well operator(s), if different than owner(s).

2.1.2.3. A description of the equipment associated with the extraction facility.

2.1.2.4. Location, parcel number and state well number of the water extraction facility.

2.2. Change in Owner or Operator - The name of the owner of each extraction facility, the parcel number on which the well is located along with the names of all operators for each extraction facility shall be reported to the Agency within 30 days upon any change of ownership or operators, together with such other information required by the Executive Director.

2.3. Reporting Extractions - All extractions shall be reported to the Agency. All extractions shall be flowmetered in accordance with the requirements and methods for flowmetering extractions as specified by Chapter 3. In cases where flowmetering is not required, the volume of water extracted shall be estimated and reported to the Agency. The Agency shall send a "Quarterly Groundwater Extraction Statement" (QGES) form to each well operator in January, April, July,

and October each year. Each operator shall return the completed QGES form on or before the due date for all wells they operate. QGES forms are due forty-five (45) days after being sent by the Agency. The QGES shall contain the following information:

2.3.1. The information required under Section 2.1.2 above.

2.3.2. The method of measuring or computing groundwater extractions.

2.3.3. Total extractions from each extraction facility in acre-feet for the preceding period.

CHAPTER 3.0
Installation and Use of Flowmeters for Groundwater Extraction Facilities

3.1. Installation and Use of Flowmeters

3.1.1. Installation Requirement – Prior to extracting groundwater, the operator shall install a flowmeter. With the exception of connections used for well flushing and extraction facilities used by multiple operators, flowmeters shall be installed upstream of all connections to the main discharge line. Flowmetering is not required during well flushing and well rehabilitation; however, the volume of water extracted shall be estimated and reported to the Agency. Flowmeters are not required on Inactive Wells and Exempt Wells as defined in this Ordinance. **Well operators are required to install flowmeters on wells and provide proof of calibration by June 30, 2023.**

3.1.2. Flowmeter Failure and Back-up Measurement Requirements - Flowmeters occasionally fail, losing periods of record before the disabled or inaccurate meter is either replaced or repaired. When a flowmeter fails, the operator shall repair or replace the flowmeter within the timeframe specified in this Ordinance. Flowmeter failures and associated repairs or replacements shall be reported to the Agency together with any other information required by the Executive Director on or before the due date of the next Quarterly Groundwater Extraction Statement. Well operators shall be prepared to provide another acceptable method of computing extractions during these periods of flowmeter failure to avoid the loss of record on wells that require flowmetering under this Ordinance.

3.1.3. Back-up Methods - It is the operator's responsibility to maintain the flowmeter. Any allowable or acceptable backup measurement methods may be changed as technology improves or changes.

3.1.4. Flowmeter Readings - Functional flowmeters shall be read and the readings reported semi-annually on the extraction statements required under Section 2.3 above.

3.1.5. Inspection of Flowmeters - The Agency may inspect flowmeter installations for compliance with this Ordinance at any reasonable time.

3.2. Flowmeter Testing and Calibration - All flowmeters shall be tested for accuracy at a frequency interval determined by the Board to meet specific measurement standards. Calibration methods and procedures approved by the Board as detailed in this Ordinance. **Initial proof of calibration shall be provided prior to prior to June 30, 2023.**

3.3. Altering Flowmeters - Any person who alters, removes, resets, adjusts, manipulates, obstructs, or in any manner interferes or tampers with any flowmeter affixed to any groundwater extraction facility required by this Ordinance, resulting in said flowmeter to improperly or inaccurately measure and record groundwater extractions, is guilty of an intentional violation of this Ordinance and will be subject to any and all penalties as described in Chapter 7.

3.4. Costs of Testing and Calibration - All costs incurred with flowmeter testing or calibration shall be the personal obligation of the well owner. Non-compliance with any provision of the flowmeter calibration requirements will subject the owner to financial penalties and/or liens as described below or in Chapter 7 of this Ordinance.

3.5. Fees and Enforcement - If any water extraction facility required to have a flowmeter within the Agency's boundaries is used to produce water without a flowmeter or with a non-operating flowmeter in excess of the allowable timeframe specified in this Ordinance, the Groundwater Extraction Charge is increased to the Non-Metered Water Use Fee. The amount of the fee shall be calculated as follows:

3.5.1. Groundwater extraction facilities - The fee shall be equal to double the current groundwater extraction charge for all estimated water used. Estimates of water used shall be calculated by the operator and approved by the Executive Director or calculated by the Agency using best available information about site use and conditions. Any delinquent Non-Metered Water Use Fee obligations shall also be charged interest at the rate of 1.5 percent per month on any unpaid balances.

3.6. Upon violation of any flowmeter provision, the Agency may, as allowed by law, petition the Superior Court of the County for a temporary restraining order or preliminary or permanent injunction prohibiting the well owner from operating the facility, or for such other relief as may be appropriate.

CHAPTER 4
Flowmeter Testing and Calibration Requirements

4.1 General Procedures

4.1.1. All groundwater extraction flowmeters shall be tested for accuracy every three years to demonstrate accuracy within a range of plus or minus 5%.

4.1.2. Written certification of water meter accuracy by a qualified flowmeter testing company or person approved by the Agency Executive Director, or designee, shall be submitted within 30-days following any accuracy test or

4.1.3. If there is an indication that a flowmeter has been tampered with, the operator shall promptly report this to the Agency and the meter shall be retested and proof of flowmeter accuracy submitted to the Agency within 30 days of the discovery of the tampered meter.

4.1.4. If a flowmeter on an active well has been removed or destroyed for any reason by any person, whether by the operator, owner, or another person or entity - including, but not limited to, replacement, upgrade, or theft - the operator must notify the Agency of this event within 14 days. In such event, the removed or destroyed flowmeter must be replaced within 30 days, and the new flowmeter tested and proof of flowmeter accuracy submitted to the Agency within 30 days after replacement.

4.1.5. The Agency Executive Director, or designee, may, on a showing of good cause, grant additional time to comply with these provisions.

4.2. Approved Methods of Testing and Testing Requirements

4.2.1. Method(s) of accuracy testing and calibration shall be determined by the Agency Executive Director, or designee, and may be changed at any time to accommodate technological improvements or better methods.

4.2.2. Some flowmeter tests may require a pipe tap or access fitting on either the upstream or downstream side of the well flowmeter, or both. If such portals are not available, the well operator or owner shall provide them at his or her own expense.

4.2.3. In cases where more than one flowmeter is utilized to measure groundwater extractions, every flowmeter in that well and/or plumbing configuration must be tested and calibrated to required tolerances during the same visit.

4.3 Testing Option Via Southern California Edison (SCE)

4.3.1. If the well pump motor is tested for electrical demand efficiency by Southern California Edison (SCE), a copy of the SCE Efficiency Report may be submitted to the Agency in lieu of the required flowmeter calibration report; however, an adequate comparison of the SCE-determined flow measurement against the customer's existing well flowmeter must be provided within the submitted report.

4.3.2. If the SCE test results indicate that the flowmeter exceeds the plus or minus 5% accuracy range, the flowmeter must be repaired or replaced and retested per section "4.1.1" above at the owner's expense.

4.3.3 **Special Note:** Failure to obtain passing test results within the Agency-specified time frame due to SCE's workload or backlog schedule is not justification for a time extension request. However, if a letter from SCE confirming a scheduled test date after the Agency specified time frame is submitted to the Agency prior to the required testing timeframe, the Agency Executive Director, or designee, may authorize a test date time extension.

4.4 New Flowmeter Installations

4.4.1. When any operator or owner installs a new water flowmeter, including a replacement water flowmeter, on the discharge piping of a well, proof of flowmeter accuracy shall be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of the installation date.

4.5 Required Documentation to Certify Calibration Accuracy Standards

4.5.1. Documentation to indicate that existing flowmeters meet accuracy or calibration standards (without flowmeter replacement, repair, or refurbishment) shall be provided to the Agency by submitting a copy of the successful test/calibration results that are provided to the flowmeter owner/operator by either an agency-approved flowmeter tester or SCE, as noted in Section 4.3, above.

4.5.2 Documentation that indicates a flowmeter is new and/or has been repaired/refurbished to meet accuracy or calibration standards will be acceptable to the Agency provided the flowmeter was installed per the flowmeter · manufacturer's specifications. Acceptable proof shall include name of meter manufacturer; meter serial and model numbers; unit of measure and unit multiplier for the meter; legible photographs of the flowmeter face (showing reading of the recorded volume), serial number, and that installation meets the manufacturer's specifications; an invoice

and/or work order indicating that the flowmeter was installed or repaired/refurbished on a certain date.

4.5.3. If the new or refurbished flowmeter was not installed per the flowmeter manufacturer's specifications, the well owner or operator shall obtain a flowmeter test for accuracy, and if necessary, re-calibrate the new or refurbished flowmeter to reflect actual in-place conditions. The passing test results shall be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of new or refurbished flowmeter installation.

4.6. Flowmeter Maintenance Between Required Calibration Testing Intervals

4.6.1. Written notification shall be provided to the Agency at least two (2) weeks prior to any planned maintenance requiring removal and reinstallation of the flowmeter.

4.6.2. If the maintenance does alter the piping diameters or configuration, the flowmeter shall be retested, and if necessary, recalibrated, as per any and all applicable Ordinance requirements.

4.7. Approved Flowmeter Testers - Approved testers are those approved by the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, as designated at their website: https://fcgma.org/public-documents/forms, and as amended from time to time.

4.8. Meter Repair or Replacement - Broken or inaccurate flowmeters must be promptly reported to the Agency and repaired or replaced within 30 days of failure, or from the date when non-accurate readings are first noted. Special circumstances may be afforded additional leeway or time to comply with provisions at the discretion of the Executive Director. Proof of flowmeter accuracy of the repaired or replacement meter along with supporting documentation shall be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of the installation date.

4.9 Backup Measurement Methods- When necessary, temporary in-place flowmeters shall be installed to provide back-up water flow measurement. The use of temporary flowmeters shall not exceed 60 days.

4.10 Inspection of Flowmetering Equipment - Agency staff or their designated agents may, at their discretion, inspect flowmetering equipment installations for compliance with this Ordinance at any reasonable time. A minimum of 24-hours notice will be provided to the well owner or operator prior to any well visit or inspection.

4.11 Non-Compliance with Flowmeter Calibration Requirements

4.11.1. Pursuant to the statutory authority granted by this Ordinance and state law, a Notice of Violation shall be sent to any operator and/or owner who fails to provide the Agency with proof of accurate flowmeter calibration within specified timeframes. Also, any flowmeter for which the required proof of accuracy is not submitted within specified timeframes shall be deemed a non-operating flowmeter for purposes of Section 3.5 of this Ordinance. In addition, any operator and/or owner who fails to provide the Agency with proof of accurate flowmeter calibration within:

a) 120 days after a Notice of Violation is sent shall be liable to the Agency for a civil penalty in the amount of $1,100.00;

b) 150 days after the Notice of Violation is sent shall be liable to the Agency for an additional civil penalty in the amount of an $600.00, for a total penalty of $1,700.00;

c) 210 days after the Notice of Violation is sent shall be liable to the Agency for an additional civil penalty in the amount of $600.00, for a total penalty of $2,300.00.

4.12.2. Non-compliance at the end of 210 days shall subject the owner to enforcement action and additional fines, penalties, fees or liens as authorized by this Ordinance or state law.

CHAPTER 5.0
Appeals

5.1. Any person aggrieved by a decision or determination made by the Executive Director may appeal to the Board within forty-five (45) calendar days thereof by filing with the Executive Director a written request that the Board review the decision of the Executive Director. The Board shall equitably act on the appeal within 120 days after all relevant information has been provided by the appellant.

CHAPTER 6.0
Severability

6.1. If any section, part, clause or phrase in this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining portion of this Ordinance shall not be affected but shall remain in full force and effect.

CHAPTER 7.0
Penalties

7.1. Any operator or other person who violates the provisions of this Ordinance is subject to the criminal and civil sanctions set forth in state law and this Ordinances.

7.2. Any person who intentionally violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be guilty of an infraction and may be required to pay a fine to the Agency in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars ($500).

7.3. Any person who negligently or intentionally violates any provision of this Ordinance may also be liable civilly to the Agency for a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000) per day for each day of such violation, in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed by law.

7.4. Upon the failure of any person to comply with any provision of this Ordinance , the Agency may petition the Superior Court for a temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction, or such other equitable relief as may be appropriate. The right to petition for injunctive relief is an additional right to those, which may be provided elsewhere in this Ordinance or otherwise allowed by law. The Agency may petition the Superior Court of the County to recover any sums due the Agency.

7.5. Civil penalties for specified violations of this Ordinance shall be established by Resolution which may provide discretion for the Executive Director to adjust and/or waive the civil penalty.

This Ordinance and amendments hereof shall become effective on the thirty-first day after adoption.

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

DATE: May 14, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Draft Aquatic Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Monitoring Workplans

SUMMARY

Draft workplans have been prepared for monitoring of the Confluence Aquatic GDE Area and Foster Park Aquatic GDE Area (Attachments A and B).

In accordance with the adopted GSP, the purpose of the Confluence Aquatic GDE monitoring program is to provide data that can inform whether sustainable management criteria (SMC) for the Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water sustainability indicator are warranted for the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area.

The purpose of the Foster Park Aquatic GDE monitoring program is to provide data to facilitate UVRGA's ongoing evaluation of SMC developed in the GSP for the Depletion of Interconnected Surface Waters sustainability indicator in the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area, as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The Board previously directed staff to allow 30 days for Board review of the draft monitoring plans. Due to the likely interest of environmental stakeholders, staff proposes to put the draft workplans out for a 30-day public comment period in parallel with the Board review. Staff and Rincon Consultants, Inc. will then prepare responses to comments submitted by stakeholders and UVRGA Directors and return with final draft plans for potential adoption no sooner than the July Board meeting. The overall goal is to have adopted plans in place to facilitate monitoring no later than the beginning of the upcoming water year, October 1, 2022.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Receive an update concerning the draft aquatic GDE monitoring workplans and authorize a public comment period on the draft workplans.

BACKGROUND

The draft workplans were prepared pursuant to GSP Sections, 4.9, 5.8, and 6.7.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Monitoring Workplan

B. Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Monitoring Workplan

Action: _____

Motion: _____

B. Kuebler_ M. Etchart_ P. Kaiser_ S. Rungren_ G. Shephard_ V. Crawford_ E. Ayala_

Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Monitoring Workplan

Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin

prepared for

Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency
202 West El Roblar Drive
Ojai, California 93023

prepared by

Rincon Consultants, Inc.
180 North Ashwood Avenue
Ventura, California 93003

May 2022

RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.
Environmental Scientists | Planners | Engineers
rinconconsultants.com

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Figures

Appendices

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1 Introduction

The Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) identified the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area as an aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE)[1]. This GDE occurs at the confluence of the Ventura River and San Antonio Creek (Figure 1), which is an important spawning tributary for southern California Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)[2] (Normandeau Associates, Inc. 2015). The Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area also includes federally designated critical habitat for both the southern California DPS of steelhead and the California red-legged frog (CRLF, *Rana draytonii*) (NOAA 2022, USFWS 2022). This important aquatic habitat area is characterized by cool upwelling groundwater, as well as inflow from San Antonio Creek. Appendix A presents aerial photographs of the northern and southern portions of the GDE.

The GSP concluded that there are limited biological data available to assess whether interconnected surface water (ISW) depletion effects in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area are significant and unreasonable. While it is understood that aquatic species in this intermittent or ephemeral streamflow environment have adapted to periodic dry or low-flow conditions to survive, it is not known whether ISW depletion causes stranding in isolated habitat areas or mortality that would not otherwise occur and, if so, whether such effects are significant and unreasonable. The GSP concluded that the need for sustainable management criteria (SMC) in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area could not be evaluated until these data gaps are addressed. The biological monitoring program proposed in this workplan will address these biological data gaps. In addition to the biological data gaps, there are currently no groundwater level or surface water flow monitoring sites in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. The GSP recommended the installation of at least one groundwater level monitoring site and one stream gage (or periodic streamflow measurements) in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area to monitor hydrologic conditions, which can then be correlated with the biological monitoring data and to address other needs identified in the GSP. The proposed groundwater level and surface water flow monitoring sites (Figure 1) are being pursued by UVRGA in parallel with workplan development and implementation of the biological monitoring program.

Following guidance provided in Sections 4.9.1 and 5.8 of the GSP, this workplan outlines a three-year monitoring program to address existing data gaps. As described above, the overall goal of the monitoring program is to determine if ISW depletion is causing significant and unreasonable effects on the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area GDE. This program will seek to answer questions regarding potential impacts to the GDE that may be caused or exacerbated by groundwater pumping, specifically with respect to the depletion of ISW within the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. This workplan provides protocols and field methods for each of the monitoring components that will be implemented; establishes a monitoring schedule for each of these components; and describes methodologies that will be used to interpret and analyze monitoring data.

[1] Aquatic GDEs were assessed and identified separately from riparian GDEs within the Basin. Riparian GDEs are comprised of riparian vegetation communities with rooting depths that reach directly to groundwater, while aquatic GDEs are comprised of instream habitat that is dependent on interconnected surface water. This monitoring workplan pertains to instream aquatic habitat, while existing efforts are in place to monitor vegetation communities identified within the South Santa Ana GDE Unit (which includes the Confluence Area). More details regarding riparian GDE monitoring are provided in Table 2.

[2] Steelhead are the anadromous (ocean-going) form of *O.mykiss*, while rainbow trout are the resident (solely freshwater) form of the species. All *O.mykiss* in waterbodies with connectivity to the ocean have the potential to become anadromous and are therefore treated as steelhead from a regulatory standpoint.

The monitoring program is designed to provide data that can inform whether SMC for the *Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water* sustainability indicator are warranted for the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. To address data gaps identified in the GSP, the monitoring program will seek to answer the following questions:

- What is the current distribution of aquatic mesohabitats[3] in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE?
- What are the current aquatic habitat suitability conditions within this GDE?
- How do aquatic habitat suitability conditions within this GDE change in response to seasonal variation?
- How and when does IISW depletion affect habitat suitability conditions within this GDE?
- How might groundwater pumping in the Basin affect habitat suitability conditions within this GDE?

Answering these questions will provide the necessary information to evaluate the potential impacts of ISW depletion within the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE, to assess whether SMC are needed in this area, and to establish a long-term monitoring plan for the GDE (if UVRGA determines that SMC are needed in this area).

1.1 Existing Monitoring Efforts and Previous Studies within the Basin

UVRGA is committed to working with various stakeholders within the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin (Basin) and will seek input from other entities in the Basin during the process of finalizing and implementing this workplan. The monitoring program will consider current and ongoing monitoring efforts being undertaken by other stakeholders in the Basin and will include information on the collaborative and data-sharing approach UVRGA will take with its monitoring efforts. This collaboration will aid in establishing a comprehensive monitoring program that can prevent duplication of efforts and provide a broader data set, which will ultimately increase confidence in the results and conclusions drawn from monitoring data.

Table 1 provides a summary of relevant existing monitoring programs and previous studies conducted in the Basin. These existing monitoring efforts and previous studies were referenced during the development of the monitoring program methods, and data from these efforts conducted by other stakeholders will be incorporated into this program's data analysis and evaluation, as appropriate and feasible.

[3] Aquatic mesohabitats are visually and functionally distinct areas of instream habitat (e.g., pools, riffles, and runs).

Figure 1 Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Location

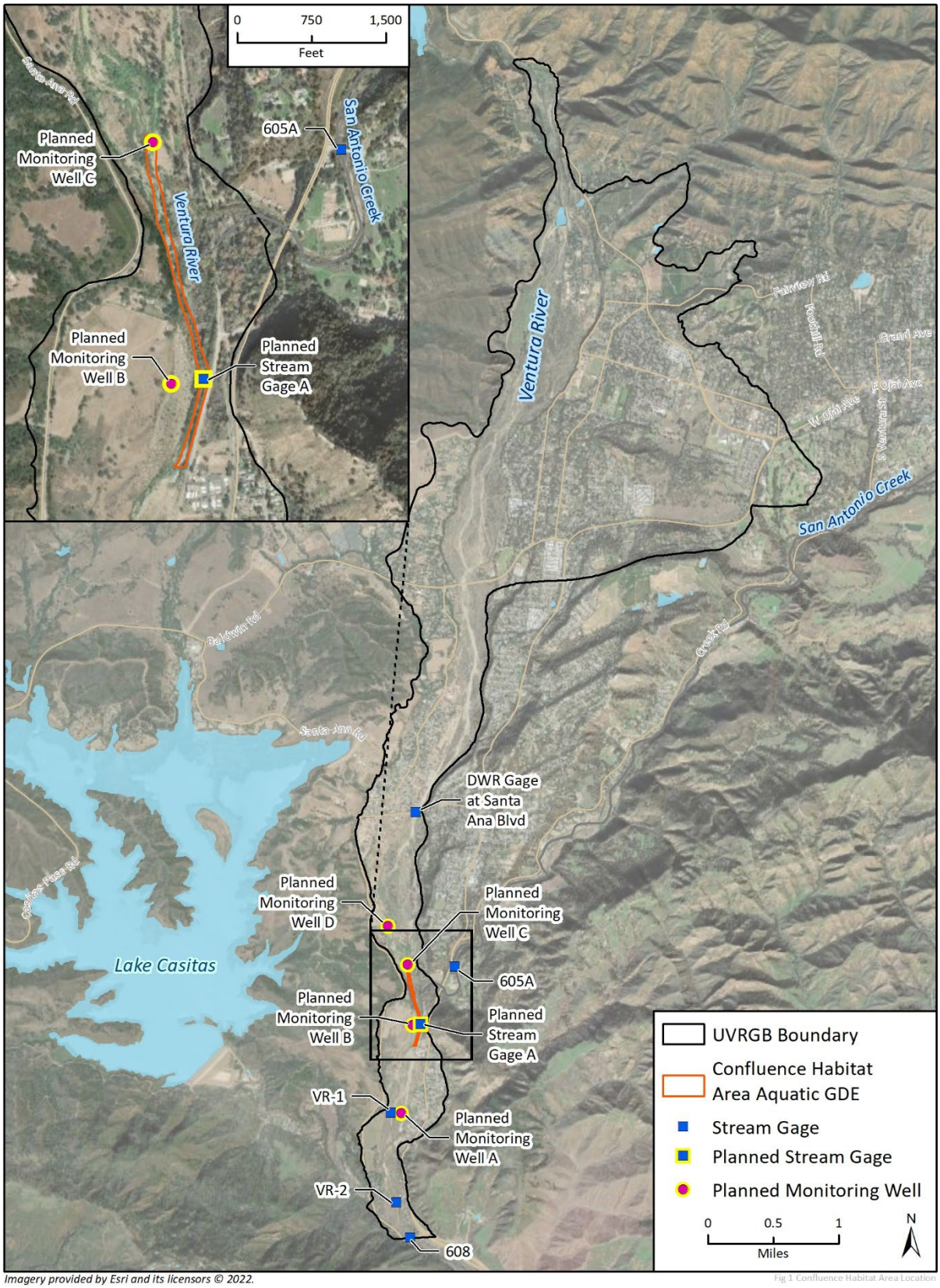

Fig 1 Confluence Habitat Area Location

Table 1 Relevant Existing Monitoring Programs and Previous Studies within the UVRGB

Program Name	Responsible Party	Description of Data Collection/ Study	Recurrence Interval/Study Date	Availability/ Applicability Notes
Matilija Dam Removal	County[1]	Habitat mapping and sediment/hydrologic modeling completed by Stillwater and AECOM. Habitat suitability and *O. mykiss* population studies completed by Normandeau Associates throughout the Basin, including within the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area.	Annually/Completed (Normandeau Associates, Inc. 2015)	Data are publicly available or provided upon request. May offer watershed-scale context to changing habitat conditions over time.
County-wide Bioassessment Monitoring	County	Long-term benthic macroinvertebrate and physical habitat monitoring.	Annually	Data are publicly available or provided upon request. On-going studies provide long-term data for instream aquatic habitat conditions. The latest five-year study began in 2021. Previous studies were conducted from 2009-2014 and 2015-2020. This program may reveal trends related to macroinvertebrate abundance, composition, and diversity, as well as physical conditions including substrate, sinuosity, flow, and habitat type (e.g., pool, riffle, glide).
Ventura River Streamflow Monitoring	County DWR[2] USGS[3]	Continuous water level and streamflow data collection.	Continuous	Data are publicly available in online databases. Provides real time and historic instream flow data upstream and downstream of the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area.
Stream Team Water Quality Monitoring	Santa Barbara Channel Keeper	Water quality and instantaneous streamflow monitoring.	Monthly	Data are publicly available or provided upon request. Community-based monitoring with a consistent monitoring schedule within the vicinity of the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. Data are currently available online from 2007 to 2018.
Robles Diversion Fish Passage Monitoring	CMWD[4]	Long term monitoring program consisting of streamflow, fish passage, fish spawning, fish presence and distribution, and aquatic habitat assessment.	Annually	Data are publicly available on CMWD's website, but not regularly updated. The most recent annual report is from 2018. Monitoring efforts include the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. These data provide information pertaining to habitat suitability trends, fish population dynamics, and hydrologic conditions throughout the river system. Data are not available until published by CMWD, which may not occur on a schedule that would inform this effort.

Program Name	Responsible Party	Description of Data Collection/ Study	Recurrence Interval/Study Date	Availability/ Applicability Notes
Ventura River Algae TMDL Monitoring	County	Long term monitoring consisting of monthly instantaneous water quality and streamflow, quarterly continuous pH and dissolved oxygen (DO), and summertime algal biomass.	Monthly	Data are publicly available or provided upon request. Monitoring occurs upstream and downstream of the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. This program provides a long-term dataset for specific habitat suitability parameters.
CDFW[4] Instream Flow Studies	CDFW[5]	Habitat suitability and habitat mapping, fish habitat use, critical riffle analysis, streamflow measurements	2017 to present	Publicly available. Data are collected at multiple sites throughout the watershed. Also includes data from previous studies. Draft instream flow recommendations for Reach 4 (which extends to the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area) were released in 2021. These recommendations are still preliminary, and while they can inform the UVRGA in their development and evaluation of SMC, they were not developed with the intent of meeting SGMA requirements and are not proscriptive for establishing minimum thresholds in the GSP.

1. County of Ventura
2. Department of Water Resources
3. United States Geological Survey
4. Casitas Municipal Water District
5. California Department of Fish and Wildlife

1.1.1 Existing and Planned UVRGA Monitoring Efforts

In addition to the programs and studies listed in Table 1, the UVRGA currently implements a suite of monitoring efforts and the GSP identifies additional future monitoring efforts to satisfy SGMA requirements. Table 2 provides a summary of these existing and planned monitoring efforts.

Table 2 Existing and Planned UVRGA Monitoring Efforts

Program Name	Description of Data Collection/ Study	Schedule	Notes
Groundwater Level Monitoring	Continuous groundwater level data logging currently in 5 wells and compilation of data collected by others in 3 additional wells	Continuous data collection, data are downloaded and archived on a semi-annual basis in May/June and September/October	The GSP proposes five additional wells into the network. Three of these wells will provide data directly upstream, downstream, and within the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. These additional wells will help to address data gaps identified in the GSP.
Streamflow Monitoring	Continuous streamflow monitoring at two proposed locations within the Basin.	Continuous data collection, data will be downloaded periodically. Gages will be maintained seasonally during baseflow recession period and dry season.	The GSP proposes two UVRGA-maintained baseflow gages, at the Camino Cielo Road crossing and within the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area (Planned Stream Gage A, Figure 1).
Visual Stream Monitoring	Monitor the extent of surface water flows, map wet and dry reaches	Monthly for winter months and increased during late spring-to-Fall period	Informs analysis of how seasonal conditions influence streamflow and when various reaches within the Basin (and the Confluence Area) are typically dry.
Riparian GDE Monitoring	Desktop assessment of NDVI/NDMI values for riparian vegetation within GDEs, and assessment of relationship between these indices and groundwater levels	Annual desktop assessment	Assessment follows protocols outlined by The Nature Conservancy for evaluating riparian vegetative health within GDEs (The Nature Conservancy 2018).

2 Monitoring Program Components

The Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area monitoring program includes a suite of monitoring components to address data gaps identified in the GSP. The program will seek to answer the specific questions presented in the introduction, which can inform whether SMC for this aquatic GDE are necessary. The monitoring program will follow established survey protocols and methods, which may be slightly modified as necessary, to assess site conditions most accurately. These established protocols include the following:

- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual (Flosi et al. 2010)
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Suitability Information (HSI) Model for Rainbow Trout (Raleigh et al. 1984)
- The Southern Steelhead Habitat Suitability Index (SS HSI) Model (Normandeau Associates, Inc. 2015)
- The USFWS Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog (USFWS 2005)
- UVRGA Monitoring and Data Collection Protocols (UVRGA 2018)

Biological monitoring methods will be primarily focused on steelhead habitat suitability, as much of the Ventura River is designated as critical habitat for the federally endangered southern California DPS of steelhead. The Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area specifically includes habitat components (e.g., cool upwelling water and pools) that provide important over summering and rearing habitat for fry, juvenile, and adult *O. mykiss* (Normandeau Associates, Inc. 2015). Furthermore, instream areas that provide suitable habitat for steelhead can also provide important habitat for other special-status aquatic and amphibious species, including CRLF, two-striped gartersnake (*Thamnophis hammondii*), Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*), and southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys pallida*). Steelhead habitat preferences are well studied and defined, and typically represent the most extensive and demanding habitat requirements of any aquatic species in southern California instream habitats. Therefore, steelhead habitat suitability requirements can be viewed as the limiting conditions when analyzing instream habitat. Habitat conditions for other aquatic species, including CRLF, will also be evaluated through this program.

A baseline habitat mapping survey of the entire GDE will be conducted at the onset of this monitoring program. During this initial habitat mapping effort, specific monitoring locations throughout the GDE will be established for subsequent routine surveys. Electronic data tablets with ArcGIS Collector software and high accuracy GPS units will be used to collect field data, which will then be synced with an online server. Descriptions of each of the monitoring program components are provided below. Table 3 provides an overview of each of these components, including the anticipated schedule, data to be collected, and protocols that will be implemented.

It is not anticipated that any permits will be required for implementation of the monitoring program components. Public access points will be used for entry into the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area and monitoring activities will avoid modifying the active channel. Should access to any privately-owned areas be required, monitoring personnel will coordinate with the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, or other landowners. Finally, while not anticipated, an encroachment permit to access County rights-of-way would be required to access stream gaging locations that fall within County jurisdiction.

Table 3 Monitoring Program Overview

Monitoring Component	Data Collected	Purpose	Schedule	Locations	References/Protocols
Baseline Habitat Mapping	Map aquatic mesohabitats in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE	Will provide in-depth information on existing habitats within the GDE and allow for identification of specific mesohabitats to monitor	Once at beginning of the program (likely during Fall 2022)	Entire Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE (approximately 3,450 feet in length)	California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual (Flosi et al. 2010)
Fish Stranding and Mortality Surveys	Document any observed fish stranding and/or mortality that might occur as streamflow recedes. The extent of wetted and dry portions of the river will also be documented.	Will provide important information on steelhead migration habitat within the GDE, as well as fine scale data on when and how streamflow recedes within this area following varying climatic conditions and modeled ISW depletion estimates.	Monthly to weekly during dry season, as streamflow recedes	Designated monitoring locations at important riffles within the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE	Pedestrian Bank Surveys
Routine Habitat Suitability and Snorkel Surveys	Survey HSI parameters, including sediment type, riparian vegetation/cover, water depth, and various in-stream structure, as well as all species observed, within predetermined pools, riffles, and glides. Steelhead presence/ absence will be documented during snorkel surveys. Fish stranding/morality will also be documented.	Will provide in-depth information on existing conditions and allow for assessment of habitat suitability for steelhead, CRLF, and other aquatic organisms. Conditions can be quantified and compared with streamflow, as well as climatic data and modeled ISW depletion.	At least four times per year (once during winter and at least three times during summer/fall)	Designated monitoring locations (e.g., pools, riffles, glides) within the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE	SS HSI (Normandeau Associates, Inc. 2015, Padre Associates, Inc. 2013) California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual (Flosi et al. 2010) Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog (USFWS 2005)
Water Quality and Flow Monitoring	Water level, DO, pH, temperature	Will provide continuous flow and water quality data that can then be correlated with streamflow, as well as climatic data and modeled ISW depletion.	Continuous data collection, data downloaded during each field visit	One designated location within the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE	LARWQCB[1] Basin Plan (2014), USGS[2] standards for stream gauge installation, UVRGA Monitoring and Data Collection Protocols (2018)

Monitoring Component	Data Collected	Purpose	Schedule	Locations	References/Protocols
Aerial Photography	Aerial images	Will provide a visual time series of overall conditions within the GDE and allow for comparison of conditions over time and during different hydrologic and climatic conditions	At least four times per year, concurrent with habitat suitability surveys	Aerial photographs will be taken of the upper, middle, and lower portions of the Habitat Area Aquatic GDE	General photography and FAA rules
Repeat Ground Photography	Photographs of instream and riparian habitat from fixed locations	Will provide a visual time series for each monitoring location that will allow for comparison of habitat conditions over time and during different hydrologic and climatic conditions	At least four times per year, concurrent with habitat suitability surveys	Photographs will be taken from fixed locations at each mesohabitat that is monitored during the habitat suitability surveys	General photography

[1.] Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

[2.] U.S. Geological Survey

Baseline Habitat Mapping

The Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE will be mapped using CDFW methods (Flosi et al. 2010), most likely to the Level II or Level III[4] habitat types. This survey will occur once at the beginning of the monitoring program, likely in the Fall of 2022. Surveyors will document all mesohabitats within the GDE, including pools, riffles, and glides.

Purpose of monitoring component

This initial survey effort will provide baseline data on the aquatic habitat present within the GDE, as well as a map of all aquatic mesohabitats in the GDE. These mesohabitats can then be randomly or systematically chosen as monitoring locations for the subsequent fish stranding and mortality surveys and routine habitat suitability surveys.

Fish Stranding and Mortality Surveys

During periods of receding streamflow (likely between April and November), pedestrian surveys (with chest waders, if necessary) will be conducted within previously identified portions of the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area (e.g., critical riffles) to document any observed fish stranding and/or mortality that might occur if species are present as flow is diminished. The extent of wetted and dry portions of the river will also be documented within survey areas. These surveys will likely be conducted on a monthly basis during the dry season and may be increased to weekly during times low flow periods when the extent of aquatic habitat is constricted.

Purpose of monitoring component

Conducting fish stranding and mortality surveys will provide important information on hydrologic conditions as flows recede naturally, as well as fine scale data on when and how streamflow recedes within this GDE following varying climatic conditions and modeled ISW depletion. This information will help to fill data gaps identified in the GSP for the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area.

Routine Habitat Suitability and Snorkel Surveys

Routine habitat suitability surveys will be conducted once during the rainy season (between December and April) and at least three times during the dry season (between July and October) and will focus on a subset of mesohabitats (e.g., pools, riffles, glides) either randomly or systematically selected following the initial baseline habitat mapping effort. These surveys will provide data on habitat suitability for special-status species, including steelhead and CRLF, as well as other aquatic organisms.

Surveyors will collect data for a suite of variables within these predetermined mesohabitats, including, but not limited to, substrate size, canopy cover, instream cover, gradient, elevation, and thalweg depth. Water quality data, including water temperature, DO, and pH, will also be collected at each monitoring location using a handheld probe. Macroalgae presence/absence will be documented, and photos will be collected to show areal extent. Habitat suitability surveys will

[4] There are four levels of classification used to describe physical fish habitat. Each higher level in the sequence includes more descriptive categories of habitat types. Level I categorizes habitat into riffles or pools. Level II categorizes riffles into riffle or flatwater habitat types, for a total of three types (riffle, pool, and flatwater). Level III further differentiates riffle types on the basis of water surface gradient (riffle or cascade), and pool types according to their location in the stream channel (main channel, lateral scour, or backwater).

follow protocols outlined by Flosi et al. (2010), Normandeau Associates, Inc (2015), Padre Associates, Inc. (2013), and the USFWS (2005).

When sufficient water is present, underwater snorkel surveys will also be performed as part of these routine surveys to document the presence of steelhead, CRLF tadpoles, and other aquatic species. Performing underwater surveys is a cost-effective and non-invasive method to determine fish distribution and aquatic species composition. Snorkel surveys will follow protocols outlined by Flosi et al. (2010). Any observed fish stranding and/or mortality will also be documented during each survey.

In addition, nighttime surveys will be conducted at designated locations throughout the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area to provide more accurate documentation of the presence or absence of CRLF, invasive amphibian species (such as bullfrogs), and other nocturnal aquatic species. Night surveys will follow protocols outlined by the USFWS (2005).

Purpose of monitoring component

Conducting routine habitat suitability surveys will allow for the quantification of habitat suitability and species abundance within the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE and will allow for a better understanding of if and when fish stranding and mortality occurs within critical riffles. These data will build on the findings of previous studies conducted in the Upper Ventura River (e.g., Normandeau Associates, Inc. 2015, Padre 2013) to provide an understanding of existing habitat conditions within the GDE and allow for a comparison of SS HSI scores and water quality parameters under varying flow conditions. These monitoring data combined with modeling estimates of ISW depletions can inform whether SMCs for the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area are warranted.

Continuous Surface Water Quality and Flow Monitoring

One or two continuous surface water quality and flow monitoring stations will be installed at designated locations within the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. One of these water quality stations may be collocated with Planned Stream Gage A (Figure 1) to reduce field data collection efforts. The need and location of a second surface water monitoring station would be determined based on field reconnaissance. Continuous data will be collected with a water level transducer and multi-parameter water quality sondes. Continuous instream monitoring will provide data on important habitat suitability parameters, including water level, water temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), and pH. Water level will be converted to streamflow using a stage-discharge rating curve for each monitoring station location. This curve will be developed and maintained through hydrographic surveys and instantaneous flow measurements collected during the baseline and routine surveys. Data from the surface water monitoring station will be downloaded during each routine habitat suitability survey. Additional downloads may occur if the water quality sonde requires more frequent maintenance. Methods will align with those outlined in the UVRGA Monitoring and Data Collection Protocols (UVRGA 2018).

Purpose of monitoring component

Continuous surface water quality and water level monitoring will provide data to evaluate how water quality may correspond with streamflow conditions within the GDE. The water quality parameters measured (e.g., DO, pH, and temperature) are important habitat suitability components for special-status aquatic species and continuous measurements will provide a dataset to assess habitat suitability over time and under varying flow conditions. Continuous data also allows for

comparison of diurnal variation, as temperature and DO in particular can fluctuate greatly between daytime and nighttime.

This component will provide information to assess the changing habitat suitability conditions over varying hydrologic conditions and seasonal variations. This variation may provide important insight into the natural climatic drivers of habitat suitability and allow the UVRGA to evaluate how the natural baseflow recession may be exacerbated by groundwater extraction. Together, these data are intended to inform SMC evaluation and development.

Aerial Photography

Aerial photography of the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area will be conducted with an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) by a licensed UAV pilot. Aerial photographs will be taken of the upper, lower, and middle portions of the GDE at predetermined sites, most likely from a height of 50 to 100 feet, with both upstream and downstream views captured, at a minimum. Aerial photography will be conducted at least four times annually, simultaneous with routine habitat suitability surveys.

Purpose of monitoring component

Conducting aerial photography provides a visual time series of the overall conditions within the GDE and allows for comparison of the aquatic habitat during and following different hydrologic and climatic conditions.

Repeat Ground Photography

Repeat ground photography will be conducted during each monitoring effort, at the designated monitoring locations established by the baseline habitat mapping event for the routine habitat suitability surveys. Photographs will be taken at the same locations and from the same vantage points with the same orientation (upstream and downstream) at least four times annually, during each routine habitat suitability survey. Photographs will be taken in ArcGIS Collector using an electronic data tablet.

Purpose of monitoring component

Conducting repeat photography will provide a visual time series for each monitoring location of both instream and riparian habitat. These photographs will allow for comparison of habitat conditions over time and during differing hydrologic and climatic conditions.

3 Data Interpretation and Evaluation Methodology

Monitoring data will be collected in the field using ArcGIS Collector software (as described in Section 2), synced with an online server, and compiled into a digital database for organization, interpretation, and evaluation.

Habitat Suitability Conditions and Relationship to ISW Depletion

It is known that steelhead occur throughout the Ventura River, and the entire river (up to the Ordinary High Water Mark) within the Basin is designated as critical habitat for steelhead. Established methodologies will be used to evaluate habitat suitability for steelhead within the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area, which will also provide data on the overall existing ecological conditions within the aquatic GDE. Understanding existing ecological conditions within the aquatic GDE and tracking how conditions change in comparison with modeled ISW depletion will inform how ISW depletions may be affecting this aquatic GDE, whether these effects are significant and unreasonable, and whether SMC for ISW depletion are necessary for the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area.

The SS HSI model developed by Normandeau Associates, Inc. (2015) will be used to analyze data collected during the habitat suitability surveys, as well as continuously collected water level and water quality data. The SS HSI model will be used to calculate HSI scores at each monitoring location within the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. These SS HSI scores can then be compared with species presence/absence data, streamflow data, and numerical modeling of ISW depletion to gain a better understanding of whether potential significant and unreasonable effects might occur as a result of ISW depletion.

Steelhead presence/absence and overall species abundance data will also be considered when assessing if and when significant and unreasonable effects are occurring. Additionally, aerial and repeat photography will allow for visual comparisons of conditions within the GDE, as well as at specific mesohabitats within the GDE. Qualitative assessments of vegetative health, presence or absence of water, and water quality may be made using these time series images.

Consideration of Other Monitoring Programs

In addition to the data collected through this monitoring program, data collected by other regional stakeholders (as described in Section 1.1) will be incorporated into the analysis. Data collected in other areas of the Basin could also serve as a basis of comparison for the GDE and may help in understanding how habitat conditions change within the river both seasonally and/or due to groundwater pumping.

3.1 Annual Progress Reports

Following completion of each full year of monitoring, a written memo will be provided to the UVRGA with a summary of the monitoring efforts completed, the data collected, and a preliminary analysis of the findings for that year. Links to the online server with the data and Collector maps will

also be provided. Annual progress reports will be submitted in December 2023 and December 2024 covering the preceding water year.

3.2 Final Assessment Report

The monitoring program data will be compiled and analyzed in a final assessment report that will be submitted to the UVRGA following completion of the third year of monitoring. This report will include the following components:

- Detailed maps and figures of all monitoring locations and habitat mapped within the GDE;
- Detailed accounts of species presence and abundance within the GDE, as well as a summary of any fish stranding and/or mortality observations;
- Quantitative and qualitative descriptions of overall habitat conditions within the GDE, habitat suitability conditions at various flows and groundwater conditions, and modeled depletion of ISW;
- Calculated HSI scores for each monitoring location within the GDE during each site visit;
- Statistical analyses of the relationship between streamflow, groundwater levels, modeled ISW depletion, and habitat conditions within the GDE;
- Evaluation of whether significant and unreasonable effects on the aquatic GDE may occur as a result of ISW depletion; and
- Recommendations for SMC and future monitoring efforts (if potential significant and unreasonable effects due ISW depletion are indicated)

4 Monitoring Program Schedule and Budget

4.1 Monitoring Program Schedule

Table 4 provides an overview of the approximate schedule for implementation of this workplan.

Table 4 Three-year Monitoring Program Schedule Overview

Monitoring Program Milestones	Timeline
Submittal of Draft Workplan	May 2022
Public Comment Period	June 2022
Approval of Final Workplan and Contracting	August 2022
Implementation of the Monitoring Program 1. Baseline Habitat Mapping 2. Routine Habitat Suitability Surveys 3. Aerial Photography 4. Repeat Ground Photography 5. Water Quality and Water Level Monitoring	October 2022 – October 2025 1. Fall 2022 2. At least four times annually (once during winter, at least three times during dry season) 3. At least four times annually, during each field visit 4. At least four times annually, during each field visit 5. Continuous monitoring, data downloads during each field visit
Installation of Water Quality and Water Level Monitoring Stations	Fall 2022
Annual Progress Reports	December 2023 and 2024
Final Three-Year Findings Report	December 2025

4.2 Budget

Rincon anticipates that implementation of the monitoring program over three years (2022 through 2025), as described in this workplan, will not exceed the Confluence Area monitoring budget estimated in the GSP. Specifically, this amount is expected to be sufficient to cover monitoring efforts, as well as data management, analysis, and reporting. The budget included in the GSP was as follows:

- Fiscal Year 2022/2023: $46,082
- Fiscal Year 2023/2024: $41,532
- Fiscal Year 2024/2025: $36,666

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Appendix A

Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE Photographs

Photograph 1. Northern portion of Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area (facing north).

Photograph 2. Southern portion of Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area (facing north).

Photographs by S. Howard, April 19, 2021

Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Monitoring Workplan

Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin

prepared for

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1 Introduction

The Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) identified the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area as an aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE)[1]. This GDE occurs in the southernmost portion of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin (Basin) (Figure 1) and provides important aquatic habitat for a variety of special-status species, including the southern California Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)[2] and the California red-legged frog (CRLF, *Rana draytonii*) (NOAA 2022, USFWS 2022). The Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area is reliant on interconnected surface water (ISW) and provides important pools and other rearing habitat features for all life stages of steelhead and CRLF, as well as other special-status aquatic species, especially during the dry period of the year when other reaches of the river typically run dry. Appendix A presents aerial photographs of the northern and southern portions of the GDE.

Instream habitat around Foster Park has been studied by various investigators over the years, including consultants, federal and state resource agencies, local water agencies, and municipal government agencies. The GSP identified the need for additional data collection to assess performance of the ISW depletion sustainable management criteria (SMC) included in the GSP for the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area. It is anticipated that a monitoring program will eventually be developed and implemented as part of a physical solution for the Ventura River Watershed Adjudication. However, there is currently no definitive timeline for either a judgment and or implementation of a physical solution. Similarly, there are no publicly available details concerning what the scope of the physical solution monitoring program would be. Therefore, UVRGA has prepared this workplan with the understanding that monitoring may transition to or be shared with other entities in the future.

Following guidance provided in Section 5.8 of the GSP, this workplan outlines a three-year monitoring program to assess performance of the ISW depletion SMC included in the GSP for the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area. This workplan provides detailed protocols and field methods for each of the monitoring components that will be implemented; establishes a monitoring schedule for each of these components; and describes methodologies that will be used to interpret and analyze monitoring data.

The monitoring program is designed to provide data to facilitate UVRGA's ongoing evaluation of SMC developed in the GSP for the *Depletion of Interconnected Surface Waters* sustainability indicator in the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area, as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). To address this need, the monitoring program will seek to answer the following questions:

[1] Aquatic GDEs were assessed and identified separately from riparian GDEs within the Basin. Riparian GDEs are comprised of riparian vegetation communities with rooting depths that reach directly to groundwater, while aquatic GDEs are comprised of instream habitat that is dependent on interconnected surface water. This monitoring workplan pertains to instream aquatic habitat, while existing efforts are in place to monitor vegetation communities identified within the Foster Park Riparian GDE Unit. More details regarding riparian GDE monitoring are provided in Table 2.

[2] Steelhead are the anadromous (ocean-going) form of *O.mykiss*, while rainbow trout are the resident (solely freshwater) form of the species. All *O.mykiss* in waterbodies with connectivity to the ocean have the potential to become anadromous and are therefore treated as steelhead from a regulatory standpoint.

- What is the current distribution of aquatic mesohabitats[3] in the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE?
- What are the current aquatic habitat suitability conditions within this GDE?
- How do aquatic habitat suitability conditions within this GDE change in response to seasonal variation?
- How and when does ISW depletion affect habitat suitability conditions within this GDE?
- How might groundwater pumping in the Basin affect habitat suitability conditions within this GDE?

Answering these questions will provide the necessary information to perform ongoing evaluation of the ISW depletion SMC for the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area and to establish a long-term monitoring plan for the area.

1.1 Existing Monitoring Efforts and Previous Studies within the Basin

UVRGA is committed to working with various stakeholders within the Basin and will seek input from other entities in the Basin during the process of finalizing and implementing this workplan. The monitoring program will consider current and ongoing monitoring efforts being undertaken by other stakeholders in the Basin and will include information on the collaborative and data-sharing approach UVRGA will take with its monitoring efforts. This collaboration will aid in establishing a comprehensive monitoring program that can prevent duplication of efforts and provide a broader data set, which will ultimately increase confidence in the results and conclusions drawn from monitoring data.

Table 1 provides a summary of relevant existing monitoring programs and previous studies conducted in the Basin. These existing monitoring efforts and previous studies were referenced during the development of the monitoring program methods, and data from these efforts conducted by other stakeholders will be incorporated into this program's data analysis and evaluation, as appropriate and feasible.

[3] Aquatic mesohabitats are visually and functionally distinct areas of instream habitat (e.g., pools, riffles, and runs).

Figure 1 Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Location

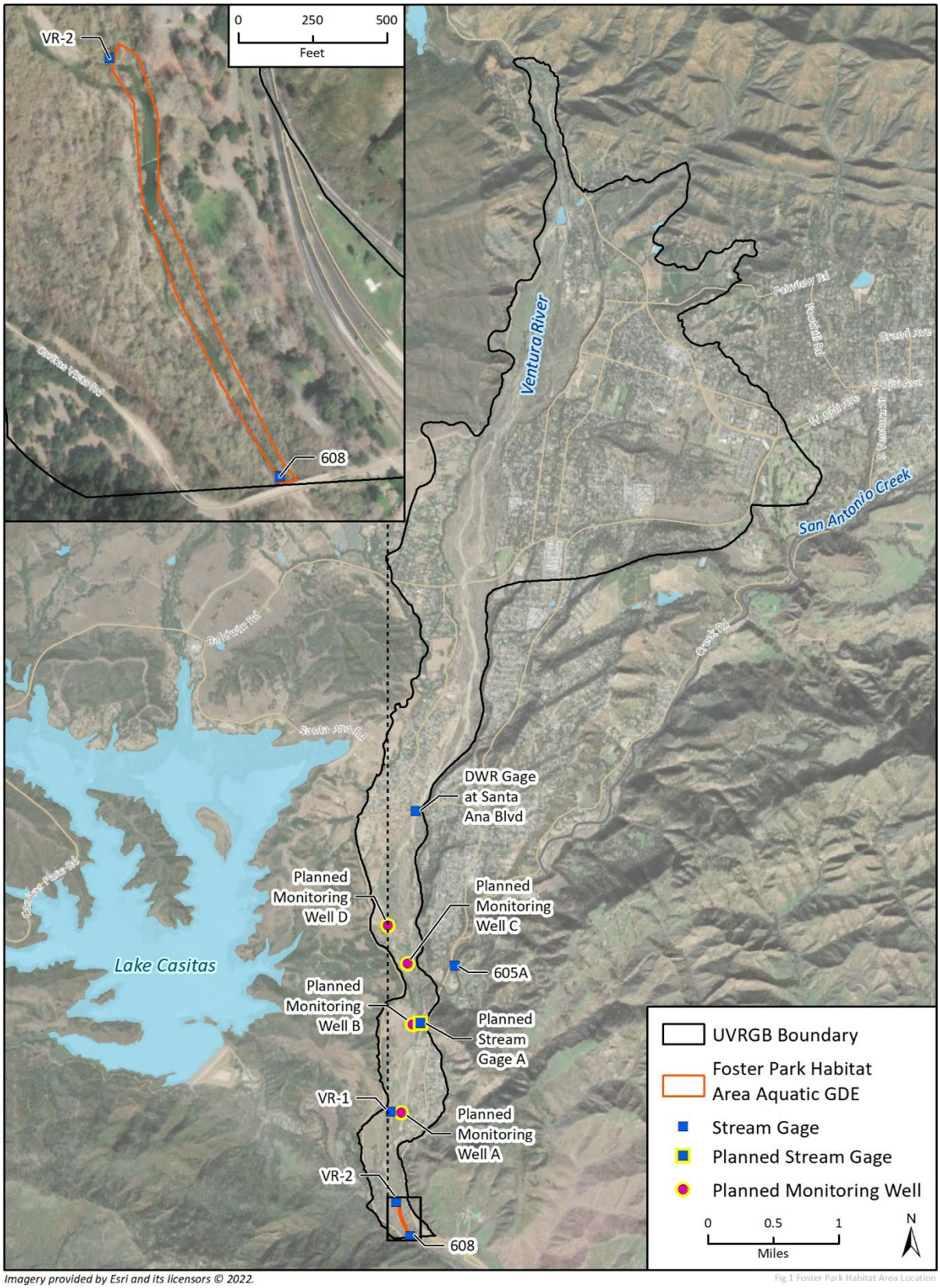

Table 1 Relevant Existing Monitoring Programs and Previous Studies within the UVRGB

Program Name	Responsible Party	Description of Data Collection/ Study	Recurrence Interval/Study Date	Availability/ Applicability Notes
Matilija Dam Removal	County[1]	Habitat mapping and sediment/hydrologic modeling completed by Stillwater and AECOM. Habitat suitability and *O. mykiss* population studies completed by Normandeau Associates throughout the Basin, including within the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area.	Annually/Completed (Normandeau Associates, Inc. 2015)	Data are publicly available or provided upon request. May offer watershed-scale context to changing habitat conditions over time.
County-wide Bioassessment Monitoring	County	Long-term benthic macroinvertebrate and physical habitat monitoring.	Annually	Data are publicly available or provided upon request. On-going studies provide long-term data for instream aquatic habitat conditions. The latest five-year study began in 2021. Previous studies were conducted from 2009-2014 and 2015-2020. This program may reveal trends related to macroinvertebrate abundance, composition, and diversity, as well as physical conditions including substrate, sinuosity, flow, and habitat type (e.g., pool, riffle, glide).
Ventura River Streamflow Monitoring	County DWR[2] USGS[3]	Continuous water level and streamflow data collection.	Continuous	Data are publicly available in online databases. Provides real time and historic instream flow data just downstream of the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area.
Stream Team Water Quality Monitoring	Santa Barbara Channel Keeper	Water quality and instantaneous streamflow monitoring.	Monthly	Data are publicly available or provided upon request. Community-based monitoring with a consistent monitoring schedule within the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area. Data are currently available online from 2007 to 2018.
Robles Diversion Fish Passage Monitoring	CMWD[4]	Long term monitoring program consisting of streamflow, fish passage, fish spawning, fish presence and distribution, and aquatic habitat assessment.	Annually	Data are publicly available on CMWD's website, but not regularly updated. The most recent annual report is from 2018. Monitoring efforts include the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area. These data provide information pertaining to habitat suitability trends, fish population dynamics, and hydrologic conditions throughout the river system. Data are not available until published by CMWD, which may not occur on a schedule that would inform this effort.

Program Name	Responsible Party	Description of Data Collection/ Study	Recurrence Interval/Study Date	Availability/ Applicability Notes
Ventura River Algae TMDL Monitoring	County	Long term monitoring consisting of monthly instantaneous water quality and streamflow, quarterly continuous pH and dissolved oxygen (DO), and summertime algal biomass.	Monthly	Data are publicly available or provided upon request. Monitoring occurs upstream and downstream of the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area. This program provides a long-term dataset for specific habitat suitability parameters.
CDFW Instream Flow Studies	CDFW[5]	Habitat suitability and habitat mapping, fish habitat use, critical riffle analysis, streamflow measurements	2017 to present	Publicly available (CDFW 2017a and 2017b). Data are collected at multiple sites throughout the watershed. Also includes data from previous studies. Draft instream flow recommendations for Reach 4 (which includes the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area) were released in 2021. These recommendations are still preliminary, and while they can inform the UVRGA in their development and evaluation of SMC, they were not developed with the intent of meeting SGMA requirements and are not proscriptive for establishing minimum thresholds in the GSP.

1. County of Ventura
2. Department of Water Resources
3. United States Geological Survey
4. Casitas Municipal Water District
5. California Department of Fish and Wildlife

1.1.1 Existing and Planned UVRGA Monitoring Efforts

In addition to the programs and studies listed in Table 1, the UVRGA currently implements a suite of monitoring efforts and the GSP identifies additional future monitoring efforts to satisfy SGMA requirements. Table 2 provides a summary of these existing and planned monitoring efforts.

Table 2 Existing and Planned UVRGA Monitoring Efforts

Program Name	Description of Data Collection/ Study	Schedule	Notes
Groundwater Level Monitoring	Continuous groundwater level data logging currently in 5 wells and compilation of data collected by others in 3 additional wells	Continuous data collection, data are downloaded and archived on a semi-annual basis in May/June and September/October	The GSP proposes five additional wells into the network. These additional wells will provide data for areas upstream of the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area.
Streamflow Monitoring	Continuous streamflow monitoring at two proposed locations within the Basin.	Continuous data collection, data will be downloaded periodically. Gages will be maintained seasonally during baseflow recession period and dry season.	The GSP proposes two UVRGA-maintained baseflow gages, at the Camino Cielo Road crossing and within the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area (Planned Stream Gage A, Figure 1).
Visual Stream Monitoring	Monitor the extent of surface water flows, map wet and dry reaches	Monthly for winter months and increased during late spring-to-Fall period	Informs analysis of how seasonal conditions influence streamflow and when various reaches within the Basin (and the Foster Park Area) are typically dry.
Riparian GDE Monitoring	Desktop assessment of NDVI/NDMI values for riparian vegetation within GDEs, and assessment of relationship between these indices and groundwater levels	Annual desktop assessment	Assessment follows protocols outlined by The Nature Conservancy for evaluating riparian vegetative health within GDEs (The Nature Conservancy 2018).

2 Monitoring Program Components

The Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area monitoring program includes a suite of monitoring components to inform ongoing evaluation of the ISW depletion SMC for the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area by answering the specific questions presented in the introduction. The monitoring program will follow established survey protocols and methods, which may be slightly modified, as necessary, to assess site conditions most accurately. These established protocols include the following:

- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual (Flosi et al. 2010);
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Suitability Information (HSI) Model for Rainbow Trout (Raleigh et al. 1984);
- The Southern Steelhead Habitat Suitability Index (SS HSI) Model (Normandeau Associates, Inc. 2015); and
- The USFWS Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog (USFWS 2005).
- UVRGA Monitoring and Data Collection Protocols (UVRGA 2018)

Biological monitoring methods will be primarily focused on steelhead habitat suitability, as much of the Ventura River is designated as critical habitat for the federally endangered southern California DPS of steelhead. The Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area specifically includes habitat components (e.g., pools and riffles) that are known to be important for steelhead spawning, migration, and rearing (National Marine Fisheries Service 2007, Normandeau Associates, Inc. 2015). Furthermore, instream areas that provide suitable habitat for steelhead can also provide important habitat for other special-status aquatic and amphibious species, including CRLF, two-striped gartersnake (*Thamnophis hammondii*), Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*), and southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys pallida*). Steelhead habitat preferences are well studied and defined, and typically represent the most extensive and demanding habitat requirements of any aquatic species in southern California instream habitats. Therefore, steelhead habitat suitability requirements can be viewed as the limiting conditions when analyzing instream habitat. Habitat conditions for other aquatic species, including CRLF, will also be evaluated through this program.

A baseline habitat mapping survey of the entire GDE will be conducted at the beginning of this program. During this initial habitat mapping effort, specific monitoring locations throughout the GDE will be established for subsequent routine surveys. Electronic data tablets with ArcGIS Collector software and high accuracy GPS units will be used to collect field data, which will then be synced with an online server. Descriptions of each of the monitoring program components are provided below. Table 3 provides an overview of each of these components, including the anticipated schedule, data to be collected, and protocols that will be implemented.

It is not anticipated that any permits will be required for implementation of the monitoring program components. Public access points will be used for entry into the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area and monitoring activities will avoid modifying the active channel. Should access to any privately-owned areas be required, monitoring personnel will coordinate with landowners as necessary. Finally, while not anticipated, an encroachment permit to access County rights-of-way would be required to access stream gaging locations that fall within County jurisdiction.

Table 3 Monitoring Program Overview

Monitoring Component	Data Collected	Purpose	Schedule	Locations	References/Protocols
Baseline Habitat Mapping	Map aquatic mesohabitats in the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE	Will provide in-depth information on existing habitats within the GDE and allow for identification of specific mesohabitats to monitor	Once at the beginning of the program (likely during Fall 2022)	Entire Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE (approximately 1,590 linear feet)	California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual (Flosi et al. 2010)
Routine Habitat Suitability and Snorkel Surveys	Survey HSI parameters, including sediment type, riparian vegetation/cover, water depth, and various in-stream structure, as well as all species observed, within predetermined pools, riffles, and glides. Steelhead presence/ absence will be documented during snorkel surveys. Fish stranding/morality will also be documented.	Will provide in-depth information on existing conditions and allow for assessment of habitat suitability for steelhead, CRLF, and other aquatic organisms. Conditions can be quantified and compared with streamflow, as well as climatic data and modeled ISW depletion.	At least four times per year (once during winter and at least three times during summer/fall)	Designated monitoring locations (e.g., pools, riffles, glides) within the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE	SS HSI (Normandeau Associates, Inc. 2015, Padre Associates, Inc. 2013) California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual (Flosi et al. 2010) Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog (USFWS 2005)
Water Quality and Flow Monitoring	Water level, DO, pH, temperature	Will provide continuous flow and water quality data that can then be correlated with streamflow, as well as climatic data and modeled ISW depletion.	Continuous data collection, data downloaded during each field visit	One designated location within the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE.	LA RWQCB[1] Basin Plan (2014), USGS[2] standards for stream gauge installation, UVRGA Monitoring and Data Collection Protocols (2018)
Aerial Photography	Aerial images	Will provide a visual time series of overall conditions within the GDE and allow for comparison of conditions over time and during different hydrologic and climatic conditions	At least four times per year, concurrent with habitat suitability surveys	Aerial photographs of the upper, middle, and lower portions of the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE	General photography and FAA rules

Monitoring Component	Data Collected	Purpose	Schedule	Locations	References/Protocols
Repeat Ground Photography	Photographs of instream and riparian habitat from fixed locations	Will provide a visual time series for each monitoring location that will allow for comparison of habitat conditions over time and during different hydrologic and climatic conditions	At least four times per year, concurrent with habitat suitability surveys	Photographs will be taken from fixed locations at each mesohabitat that is monitored during the habitat suitability surveys	General photography

[1.] Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

[2.] U.S. Geological Survey

Baseline Habitat Mapping

The Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE will be mapped using CDFW methods (Flosi et al. 2010), most likely at Level II or Level III habitat[4] types. This survey will occur once at the beginning of the monitoring program, likely in the Fall of 2022. Surveyors will document all mesohabitats within the GDE, including pools, riffles, and glides.

Purpose of monitoring component

This initial survey effort will provide baseline data on the aquatic habitat present within the GDE, as well as a map of all aquatic mesohabitats in the GDE. These mesohabitats can then be randomly or systematically chosen as monitoring locations for the subsequent routine habitat suitability and mapping surveys.

Routine Habitat Suitability and Snorkel Surveys

Routine habitat suitability surveys will be conducted once during the rainy season (between December and April) and at least three times during the dry season (between July and October) and will focus on a subset of mesohabitats (e.g., pools, riffles, glides) either randomly or systematically selected following the initial baseline habitat mapping effort. These surveys will provide data on habitat suitability for special-status species, including steelhead and CRLF, as well as other aquatic organisms.

Surveyors will collect data for a suite of variables within these predetermined mesohabitats, including, but not limited to, substrate size, canopy cover, instream cover, gradient, elevation, and thalweg depth. Water quality data, including water temperature, DO, and pH, will also be collected at each monitoring location using a handheld probe. Macroalgae presence/absence will be documented, and photos will be collected to show areal extent. Habitat suitability surveys will follow protocols outlined by Flosi et al. (2010), Normandeau Associates, Inc (2015), Padre Associates, Inc. (2013), and the USFWS (2005).

When sufficient water is present, underwater snorkel surveys will also be performed as part of these routine surveys to document the presence of steelhead, CRLF tadpoles, and other aquatic species. Performing underwater surveys is a cost-effective and non-invasive method to determine fish distribution and aquatic species composition. Snorkel surveys will follow protocols outlined by Flosi et al. (2010). Any observed fish stranding and/or mortality will also be documented during each survey.

In addition, nighttime surveys will also be conducted at designated locations throughout the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE to provide more accurate documentation of the presence or absence of CRLF, invasive amphibian species (such as bullfrogs), and other nocturnal aquatic species. Night surveys will follow protocols outlined by the USFWS (2005).

Purpose of monitoring component

Conducting routine habitat suitability surveys will allow for the quantification of habitat suitability and species abundance within the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE, which will build on

[4] There are four levels of classification used to describe physical fish habitat. Each higher level in the sequence includes more descriptive categories of habitat types. Level I categorizes habitat into riffles or pools. Level II categorizes riffles into riffle or flatwater habitat types, for a total of three types (riffle, pool, and flatwater). Level III further differentiates riffle types on the basis of water surface gradient (riffle or cascade), and pool types according to their location in the stream channel (main channel, lateral scour, or backwater).

the findings of previous studies (e.g., Normandeau Associates, Inc. 2015, Padre 2013) to provide an understanding of existing habitat conditions within the GDE and allow for comparison of SS HSI scores and water quality parameters under varying flow conditions.

Continuous Surface Water Quality and Flow Monitoring

Two continuous surface water quality monitoring stations will be installed within the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area. These stations will likely be collocated with City of Ventura continuous surface water flow gage VR-2 and USGS Site ID 11118500 (Figure 1). These existing stream gages are located at the upstream and downstream extent of the aquatic habitat area and will provide accurate and reliable long-term continuous flow data. Continuous instream water quality monitoring will be conducted with multi-parameter water quality sondes, which will provide data on important habitat suitability parameters, including water temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), and pH.

Data from the surface water monitoring stations will be downloaded during each routine habitat suitability survey. Additional downloads may occur if the water quality sondes require more frequent maintenance. Water quality data can then be correlated with flow and water level data taken from the existing County and USGS gages. Methods will align with those outlined in the UVRGA Monitoring and Data Collection Protocols (UVRGA 2018).

Purpose of monitoring component

Continuous surface water quality monitoring will provide data that show how streamflow correlates with water quality parameters within the GDE. The water quality parameters measured (e.g., DO, pH, and temperature) are important habitat suitability components for special-status aquatic species and continuous water quality data will therefore allow for analysis of habitat suitability under varying flow conditions. Additionally, continuous water quality data can allow for daily comparisons, as temperature and DO in particular can fluctuate greatly between daytime and nighttime. Water quality and water level data will also be compared with climatic data and ISW depletion modeling (conducted by UVRGA) to better understand how annual and seasonal variation, natural baseflow recession, and groundwater extraction, affect conditions within the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE.

Aerial Photography

Aerial photography of the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE will be conducted with an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) by a licensed UAV pilot. Aerial photographs will be taken of the upper, lower, and middle portions of the GDE at predetermined sites, most likely from a height of 50 to 100 feet, with both upstream and downstream views captured, at a minimum. Aerial photography will be conducted at least four times annually, simultaneous with the routine habitat suitability surveys.

Purpose of monitoring component

Conducting aerial photography will provide a visual time series of the overall conditions within the GDE and allow for comparison of the aquatic habitat during and following different hydrologic and climatic conditions.

Repeat Ground Photography

Repeat ground photography will be conducted during each monitoring effort, at the designated monitoring locations established for the routine habitat suitability surveys. Photographs will be taken at the same locations and from the same vantage points with the same orientation (upstream and downstream) at least four times annually, during each habitat suitability survey. Photographs will be taken in ArcGIS Collector using an electronic data tablet.

Purpose of monitoring component

Conducting repeat photography will provide a visual time series for each monitoring location of both instream and riparian habitat. These photographs will allow for comparison of habitat conditions over time and during differing hydrologic and climatic conditions.

3 Data Interpretation and Evaluation Methodology

Monitoring data will be collected in the field using ArcGIS Collector software (as described in Section 2), synced with an online server, and compiled into a digital database for organization, interpretation, and evaluation.

Habitat Suitability Conditions and Relationship to ISW Depletion

It is known that steelhead occur throughout the Ventura River, and the entire river (up to the Ordinary High Water Mark) within the Basin is designated as critical habitat for steelhead. Established methodologies will be used to evaluate habitat suitability for steelhead within the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area, which will also provide data on the overall existing ecological conditions within the GDE. Understanding existing ecological conditions within the GDE and tracking how conditions change in comparison with modeled ISW depletion estimates will be used to determine the effects of ISW depletion on this aquatic GDE and to evaluate the SMC put forth in the GSP.

The SS HSI model developed by Normandeau Associates, Inc. (2015) and utilized by Padre Associates, Inc. (2013) will be used to analyze data collected during the habitat suitability surveys, as well as continuously collected water level and water quality data. The SS HSI model will be used to calculate HSI scores at each monitoring location within the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Aquatic GDE. These SS HSI scores can then be compared with streamflow data and numerical modeling of ISW depletion to gain a better understanding of the nature and frequency of significant and unreasonable effects that might occur as a result of ISW depletion. This quantitative evaluation can be used to inform ongoing evaluation of the ISW depletion SMC for the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area.

Steelhead presence/absence and overall species abundance data within the GDE will also be considered when assessing if and when significant and unreasonable effects are occurring. Additionally, aerial and repeat photography will allow for visual comparisons of conditions within the GDE, as well as at specific mesohabitats within the GDE. Qualitative assessments of vegetative health, presence or absence of water, and water quality may be made using these time series images.

Consideration of Other Monitoring Programs

In addition to the data collected through this monitoring program, data collected by other regional stakeholders (as described in Section 1.1) will be incorporated into the analysis. Data collected in other areas of the Basin could also serve as a basis of comparison for the GDE and may help in understanding how habitat conditions change within the river both seasonally and/or due to groundwater pumping.

3.1 Annual Progress Reports

Following completion of each full year of monitoring, a written memo will be provided to the UVRGA with a summary of the monitoring efforts completed, the data collected, and a preliminary

analysis of the findings for that year. Links to the online server with the data and Collector maps will also be provided. Annual progress reports will be submitted in December 2023 and December 2024 covering the preceding water year.

3.2 Final Assessment Report

The monitoring program data will be compiled and analyzed in a final assessment report that will be submitted to the UVRGA following completion of the third year of monitoring. This report will include the following components:

- Detailed maps and figures of all monitoring locations and habitat mapped within the GDE;
- Quantitative and qualitative descriptions of overall habitat conditions within the GDE, habitat suitability conditions at various flows and groundwater conditions, and modeled depletion of ISW;
- Calculated HSI scores for each monitoring location within the GDE during each site visit;
- Statistical analyses of the relationship between streamflow, groundwater levels, modeled ISW depletion, and habitat conditions within the GDE;
- Evaluation of whether the existing SMC for ISW depletion in the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area prevent significant and unreasonable effects; and
- Recommendations for a streamlined monitoring program for the remainder of the GSP implementation period.

4 Monitoring Program Schedule and Budget

4.1 Monitoring Program Schedule

Table 4 provides an overview of the approximate schedule for implementation of this workplan.

Table 4 Three-year Monitoring Program Schedule Overview

Monitoring Program Milestones	Timeline
Submittal of Draft Workplan	May 2022
Public Comment Period	June 2022
Approval of Final Workplan and Contracting	August 2022
Implementation of the Monitoring Program 1. Baseline Habitat Mapping 2. Routine Habitat Suitability Surveys 3. Aerial Photography 4. Repeat Ground Photography 5. Water Quality and Water Level Monitoring	October 2022 – October 2025 1. Fall 2022 2. At least four times annually (once during winter, at least three times during dry season) 3. At least four times annually, during each field visit 4. At least four times annually, during each field visit 5. Continuous monitoring, data downloads during each field visit
Installation of Water Quality and Water Level Monitoring Stations	Fall 2022
Annual Progress Reports	December 2023 and 2024
Final Three-Year Findings Report	December 2025

4.2 Budget

Rincon anticipates that implementation of the monitoring program over three years (2022 through 2025), as described in this workplan, will not exceed the Foster Park monitoring budget estimated in the GSP. Specifically, this amount is expected to be sufficient to cover monitoring efforts, as well as data management, analysis, and reporting. The budget included in the GSP was as follows:

- Fiscal Year 2022/2023: $30,252
- Fiscal Year 2023/2024: $21,294
- Fiscal Year 2024/2025: $18,800

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Appendix A

Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Photographs

Photograph 1. Northern portion of Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area (facing north).

Photograph 2. Southern portion of Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area (facing north).

Photographs by S. Howard, January 22, 2020 and April 19, 2021

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

DATE: May 12, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Intera, Inc. Work Order No. 5 for As-Needed GSP Implementation Support

SUMMARY

It is anticipated that continued support from Intera, Inc. will be required from time-to-time during GSP implementation. In contrast with GSP and annual report development services, the type, frequency, and amount of support needed going forward is not well understood at this time. To address this uncertainty and provide for efficient execution of required GSP implementation tasks, it is recommended that the Board authorize the Executive Director to execute a work order with Intera, Inc. for as-needed services. Thus, the proposed work order provides for services to be provided as requested on a time-and-materials basis. The proposed work order requires Intera, Inc.to provide a written estimate for any tasks that are anticipated to exceed $10,000. Requests for support will be made in accordance with the Agency's adopted fiscal year budget. This approach provides flexibility to address needs as they arise and reduces agency costs by preventing the issuance of numerous work orders for small tasks. The proposed work order would be effective through the end of next fiscal year at which time the Board could renew it for the subsequent fiscal year.

Examples of potential GSP implementation support services include, but are not limited to:

- Planning for grants;
- Support for grant applications;
- Data management system (DMS) maintenance (upload new data to DMS); and
- Outreach support.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Authorize the Executive Director to issue Work Order No. 5 to Intera, Inc. for as-needed implementation support for an amount not to exceed $50,000.

BACKGROUND

Intera's Master Services Agreement was approved by the Board on April 12, 2019.

FISCAL SUMMARY

GSP implementation costs are included in the Agency budget.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Draft Intera, Inc. Work Order No. 5

Action: _____

Motion: _____

B. Kuebler_ M. Etchart_ P. Kaiser_ S. Rungren_ G. Shephard_ V. Crawford_ E. Ayala_

Statement of Work

Work Order No. 5

As-Needed GSP Implementation Support

To: Intera, Inc.
3838 W Carson St, Ste 380
Torrance, CA 90503
Attention: Abhishek Singh
Email: ASingh@intera.com

From: Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency
202 W. El Roblar Dr., Ojai, California 93023
Attention: Bryan Bondy
Email: bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org

In accordance with our Master Services Agreement (**"MSA"**) dated April 12, 2019, the following Statement of Work (**"SOW"**) is entered into by Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (**"Customer"**) and Intera, Inc. (**"Provider"**) for a new project and/or services (collectively, **"Services"**):

GENERAL NATURE OF SERVICES: As-needed services as requested by Customer, as further described in the Scope of Services. When applicable, provider shall ensure all work is performed under the supervision of a California Professional Civil Engineer or Professional Geologist and shall ensure all work is performed in accordance with UVRGA's adopted procedures.

SCOPE OF SERVICES: Anticipated services include, but are not limited to, assist with groundwater sustainability plan implementation activities. Assist with grant applications and GSP implementation planning.

TERM: May 12, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

COMPENSATION AND PAYMENT: Time and material services, not-to-exceed $50,000, without prior written authorization. Labor Rates are pursuant to the attached rate sheet. Written estimate required for any standalone task that is anticipated to exceed $10,000.

PAYMENT TERMS
Payments shall be due:

☐ upon the completion of the SOW

☒ as follows: Billing will occur on a monthly basis and shall be based on time and materials. All invoices will be payable on a Net-30 basis. Invoices are due on the 5th business day of each month. Invoices received after the 5th business day of the month are payable on a Net-60 basis. Payment may be delayed up to 30 days beyond these terms in the event of Board of Directors meeting cancellations.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS
This SOW will be governed by the terms and conditions of the MSA. In the event of any conflict between the terms set forth in this SOW and the MSA, the MSA shall be deemed to control the control the relationship between the parties with respect to the SOW.

[signature page follows]

ACCEPTED AND AGREED:

"PROVIDER" **INTERA, INC.**	**"CUSTOMER"** **UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY**
By: Print Name: David Jordan Title: Vice President Date:	By: Print Name: Bryan Bondy Title: Executive Director Date:

INTERA Incorporated

State & Local Agencies & Tribal Rates

Labor Category	Hourly Rate
State Agency & Indian Nations	2022-A
Principal Engineer/Scientist I	$265
Principal Engineer/Scientist II	$240
Principal Engineer/Scientist III	$225
Sr. Engineer/Scientist I	$205
Sr. Engineer/Scientist II	$190
Sr. Engineer/Scientist III	$175
Sr. Engineer/Scientist IV	$160
Engineer/Scientist I	$150
Engineer/Scientist II	$140
Engineer/Scientist III	$125
Engineer/Scientist IV	$115
Engineer/Scientist Intern	$76
Sr. Technician	$125
Technician	$78
Sr. Tech Editor	$125
Tech Editor	$88
Sr. CAD/Graphics	$100
CAD/Graphics	$85
Project Associate	$80
Mileage	$0.585/mi