

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, November 10, 2022 via**

ON-LINE OR TELECONFERENCE:

DIAL-IN: 1-669-900-6833

Find your local number: Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86770720730?pwd=eDJCNUIZUXQvWE9ndGNlbnRlcSUNNQT09>

JOIN BY COMPUTER, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86770720730?pwd=eDJCNUIZUXQvWE9ndGNlbnRlcSUNNQT09>

Meeting ID: 867 7072 0730

Passcode: 430405

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**

November 10, 2022

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

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

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

The Board will receive public comments on items not appearing on the agenda and within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency. The Board will not enter into a detailed discussion or take any action on any items presented during public comments. Such items may only be referred to the Executive Director or other staff for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda for discussion. Persons wishing to speak on specific agenda items should do so at the time specified for those items. In accordance with Government Code § 54954.3(b)(1), public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments.

- a. Approve Minutes from October 13, 2022 Regular Board Meeting**
- b. Approve Financial Report for October 2022**
- c. Fiscal Year 2022/2023 First Quarter Financial Report**

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. Regular Board Meeting Schedule and Venue for 2023**

The Board will consider approving a regular meeting schedule for 2023 and will discuss potential meeting locations.

10. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

- a. Sustainable Groundwater Management Round 2 Implementation Grant Application**

The Board will consider approving Resolution 2022-08 authorizing a Sustainable Groundwater Management Round 2 Implementation Grant Application.

- b. Stakeholder Engagement Plan Annual Review and Update**

The Board will consider approving updates to the Agency's Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

- c. GSP Summary Presentation - Part 2 of 2**

The Executive Director will provide a summary of the GSP for the Board of Directors and public. This is the second of two presentations that will summarize the GSP.

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 December 8, 2022 at 1 P.M.

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 13, 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 Mike Etchart, Bruce Kuebler, Jenny Tribo, Emily Ayala, Arne Anselm, Pete Kaiser and Vivon Crawford (arrived during Item No. 7). Also present: Executive Director Bryan Bondy, Agency Counsel Steven O'Neill, and Administrative Assistant Maureen Tucker. Identified public members present: Mary Bergen, Mike Flood, Bert Rapp, Burt Handy, Alma Quezada, Jim Kentosh, Burt Handy, and Justin Martinez.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Etchart called the meeting to order at 1:02p.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, Emily Ayala, Arne Anselm, Pete Kaiser, Mike Etchart, and Jenny Tribo.

Directors Absent: Vivon Crawford

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

Chair Etchart asked for any proposed changes to the agenda.

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

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

J.Tribo – Y A.Anselm - Y P.Kaiser - Y

Director Absent: Vivon Crawford

5) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

Chair Etchart asked for public comments on items not appearing on the agenda.

None.

6) CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Approve Minutes from September 8, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Approve Financial Report for September 2022

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

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

J.Tribo – Y P.Kaiser – Y Mike Etchart - Y

Directors Absent: Vivon Crawford

Public Comments: none

7) DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Director Crawford arrived during the item.

Director Kuebler: He attended a portion of the Localizing California Waters conference.

Director Tribo: She attended a portion of the Localizing California Waters conference.

Director Ayala: No report.

Director Crawford: She attended the Localizing California Waters conference and was a presenter on behalf of Ojai Valley Land Conservancy.

Director Kaiser: No report.

Director Anselm No report

Director Etchart No report.

8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Executive Director Bondy noted a typo in the staff report concerning the “New Director Training.” The training is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 1 p.m. He said Directors Crawford and Etchart have confirmed and asked if any others would like to attend. No other directors expressed an interest in attending the training session.

Executive Director Bondy said the Stakeholders Director terms expire in February. He added that Director Ayala has indicated to server for another term. Director Crawford said she is also willing to serve another term.

Executive Director Bondy said the well registration packets were mailed out in mid-September and the registration forms are due soon. He thanked Director Ayala for reviewing the materials and for serving as a test case.

Director Kuebler stated he was contacted AWA with a request to provide a presentation from UVRGA. Executive Director Bondy said he is not available. Director Kuebler volunteered to provide the update. No concerns were expressed.

Public comments: none

9) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS – No Administrative Items this meeting

10) GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. GDE Monitoring Plan Implementation Update

Executive Director Bondy provided an update on implementation of the Board-approved Aquatic Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) monitoring plans.

Executive Director Bondy explained that access within the river channel is provided under existing public access laws. He referred the Board to the brochure “Public Access and Use of California’s Navigable Waters” attached to the staff report. He said field staff will carry the brochure with them and if they encounter a concerned landowner they will give them a copy of the brochure.

Executive Director Bondy explained that access for ingress/egress to/from the river channel is needed from the City of Ventura, County of Ventura, and Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC). The City of Ventura has executed an access agreement and the County of Ventura has provided temporary access pending an encroachment permit. Executive Director Bondy is awaiting a response from OVLC concerning the request for access.

Director Ayala asked if we need to notify private properties/landowners are located near the river channel in the study areas. Executive Director Bondy displayed a map showing the properties and said there are only a few. Director Crawford and Tom from OVLC are currently reviewing the access agreement from UVRGA. Director Crawford stated she will respond when she can.

Executive Director Bondy said he followed up on Director Crawford's comments and data sharing and monitoring procedures. His September 1 email requested information about which protocols need discussion and information about data the being generated by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. He is awaiting a response.

b. Intera Work Order No. 6 for Water Year 2021/2022 GSP Annual Report Preparation and Numerical Model Update

Executive Director Bondy explained that it is time to start working on the next annual report. He briefly reviewed the proposed work order for Intera, Inc. to prepare the annual report and explained the associated fiscal impact.

Director Anselm moved approval of Intera, Inc. Work Order No. 6 for an amount not-to-exceed \$45,136 and an additional \$4,000 in contingency at the Executive Director's discretion. Director Ayala seconded the motion.

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

J.Tribo – Y A.Anselm - Y P. Kaiser – Y M.Etchart - Y

Directors Absent: None

c. GSP Summary Presentation – Part 1 of 2

Executive Director Bondy provided Part 1 of the GSP summary presentation to the Board. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes.

11) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee

Directors Ayala said the committee is working the annual review of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and hopes to bring proposed revisions for Board consideration at the next meeting.

Public comments: None

12) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Executive Director Bondy asked if the Board would like to have him present the second part of the of the GSP summary. Director Etchart said yes.

Director Tribo stated that Ventura is wrapping up the fish passage project in the Foster Park area. She wanted to know if the Board would like a summary on the project when it is done. Director Etchart said yes. The summary will likely be in November or December.

13) ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.


Action: _____

Motion: _____








B.Kuebler_ J.Tribo __ A.Anslem __ E.Ayala__ V.Crawford__ P.Kaiser __M.Etchart__

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

GSP SUMMARY PRESENTATION PART 1 OF 2



SEPTEMBER 8, 2022
ITEM 10(a)

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PRESENTATION CAVEAT

- *To help control costs, some slides are recycled from 2021 draft GSP workshops. Therefore, minor differences between slide content and the adopted GSP may exist.*

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TOPICS

- **Part 1 (*Today*)**
 - SGMA Background
 - What's in a GSP
 - Summary of Basin Setting
- **Part 2 (*Future Board Meeting*)**
 - Sustainable Management Criteria
 - Projects and Management Actions
 - GSP Implementation

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WHAT IS SGMA?

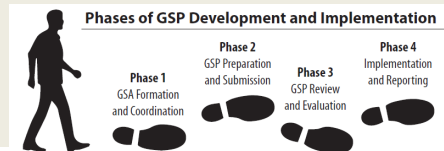
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
 - Three bill package signed into CA law in late 2014
 - Provides a statewide framework for long-term sustainable groundwater management in CA
 - Requires basins high and medium priority basins to be managed sustainably 20 years after adopting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by a local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
 - UVRB is medium priority
 - Intervention by SWRCB if a GSA does not comply with SGMA requirements

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SGMA REQUIREMENTS

1. Form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
 - UVRGA formed in Dec. 2016 and designated a in GSA July 2017
2. Adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
 - GSP Adopted January 6, 2022
3. Achieve Sustainable Groundwater Management
 - 20 years following GSP adoption



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CHIEF GOAL OF SMGA IS TO AVOID “UNDESIRABLE RESULTS”

- Overarching goal of SGMA is to avoid undesirable results for each of the six SGMA sustainability in



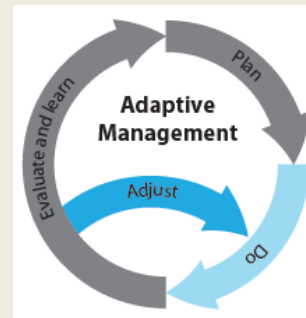
- Undesirable results and actions to prevent them are defined at the local level by the GSA in the GSP

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WHAT IS A GSP?

- The GSP is a flexible road map for how a groundwater basin will achieve long term sustainability by avoiding undesirable results through data-driven adaptive management



- GSP is not the final answer nor is it static – part of adaptive management is evaluating the plan every five years and updating, if necessary

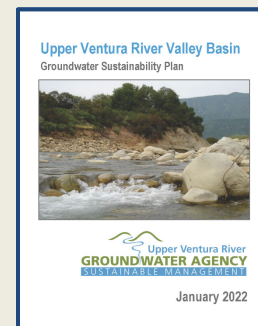
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GSP CONTENTS

GSP Contents are per GSP Emergency Regulations:

- Executive Summary
- 1. Introduction to Plan Contents
- 2. Administrative Information
- 3. Basin Setting
- 4. Sustainable Management Criteria
- 5. Monitoring Networks
- 6. Projects and Management Actions
- 7. GSP Implementation



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GSP LAYOUT

“Regulation Box”
Describes the GSP
Emergency Regulation
that is addressed by
the GSP section.

**GSP content that
addresses the
GSP Emergency
Regulation.**

1.0 Introduction to Plan Contents [Article 5 §354]

SGMA Introduction to Plan Contents. This Article describes the required contents of Plans submitted to the Department for review, including submission information, a description of the basin setting, sustainable management criteria, description of the existing network, and projects and management actions.

In 2014, the State of California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This law requires groundwater basins in California that are designated as medium or high priority be managed sustainably. Satisfying the requirements of SGMA generally requires five basic activities:

1. Form one or multiple Groundwater Sustainability Agency(ies) (GSAs) to fully cover the Basin.
2. Develop one or more Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) (GSPs) that fully cover the Basin.
3. Implement the GSP to achieve sustainable groundwater management.
4. Prepare and submit annual reporting to the California Department of Water Resources (CDWR).
5. Prepare and submit a written assessment of the GSP at least every 5 years to DWR and amend the GSP as necessary.

Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA) was formed in 2016 to satisfy the requirement for a GSA to fully cover the Upper Ventura River Valley Groundwater Basin (UVRB) Basin (6.022). Named in this report as Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin (UVRGB or Basin), located in western Ventura County (Appendix A), UVRGA was designated as the exclusive GSA for the Basin by the State on July 20, 2017. UVRGA developed this document to fulfill the GSP requirement for the Basin. This GSP provides administrative information, describes the Basin setting, develops quantitative sustainable management criteria (SMCs) that consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater and identifies projects and management actions and monitoring networks that will ensure the Basin is sustainably managed in a sustainable manner no later than the 20-year sustainability timeframe (2042) and for the duration of the entire 50-year planning and implementation horizon (2072).

Following submission of an initial notification on December 20, 2017, UVRGA developed this GSP to comply with SGMA's statutory and regulatory requirements. As such, the GSP uses the terminology set forth in these requirements (e.g., Water Code §10173 and 13 California Code of Regulations §1512) which is often times different from the terminology utilized in other contexts (e.g., past reports or studies, past analyses, public rules, or Federal). The definitions from the relevant statutes and regulations are provided in the section titled "Definitions of Key SGMA Terms."

The GSP includes all of the required elements of the GSP Emergency Regulation (see Appendix B), organized into eight sections plus tables, figures, and appendices. Each section contains a blue text box at the beginning stating the exact California Code of Regulations text relevant to the section's contents.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency


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2022

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SECTION 1 INTRO TO PLAN CONTENTS

- SGMA Background
- Overview of GSP Contents



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SECTION 2 ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

- Information about the GSA
- Description of the Plan area
 - Jurisdictional areas
 - Water resources programs that impact groundwater management
 - Land use plans
- Public Notice and Communication



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SECTION 2 ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

UVRB is located in the central portion of the Ventura River Watershed along the Ventura River.

UVRGA consists of five public agencies (CMWD, VRWD, MOWD, City of Ventura and County of Ventura) plus agricultural and environmental representatives.



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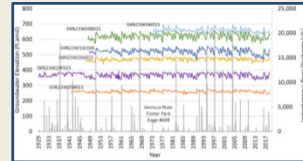
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SECTION 3.2 GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS

- Groundwater Levels
- Change in Groundwater Storage *
- Seawater Intrusion **
- Groundwater Quality Impacts
- Land Subsidence **
- Interconnected Surface Water Systems
- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

- * Addressed in water budget discussion
- ** Not applicable to UVRB

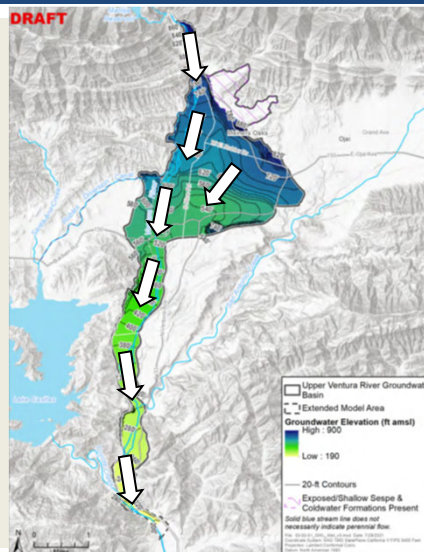


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SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: GROUNDWATER LEVELS

- *The Basin functions like a giant drain.*
- *Groundwater flows down the valley, generally parallel to the Ventura River.*
- *Groundwater flows many times faster than in most groundwater basins.*



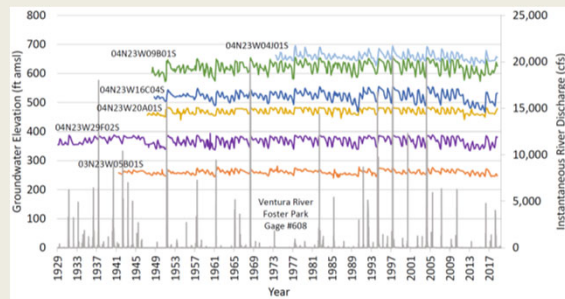
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SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: GROUNDWATER LEVELS

- Groundwater levels rise and fall in response to Ventura River flows. Basin drains between storm events.
- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels & long-term reduction of groundwater storage have not been observed.



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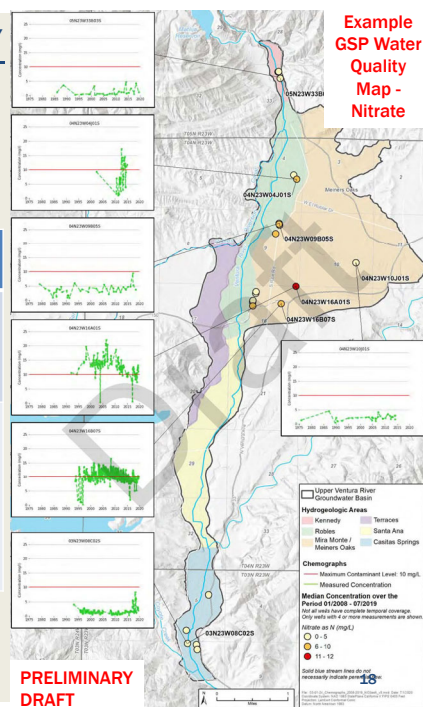
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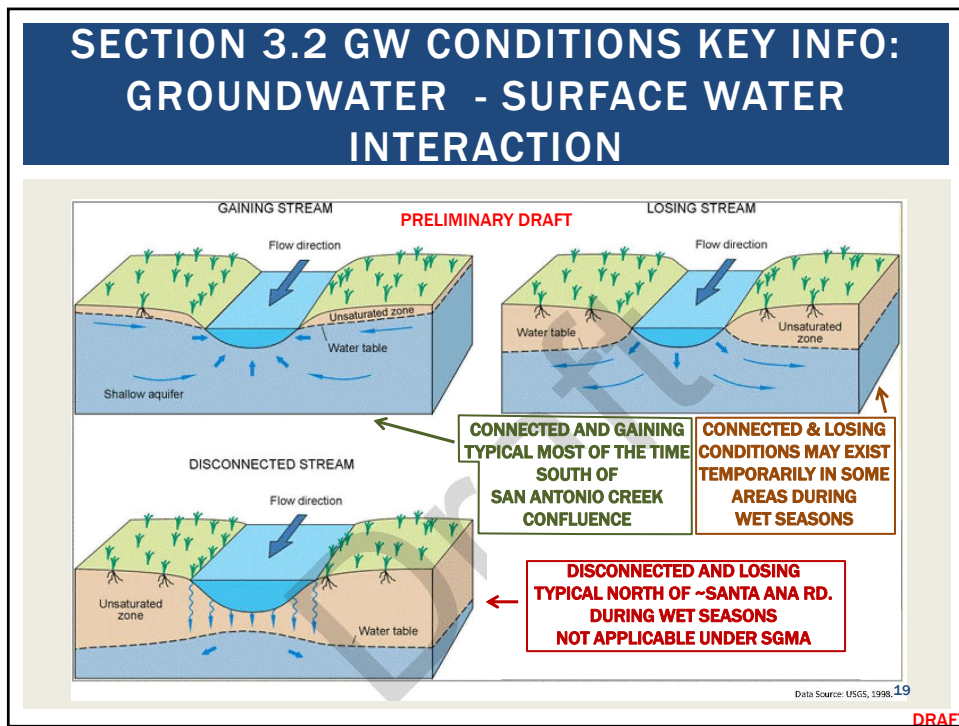
GROUNDWATER QUALITY

- No contamination plumes
- Water Quality Indicators:

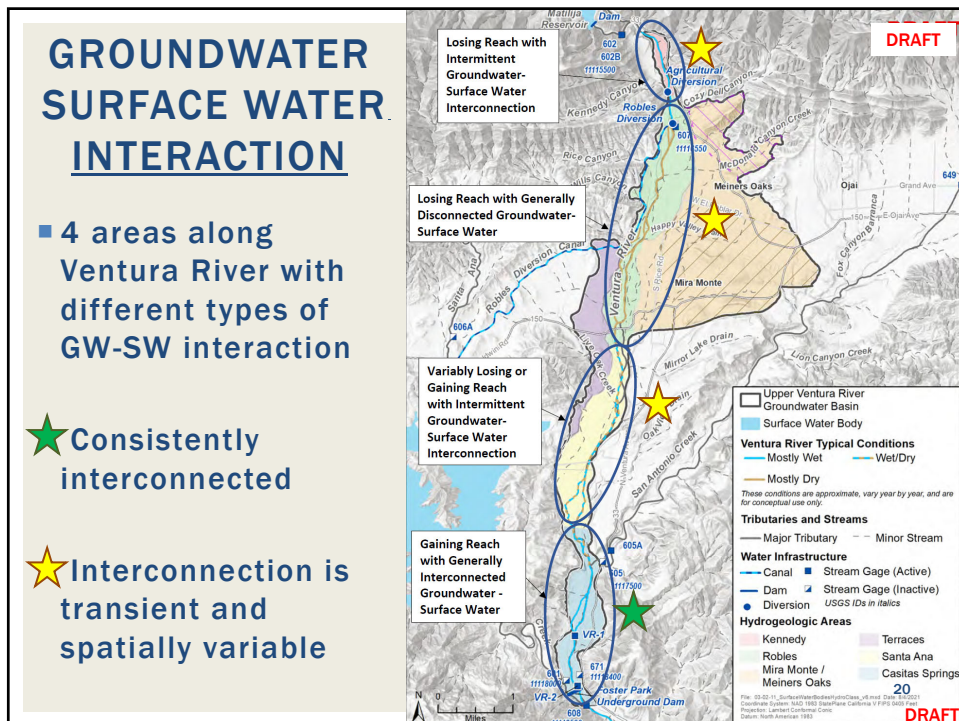
Constituent	WQO (mg/l)	Status
Nitrate-N	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly below objective Highest in east of VR in Mira Monte and Meiners Oaks
TDS	800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally below objectives
Sulfate	300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some exceptions
Chloride	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluctuations related to surface water flow, not pumping.
Boron	0.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP will not actively manage these constituents



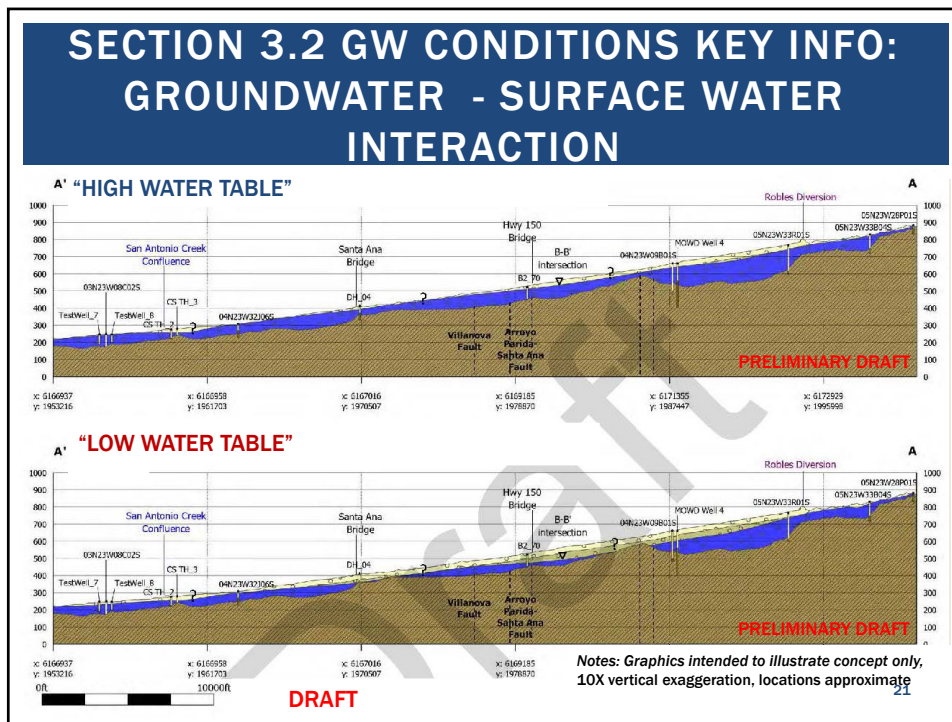
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ANIMATION ILLUSTRATING GROUNDWATER SURFACE WATER INTERACTION

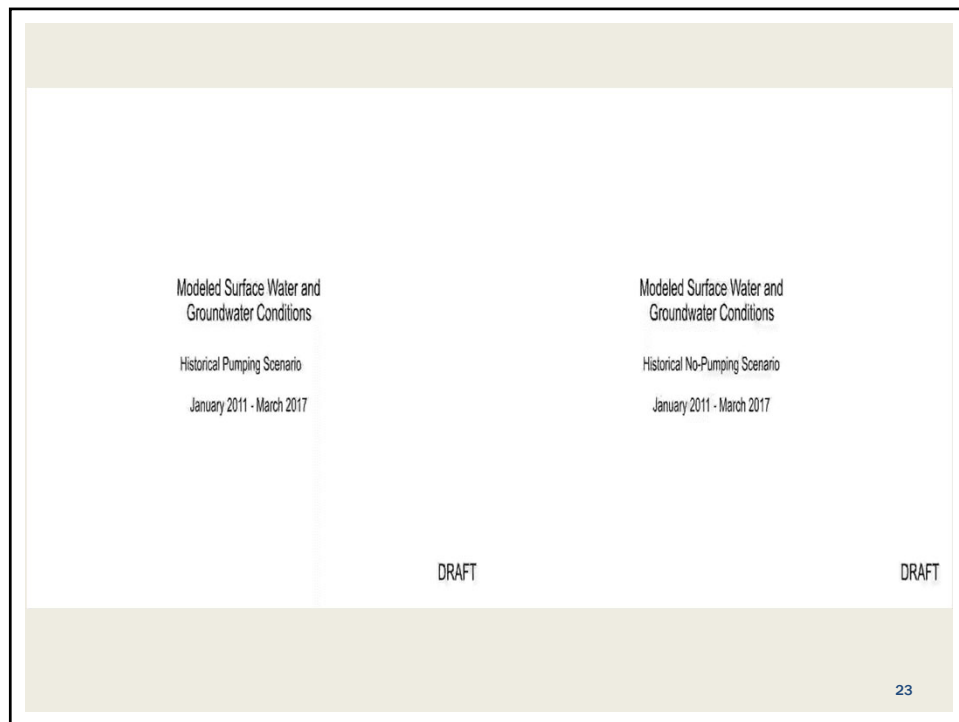









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SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: HISTORICAL SURFACE WATER DEPLETION

- SGMA requires quantification of historical depletion of interconnected surface water “ISW”.
- Under SMGA “depletion” means the direct or indirect reduction of stream flow resulting from groundwater extraction.
 - Other processes that reduce surface water flow are not considered under SGMA



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SURFACE WATER DEPLETION MECHANISMS

1. Direct Depletion: Wells very close to the river capture flow directly from the river
2. Indirect Depletion: Wells further removed from the river:
 - a. Capture groundwater flow that would otherwise have discharged to the surface water system in the future.
 - b. Lower the water table causing more streamflow to percolate during storm events

GSP must address both types of depletion

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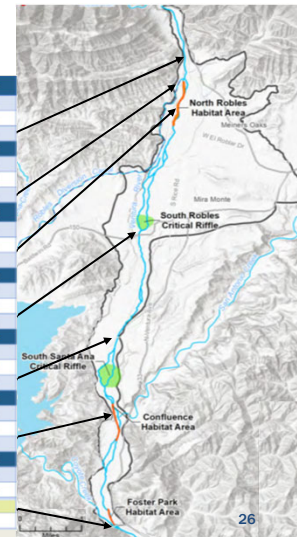
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SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: HISTORICAL SURFACE WATER DEPLETION

Numerical modeling was performed to estimate historical rates of surface water depletion.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
South Kennedy												
Median Flow (Historical)	32.1	39.6	42.4	18.6	10.8	4.1	1.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.9	5.8
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	33.0	39.9	43.0	19.0	11.3	4.6	2.4	0.8	0.3	0.5	1.7	6.3
Median Depletion	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4
Robles Diversion (Gage 607)												
Median Flow (Historical)	23.2	34.3	30.0	14.6	7.8	1.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	3.2
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	23.4	34.8	30.4	14.7	8.3	2.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	3.6
Median Depletion	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3
North Robles												
Median Flow (Historical)	3.9	15.4	17.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	3.9	15.8	18.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Median Depletion	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South Robles (100 Bridge)												
Median Flow (Historical)	4.7	14.1	14.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	5.3	14.3	14.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Median Depletion	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Santa Ana Bridge												
Median Flow (Historical)	7.3	17.6	16.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	7.4	17.7	16.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Median Depletion	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
San Antonio Confluence												
Median Flow (Historical)	7.1	28.7	27.3	10.5	6.1	3.1	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	10.7	31.2	29.3	13.6	9.2	6.7	4.7	2.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	1.2
Median Depletion	1.5	2.2	1.8	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.4
Foster Park (Gage 608)												
Median Flow (Historical)	10.7	29.2	25.8	10.9	6.9	4.7	4.5	4.1	2.7	3.5	4.2	4.3
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	15.8	36.1	33.1	17.5	14.3	12.6	11.3	10.2	9.8	9.8	9.7	8.9
Median Depletion	5.1	5.1	6.7	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.6

All values are cubic feet per second (cfs).



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SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS (GDES)

- **SGMA Definition:** *“Ecological communities or species that depend on groundwater emerging from aquifers or on groundwater occurring near the ground surface.”*
 - **Riparian** plant communities and species that rely on plant communities
 - *Applicable Sustainability Indicator: GW Levels/Storage*
 - **Aquatic** communities where surface water is interconnected with groundwater
 - *Applicable Sustainability Indicator: Depletion of ISW*

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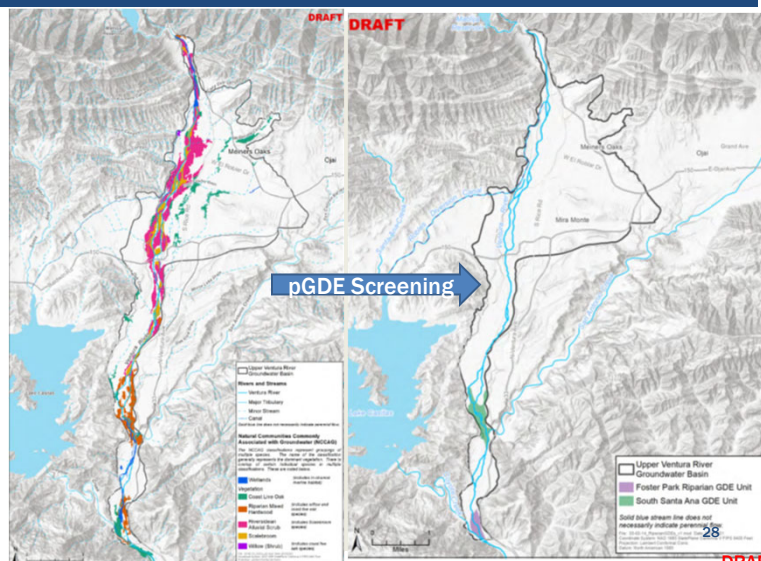
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SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS

Potential riparian GDEs were identified and reviewed

Plants not dependent on groundwater were screened out following TNC recommended procedures.

Two riparian GDE areas identified for consideration in the GSP



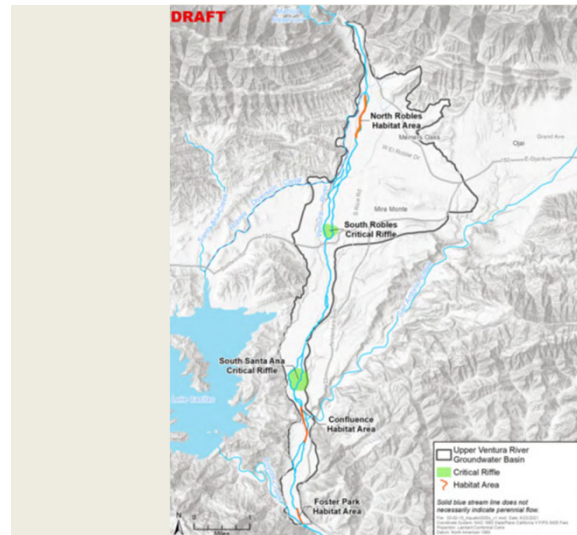
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SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS

*Potential
aquatic habitat
areas were
identified and
reviewed*

*Five aquatic
habitat areas
identified for
consideration in
the GSP*



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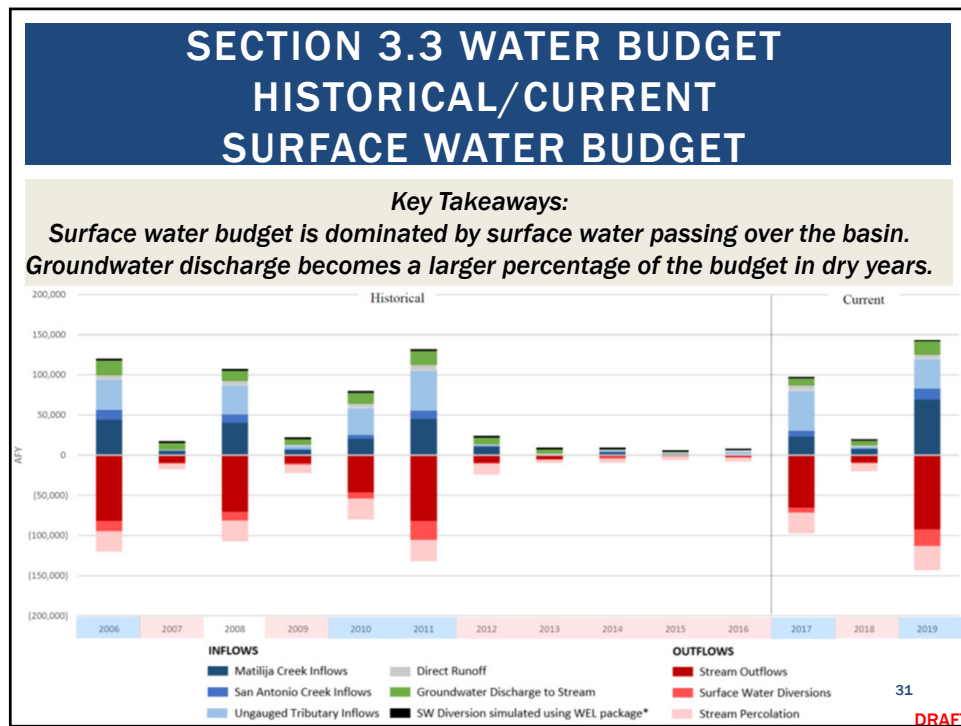
SECTION 3.3 WATER BUDGET OVERVIEW:

- Water budget is an accounting of water inflows and outflows to/from the Basin
- GSP requirements
 - Historical/Current Water Budget
 - Future Water Budgets
- Water budget developed in concert with calibration of a numerical flow model of the groundwater basin

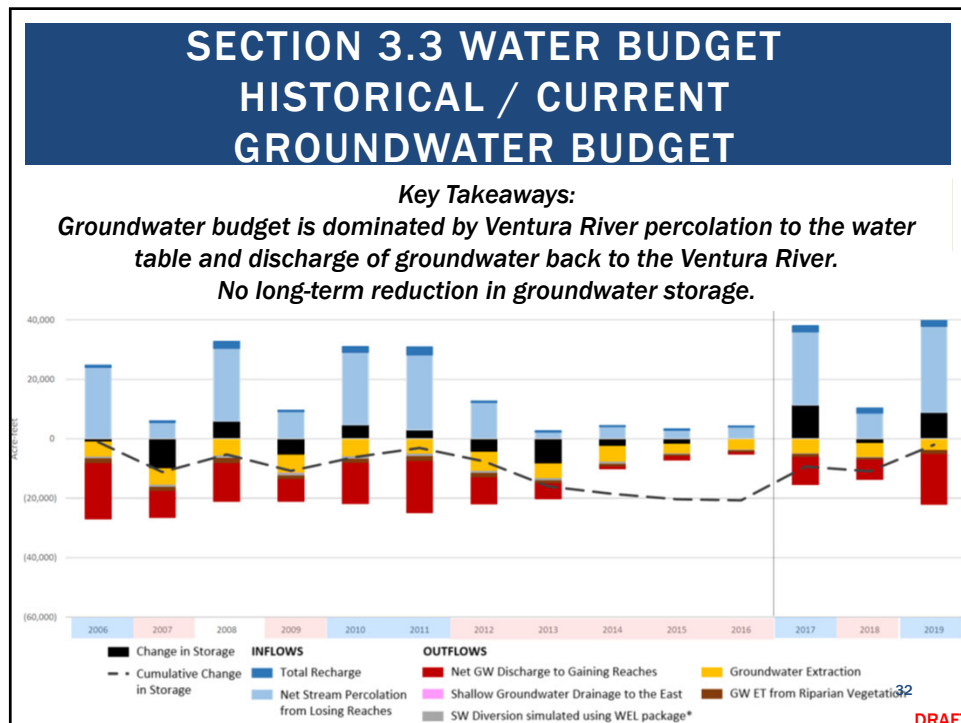
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FUTURE WATER BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

- SGMA requires minimum 50-yr future projections of groundwater conditions, including water budget for the basin
- Must use ≥ 50 yrs. of *historical* hydrology
- Must use most recent conditions for baseline estimate of future water demands
- Must evaluate potential effects on water demand due to:
 - Land Use Change
 - Population Change
 - Climate Change

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FUTURE CONDITIONS KEY ASSUMPTIONS

- Hydrology: 1970 – 2019 is proxy for future conditions
 - Several wet-dry cycles
 - Precipitation average similar to long-term average
 - Includes 1985 Wheeler and 2017 Thomas Fires
- Groundwater Extraction:
 - Municipal based on planning documents & agency input
 - Land use and population expected to be small – no increase in extractions expected
 - Agriculture based on historical estimated use
 - Note: this is not a pumping allocation or cap of any kind, it is just a planning estimate, can and will be updated
 - Domestic assumed 2 acre-feet per year per parcel

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FUTURE CONDITIONS KEY ASSUMPTIONS

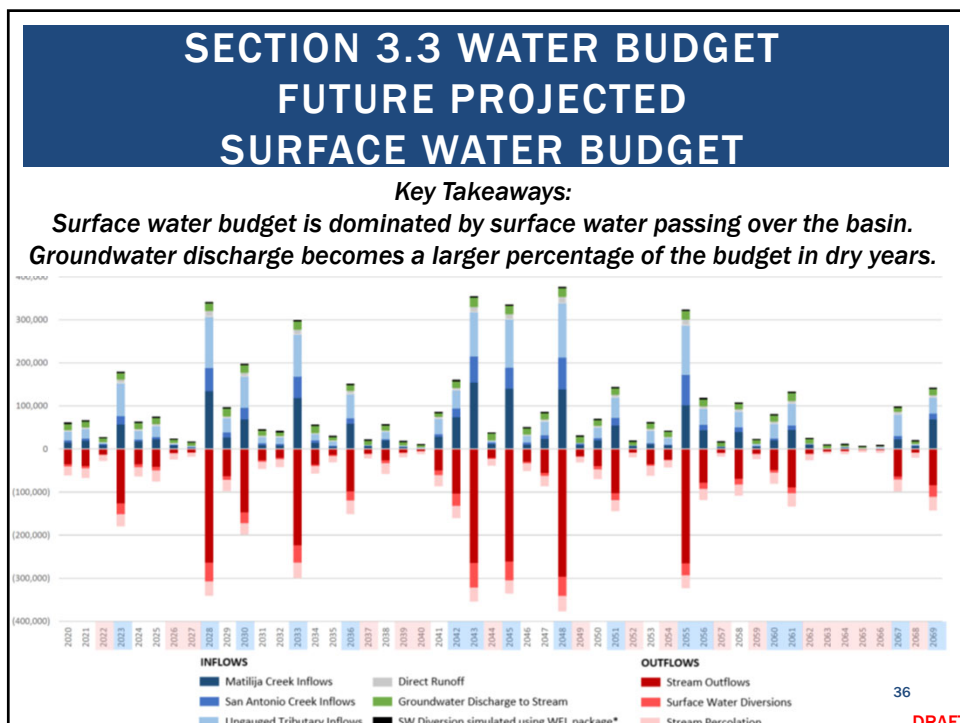
- **Surface Water Diversions**
 - Robles Diversion – biological opinion operating rules implemented
 - Private Diversion – based on historical reported diversions

- **Climate Change:**
 - Used change factors provided by DWR for 2030 and 2070 central tendency estimates
 - Climate change effects are small and not anticipated to materially impact GSP implementation

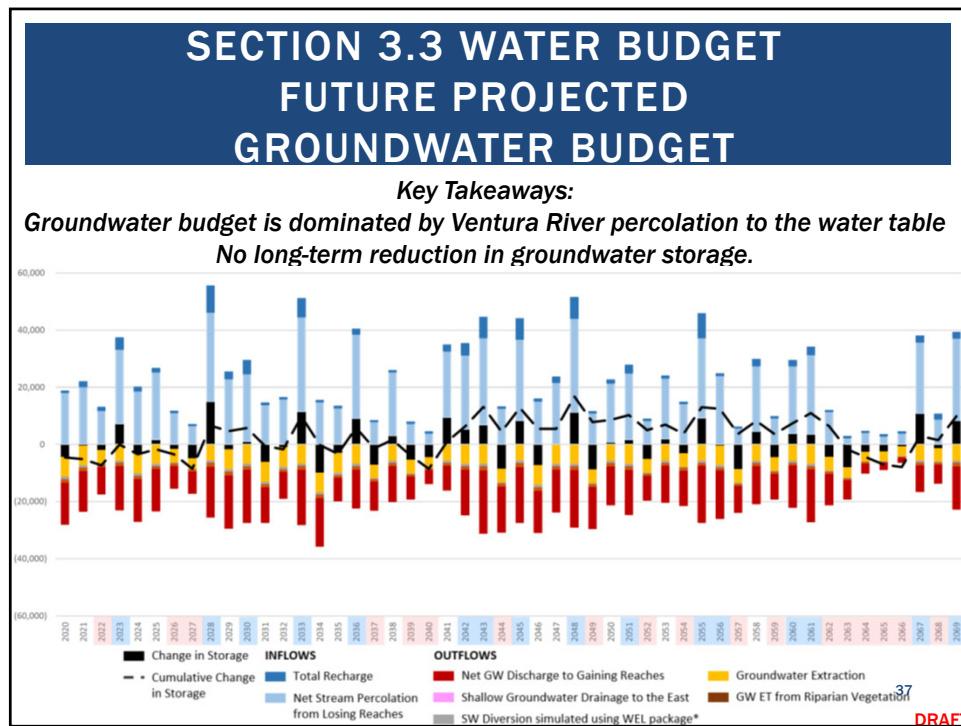
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SECTION 3.3 WATER BUDGET CONCLUSIONS

- The basin is in balance with no chronic lowering of groundwater levels or storage reduction.
- No pumping allocations, caps, or reductions are proposed in the GSP because the basin is in balance. However, actions may be needed to address depletions surface water. These actions will be developed during plan implementation (more detail in Presentation No. 2).

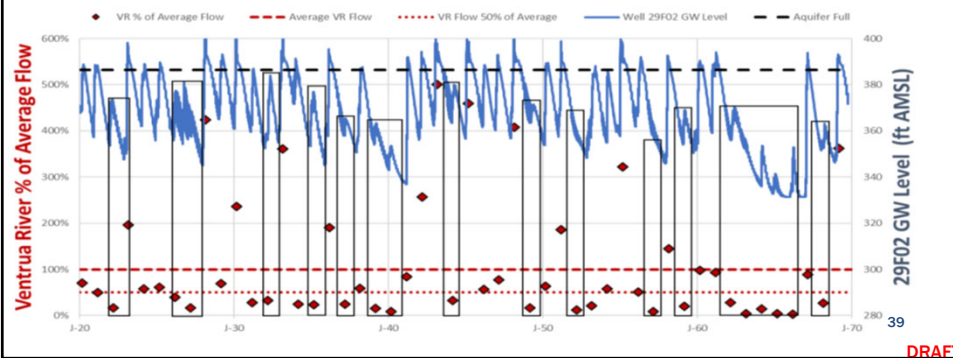
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SIMULATED FUTURE GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Key Takeaways:

1. No chronic decline in groundwater levels is predicted.
2. Basin is predicted to “drain” and “refill” as it has historically.
3. Basin is predicted to “refill” when Ventura River flows $\geq 50\%$ of ave. flow.



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KEY BASIN SETTING FINDINGS

■ Sustainability Criteria

- Seawater intrusion – no risk
- Land Subsidence – very limited risk
- Chronic Groundwater Level Decline – not observed
- Groundwater Storage Reduction – not observed
- Groundwater Quality Degradation – pumping not anticipated to impact groundwater quality
- Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water – measures needed to avoid potential undesirable results in Foster Park and possibly in Confluence Area

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Item 6a



Upper Ventura River
GROUNDWATER AGENCY
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

QUESTIONS?



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

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

September 2022 UVRGA Balance \$ 578,491.04

October 2022 Activity:

Revenues/ Credits: \$ -

Checks Pending Signature:

2351 Aleshire & Wynder, LLP	Sept Services	\$	676.00
2352 Aleshire & Wynder, LLP	Oct Services	\$	676.00
2353 Bondy Groundwater Consulting, Inc.	Oct Services	\$	5,184.00
2354 Carrie Troup, CPA	Oct Services	\$	772.23
2355 Rincon Consultants, Inc.	Oct Services	\$	2,283.25
2356 Rincon Consultants, Inc.	Oct Services	\$	1,627.50
2357 Rincon Consultants, Inc.	Oct Services	\$	1,271.25
2358 CSDA	2023 Renewal	\$	1,250.00

Total Expenditures Paid & To Be Paid \$ 13,740.23

October 2022 UVRGA Ending Balance: \$ 564,750.81

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B. Kuebler___ A. Anselm___ M. Etchart___ P. Kaiser___ J. Tribo___ V. Crawford___ E. Ayala___

The financial report omits substantially all disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; no assurance is provided on them.

Item 6(b), Page 1 of 1

Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July through September 2022

	<u>Jul - Sep 22</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
43000 · Groundwater Extraction Fee	542,420.00	596,647.56	-54,227.56	90.91%
Total Income	<u>542,455.00</u>	<u>596,647.56</u>	<u>-54,227.56</u>	<u>90.92%</u>
Expense				
55000 · Administrative Exp				
55005 · Rent Expense	0.00	2,038.83	-2,038.83	0.0%
55011 · Computer Maintenance	0.00	525.00	-525.00	0.0%
55015 · Postage & Shipping	0.00	105.00	-105.00	0.0%
55020 · Office Supplies & Software	0.00	525.00	-525.00	0.0%
55025 · Minor Equipment	0.00	262.50	-262.50	0.0%
55035 · Advertising and Promotion	308.09	1,529.13	-1,221.04	20.15%
55055 · Insurance Expense-SDRMA	3,568.69	4,725.00	-1,156.31	75.53%
55060 · Memberships-CSDA	625.00	1,680.00	-1,055.00	37.2%
Total 55000 · Administrative Exp	<u>4,501.78</u>	<u>11,390.46</u>	<u>-6,888.68</u>	<u>39.52%</u>
58000 · Professional Fees				
58005 · Executive Director /GSP Manager	8,508.12	35,679.61	-27,171.49	23.85%
58010 · Legal Fees	3,765.00	35,679.61	-31,914.61	10.55%
58015 · Website	0.00	3,058.25	-3,058.25	0.0%
58020 · Accounting	2,756.58	16,820.39	-14,063.81	16.39%
58040 · Audit Expense	0.00	14,271.84	-14,271.84	0.0%
58050 · Other Professional Services	15,881.25	237,178.65	-221,297.40	6.7%
Total 58000 · Professional Fees	<u>30,910.95</u>	<u>342,688.35</u>	<u>-311,777.40</u>	<u>9.02%</u>
Total Expense	<u>35,412.73</u>	<u>354,078.81</u>	<u>-318,666.08</u>	<u>10.0%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>507,042.27</u>	<u>242,568.75</u>	<u>264,473.52</u>	<u>209.03%</u>
Other Income/Expense				
Other Expense				
Capital Projects				
Capital Project-Mon. Well & Stream Gauge	0.00	92,069.36	-92,069.36	0.0%
Capital Projects- Contingency	0.00	9,206.94	-9,206.94	0.0%
Total Capital Projects	<u>0.00</u>	<u>101,276.30</u>	<u>-101,276.30</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Contingency - Non Capital Exp	0.00	34,268.83	-34,268.83	0.0%
80001 · Voided Checks	0.00			
Total Other Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>135,545.13</u>	<u>-135,545.13</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Net Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-135,545.13</u>	<u>135,545.13</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Net Income	<u><u>507,042.27</u></u>	<u><u>107,023.62</u></u>	<u><u>400,018.65</u></u>	<u><u>473.77%</u></u>

Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

Balance Sheet

As of September 30, 2022

	Sep 30, 22
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Bank of the Sierra	578,491.04
Total Checking/Savings	578,491.04
Accounts Receivable	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	
11001 · DWR Grant Retention 10%	63,006.06
Total 11000 · Accounts Receivable	63,006.06
Total Accounts Receivable	63,006.06
Total Current Assets	641,497.10
TOTAL ASSETS	641,497.10
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 · Accounts Payable	-420.21
Total Accounts Payable	-420.21
Total Current Liabilities	-420.21
Total Liabilities	-420.21
Equity	
32000 · Retained Earnings	134,875.04
Net Income	507,042.27
Total Equity	641,917.31
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	641,497.10

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 8

DATE: November 10, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

SUMMARY

The following are updates on Agency matters since the last Board meeting:

1. Administrative: Legal Counsel's "New Director" training was postponed and will be rescheduled with the Director's who planned to attend.
2. Financial:
 - a. Groundwater Extraction Fees: No update. All accounts are current. The next invoices for private well owners will be sent in January 2023 for the July 1 – December 31, 2022 semi-annual period. The next invoice for the member agency well owners will be sent in August 2023 for the period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.
 - b. GSP Development Grant: 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 following approval.
 - c. GSP Implementation Grant: Work on the SGMA Implementation Round 2 Grant application is ongoing. DWR opened the grant solicitation on October 4, 2022. Grant applications are due November 30, 2022.
3. Legal: No report.
4. GSP Implementation:
 - a. GSP Implementation Grant: The Executive Director and Kennedy / Jenks Consultants, Inc. prepared draft grant application materials (please see Agenda Item No. 10(a)).
 - b. Well Registration: The Executive Director assisted well owners with completing their well registration forms. A number of well registration forms have been received to date and forms are continuing to trickle in.

c. Monitoring Networks:

- i. Groundwater Level Monitoring: Groundwater level data downloads from the Agency transducers was scheduled for early November.
- ii. Surface Water Flow Monitoring: No activity this month.
- iii. Visual Surface Water Monitoring: Rincon Consultants, Inc. continued the monthly monitoring activities.
- iv. Aquatic GDE Monitoring: Rincon Consultants, Inc. scheduled the initial habitat mapping for mid-November. An access agreement was executed with Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC) (Attachment A).

- d. Annual Report: The Executive Director began making requests to other agencies for data necessary to complete the annual report.

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

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

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. Executed Access Agreement - OVLC

Action: _____

Motion: _____

M. Etchart_ B. Kuebler_ P. Kaiser_ J. Tribo_ A. Anselm_ V. Crawford_ E. Ayala_



GDE MONITORING ACCESS AGREEMENT

Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

APN	OWNER
0610160235	OJAI VALLEY LAND CONSERVANCY
0610160345	OJAI VALLEY LAND CONSERVANCY
0600200130	OJAI VALLEY LAND CONSERVANCY

This Access Agreement (“Agreement”) hereby permits the UPPER VENTURA GROUNDWATER AGENCY, hereinafter referred to as UVRGA, its employees and agents (“UVRGA Personnel”), to enter upon and have a license to access the real property, identified by the Accessor Parcel Numbers (“APNs”) above and as more accurately depicted in Exhibit A, (“Property”) owned by the “Property Owner”. UVRGA and Property Owner may also be referred to singularly as “Party” or collectively as the “Parties”.

RECITALS

- A.** UVRGA is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin (“Basin”) formed pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) of 2014.
- B.** The UVRGA is implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin in compliance with SGMA.
- C.** As part of GSP implementation, the UVRGA must monitoring groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) located on the Property to comply with SGMA requirements.
- D.** In connection therewith, Property Owner has agreed to allow UVRGA Personnel access to the Property to undertake GDE monitoring based on the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.

AGREEMENT

Now, therefore, in the consideration of the foregoing, it is understood and intended that Property Owner grants UVRGA a revocable and non-assignable license or authority for UVRGA Personnel to enter upon the Property for the below stated purposes and uses. This Agreement does not convey an interest in land or easement in the Property to UVRGA.

Scope of License. Said license is given for, and limited to, the following purposes and uses. Ingress and egress to the Property on foot by UVRGA Personnel along a route within the Property acceptable to Property Owner to perform GDE monitoring. GDE monitoring shall be performed in accordance with UVRGA's Board-approved monitoring plans.

Data Collection. In exchange for the rights permitted herein, UVRGA may, at the Property Owner's election, provide the Property Owner with an electronic copy of data collected annually upon request of the Property Owner. To annually receive an electronic copy of the data collected from UVRGA, Property Owner must initial here (____) and provide an email address where you can receive said data: _____.

Data shall be provided concurrently with annual report publication. UVRGA shall not be responsible for any delay or failure to provide such information if due to the Property Owner's failure to permit UVRGA access to the Property as provided in this Agreement, or if caused by foreseeable or unforeseeable circumstances beyond UVRGA's reasonable control. The Property Owner further acknowledges and agrees that the Property Owner is solely responsible for analyzing and interpreting the information provided by UVRGA and for how it chooses to use the information.

Revocation and/or Termination. This Agreement is freely revocable by UVRGA and by the Property Owner, subject to the Property Owner giving UVRGA a reasonable time to collect any monitoring deployed on the Property. Notwithstanding, UVRGA desires this Agreement to continue indefinitely. The Agreement will continue in full force and effect until thirty (30) days after notice of the intent to revoke the Agreement is provided by either Party to the other Party.

Indemnification. By accepting this Agreement, the UVRGA agrees to indemnify and hold the undersigned Property Owner harmless from any and all liability to, or claim of, any UVRGA Personnel which may result from or arise out of UVRGA's entry and operation on the Property pursuant to this Agreement except for the Property Owner's willful misconduct. UVRGA agrees to maintain liability insurance and provide the Property Owner a copy of relevant insurance documents prior to the commencement of monitoring.

Entire Agreement. This Agreement is the final expression of, and contains the entire Agreement between, UVRGA and the Property Owner with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior understandings.

Item 8 - Attachment A

Signatures. Property Owner represents and warrants that he or she owns the Property described herein and has the power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement.

By: Thomas Maloney
Property Owner

Dated: 10/19/2022

Property Owner Name: OJAI VALLEY LAND CONSERVANCY

Property Owner Address: PO Box 1092
OJAI, CA 93024

If you wish to be notified in advance when UVRGA Personnel will be on your Property, please provide a telephone number where you can be reached.

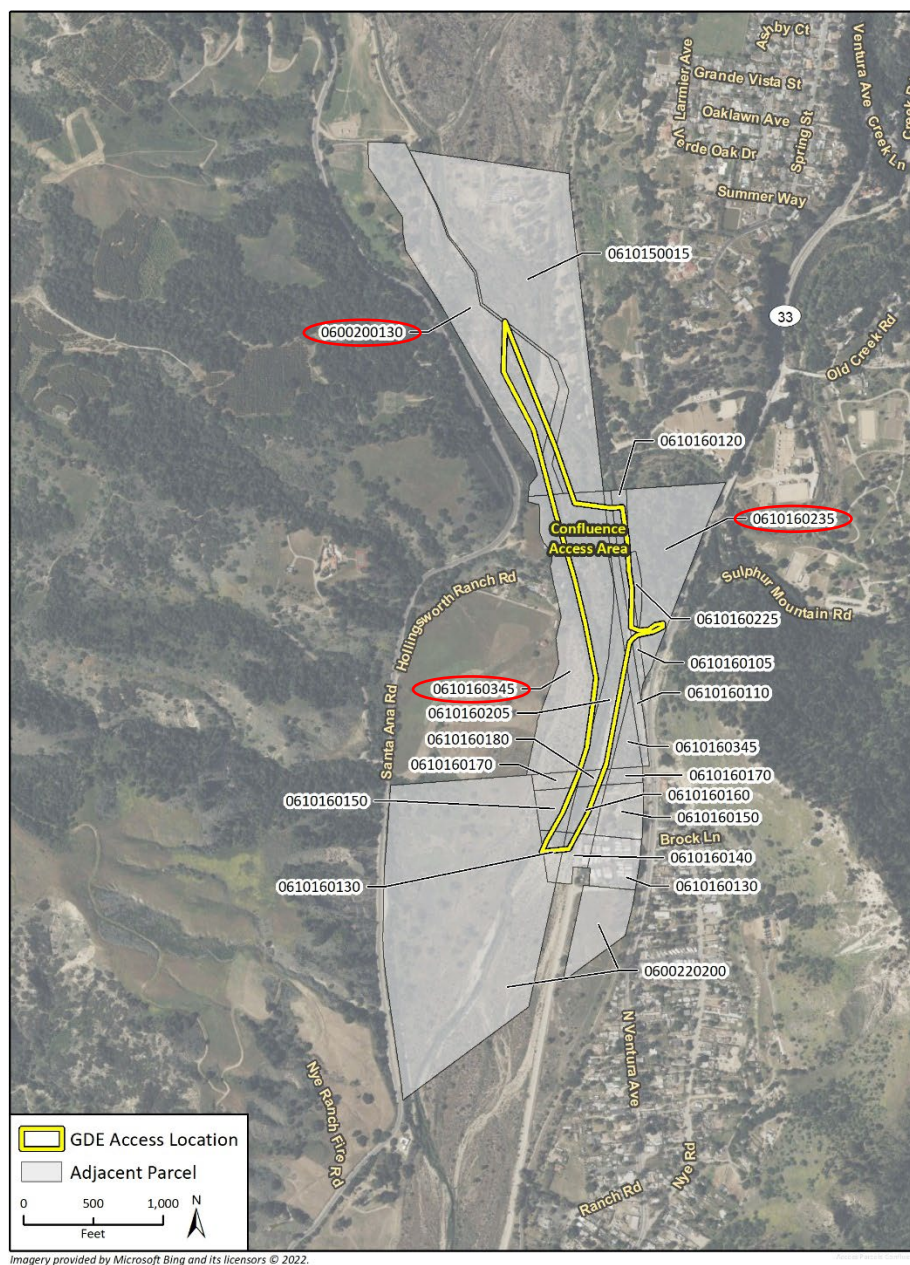
Telephone (day): 805-602-2294 Telephone (evening): same

ACCEPTED ON BEHALF OF THE UVRGA:

By: Bryan Bondy

Bryan Bondy, Executive Director, Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

EXHIBIT A



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

DATE: November 10, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Regular Board Meeting Schedule and Venue for 2023

SUMMARY

The Board of Directors currently meets monthly, as needed, on the second Thursday of the month at 1pm.

Governor Gavin Newsom announced that the COVID-19 State of Emergency will end on February 28, 2023. This means the UVRGA Board of Directors must resume meeting in person beginning March 2023 unless the more stringent teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act are met. Historically, UVRGA has typically held Board meetings at Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) and Ventura River Water District (VRWD). Currently, CMWD can accommodate UVRGA meetings on the first Thursday of the month and VRWD can accommodate UVRGA meetings on the second Thursday of the month.

Staff recommends continuing to meet on the second Thursday of the month for consistency and because meeting on first Thursdays does not provide sufficient time to process financial items.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Adopt the second Thursday of each month as the regular Board meeting schedule for the 2023 calendar year.

BACKGROUND

Please see summary.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not Applicable.

Action: _____

Motion: _____

M. Etchart_ B. Kuebler_ P. Kaiser_ J. Tribo_ A. Anselm_ V. Crawford_ E. Ayala_

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

DATE: November 10, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Sustainable Groundwater Management Round 2 Implementation Grant Application

SUMMARY

UVRGA is eligible to apply for GSP implementation funding via the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Implementation Round 2 Grant solicitation. Round 2 applications are due November 30, 2022.

The Round 1 SGM grants were limited to “critical overdraft” basins and Round 2 is open to all basins with a GSP. The Round 2 solicitation will provide over \$200 million from various funding sources for planning and implementation projects to help comply with SGMA. Eligible costs include just about anything related to GSP implementation and there is no cost share requirement, and no points are awarded for including cost share. Round 2 will provide grants ranging from a minimum of \$1 million to a maximum of \$20 million per basin. Given that the average award will likely be several millions of dollars and the fact that there are approximately 120 basins in State subject to SGMA, this round of funding will likely be very competitive.

Kennedy / Jenks Consultants, Inc. assisted the Executive Director with preparation of the application materials. DWR utilizes a webform for application submittal. The various webform entries have been compiled in a series of documents included in Attachment A, including:

- “GRanTs Tab” (background and application summary information);
- Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification; and
- Application WorkPlan, Budget, and Schedule

The overall approach to scoping the grant application was to include all eligible tasks from the GSP that can reasonably be completed by the 2026 funding cut off. Attachment B details the scope, budget, and schedule for the tasks included in the draft application. Please note that the tasks are grouped into “components” in a manner that facilitates efficient grant management, and the groupings differ from how the tasks are presented in the GSP.

There are two noteworthy assumptions that were made during grant application development:

1. Monitoring Wells: All monitoring wells that were included in the GSP and added to the GSP via the Water Year 2021/2022 Annual Report are assumed to be new, dedicated monitoring wells. While it was previously assumed that some existing water wells would be monitored in-lieu of drilling dedicated monitoring wells, it is beneficial from a grant funding perspective to assume that will not be feasible and that new, dedicated monitoring wells will be needed.
2. Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water: The GSP includes among other things, a feasibility study to identify projects or management actions to address indirect depletions necessary to achieve the minimum threshold for the depletions of interconnected surface water sustainability criterion. The GSP assumes the feasibility study will be completed during the second five-year GSP implementation period. However, the grant application assumes the feasibility study will be completed sooner (2025) to maximize grant funding to UVRGA. If UVRGA later determines that it is not ready to complete the feasibility study or that it is no longer needed for some reason, a grant agreement amendment will be requested to remove the feasibility study from the grant scope.

A resolution authorizing the grant application is a required element of the grant application (Attachment B). The language and format are specified by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and should not be modified.

FISCAL SUMMARY

There is no cost match required for the grant and the application includes funding for grant management. If awarded, the grant would provide \$3.1M in funds for GSP implementation activities.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approve Resolution 2022-08 authorizing the Executive Director to file an application for a SGM Implementation Round 2 Grant.

BACKGROUND

To develop the most competitive grant application possible, the Board approved a professional services contract with the grant specialist Kennedy / Jenks Consultants, Inc. in August 2022 to assist the Executive Director with the grant application.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Draft Grant Application Materials
- B. Draft Resolution 2022-08

Action: _____

Motion: _____

M. Etchart_ B. Kuebler_ P. Kaiser_ J. Tribo_ A. Anselm_ V. Crawford_ E. Ayala_

Upper Ventura River Basin SGMA Round 2 Grant Application

GRunTs Tab

Applicant Information Tab

Organization Name: Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

Point of Contact:

Name: Bryan Bondy
Email: bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org
Phone: (805) 646-2114
Address: Upper Ventura River Groundwater Sustainability Agency
c/o Meiners Oaks Water District
202 W. El Roblar Drive
Ojai, CA 93023

Point of Contact Position Title: Executive Director

Proposal Name (50 character limit): Upper Ventura River Valley GSP Implementation

Proposal Budget Tab – should be consistent with Table 5A and 5B of Grant Proposal Summary Budget

Other Contribution (amount of other funds not listed below): \$0

Local Contribution (cost share): \$0

Federal Contribution: \$0

In-Kind Contribution (leave blank and include all in-kind contributions in Local Contribution category):
blank.

Grant Funds Requested (must be between \$1m and \$20m) \$3,071,700

Total Proposal Cost (must be consistent with Attachment 3): \$3,071,700

Geographic Information

Latitude: 34°22'50.77" N

Longitude: 119°14'45.08" W

Longitude/Latitude Clarification: Actions will occur throughout the Basin, coordinates given are the general center of the Basin.

Locations (100 characters): Confluence of Ventura River and San Antonio Creek, near Sulphur Mountain Road and Highway 33, south of Oak Park.

Item 10(a) - Attachment A

Counties: Ventura County

Groundwater Basins: Basin 4-3.01

Hydrologic Region: South Coast Hydrologic Region

Watersheds: Ventura River Watershed

Legislative Information Tab

State Assembly, State Senate, and U.S. Congressional Districts in which the groundwater basin is located:

State Assembly: District 37 (Steve Bennett)

State Senate: District 19 (Monique Limon)

Congressional District: 26th District (Julia Brownley)

Questions Tab

Previous Funding: UVRGA was the recipient of a \$630,061 2017 Proposition 2 Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning Grant (Agreement No. 4600012714). Additionally, the Basin previously was the recipient of DWR Technical Support Services. No money was received, but DWR did install a stream gauge on the Ventura River.

Project Representatives: Bryan Bondy, Executive Director, Upper Ventura River Groundwater Sustainability Agency, c/o Meiners Oaks Water District, 202 W. El Roblar Drive, Ojai, CA 93023. bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org; (805) 646-2114

Project Manager: Bryan Bondy, Executive Director, Upper Ventura River Groundwater Sustainability Agency, c/o Meiners Oaks Water District, 202 W. El Roblar Drive, Ojai, CA 93023. bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org; (805) 646-2114

Underrepresented Community Assistance: Will the project benefit a Tribe or another Underrepresented Community? Yes.

If so, how much of the funds requested will directly benefit the Underrepresented Community? Since the benefit is regionwide and it is estimated that up to 23 percent of the area qualifies as a URC, approximately 23 percent of the grant funding will benefit a URC.

How much of the funds requested will benefit Tribes? None.

How much of the funds requested will benefit SDACs? None.

Item 10(a) - Attachment A

Certification: By submitting the application, the applicant and its authorized representative are certifying that:

- (a) The applicant is an eligible entity*
- (b) He/She is aware that any attachment exceeding the page limit listed will not be reviewed*
- (c) He/She is aware that once the proposal is submitted in GRanTS, any privacy rights and other confidentially protections offered by law with respect to the application package and project location are waived.*
- (d) He/She is aware that, if the proposed Project is chosen for funding, any privacy rights and other confidentially protections offered by law with respect to any portion of the grant (including the Agreement, all deliverables, all invoices, and backup documentation supporting the invoices, and all reporting requirements outlined within the agreement) are waived.*
- (e) He/She agrees to the Start and End Dates provided in this application and will complete the project within the dates provided; and*
- (f) He/She, and their attorney, has read and agrees to all the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement Template.*

Yes

Climate Tab

Climate: Does the organization have a primary point of contact for climate change? No
If yes who is it and to what position in the organization does that person report.

Climate: Does the organization have a strategic business plan that considers climate change? No
If yes provide the plan.

Climate: Has the organization adopted any policies or made any formal public statements about climate change? No.
If yes, provide a copy.

Climate: Has the organization conducted a climate change vulnerability assessment? No.
If yes provide a copy.

Climate: How would you describe your organizations capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change? (one to three paragraphs)

The UVRGA has taken steps to prepare for climate change. Most importantly the UVRGA has considered climate change in all aspects of the water budget including: demands, precipitation, evapotranspiration, and streamflow. The calibrated historical model used for the GSP includes a baseline scenario consisting of a repeat of the last 50 years of historical hydrology (water years 1970 to 2019); a 2030 scenario consisting of the last 50 years of historical hydrology but altered based on near-term climate change factors; and a 2070 scenario consisting of the last 50 years of historical hydrology altered based on long-term climate change factors. DWR's recommended climate change factors and methodology were used to scale the baseline hydrology to future climate-change impacted conditions. In this way climate change was included in the evaluation of all sustainability indicators and guided the development, as needed, of projects and management actions. UVRGA will update the predictive model as new monitoring data and as refined climate change data becomes available. Through this forward-looking and regularly repeated process, UVRGA will adapt to climate change.

Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification

Attachment 2: Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification Form

As a Grantee of General Funds and/or Proposition 68 grant funds with the Department of Water Resources' (DWRs) Financial Assistance Branch, you must complete this self-certification form to enter into a Grant Agreement with DWR to receive grant funds. Failure to meet and maintain these conditions and requirements may result in DWR revoking the grant award, withholding grant funding, stopping invoice payment, and/or terminating the Grant Agreement. Answers must be provided for the primary Awardee and all member agencies within the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) or adjudicated basin. An answer of No to some questions below may make you ineligible to enter a contract with DWR.

A. Grantee Name: Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

Member Agencies

Casitas Municipal Water District
Meiners Oaks Water District
Ventura River Water District
City of Ventura
County of Ventura

The Grantee, Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency, is a GSA, a member agency of a GSA, an agency with an Alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), or located within an adjudicated basin.

☒ Yes ☐ No If no, DWR cannot enter into a Grant Agreement.

2. **Agricultural Water Management Compliance:** Is the Grantee or any member agency required to submit an Agricultural Water Management Plan (AWMP) to DWR? ☐ Yes ☒ No


If yes, list all member agencies required to submit the most recent AWMP (2015, 2020) and the date the AWMP was submitted to DWR. If yes and not submitted, DWR cannot enter into a Grant Agreement.

A.

Member Agency	Date AWMP Submitted to DWR
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date

Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification

3. **CASGEM / SGMA Portal:** Has the Grantee and all member agencies met the requirements of DWR's CASGEM Program and is current with all data reporting requirements for CASGEM and the SGMA Portal?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ 

A. List all member agencies required to meet CASGEM requirements. If not current, DWR cannot entry into an agreement.

Member Agency	Date
Upper Ventura River Basin Groundwater Agency	6/16/2022
County of Ventura, Watershed Protection District	enter date
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date
	enter date

4. **Consistency with the Delta Plan:** Is the Project, in whole or in part, within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) or Suisun Marsh (Marsh)?

☐ Yes, the Grantee and member agencies have engaged with the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) regarding the Council's regulatory policies that may be potentially applicable to the project and the consistency of the Project with the Delta Plan. (If yes and inconsistent, DWR cannot enter into an agreement.

☐ No, the Project is within the Delta or Marsh, but the Awardee and member agencies have not engaged with the Council.

☒ N/A

5. **Open and Transparent Water Data:** The Grantee and member agencies will adhere to the protocols developed pursuant to subdivision (a) for data sharing, transparency, documentation, and quality control (Water Code §12406(b)).

☒ Yes, the Grantee and member agencies have systems in place that will adhere to the required protocols.

☐ No, the Grantee and member agencies do not have systems in place to adhere to the required protocols; however, those systems will be in-place within 90-days of an executed Grant Agreement.

☐ No, the Grantee and member agencies do not have systems in place to adhere to the required protocols and do not intend to have them in place. If so, DWR cannot enter into an agreement.

6. **Public Utilities and Mutual Water Companies:** A Project(s) proposed by a public utility regulated by the Public Utilities Commission or a mutual water company shall have a clear and definite public purpose and shall benefit the customers of the water system and not the investors (Water Code §79712(b)(1)).

☐ Yes, the Grantee and/or member agencies are a public utility regulated by the Public Utilities Commission or a mutual water company and the proposed Project will solely benefit the customers.

Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification

☐ No, the Grantee and/or member agencies are a public utility, but the investors will benefit from the proposed Project. If so, DWR cannot enter into an agreement.

☒ N/A

7. **Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP) Compliance:** Is the proposed Project a stormwater, surface water, or dry weather capture project as defined by the State Water Resources Control Board (capture for reuse, treatment, and/or infiltration) and is required to be listed within a SWRP or functionally equivalent SWRP (FE-SWRP)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

If yes, is the Project listed within a SWRP or FE-SWRP? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, DWR cannot enter into a Grant Agreement.

If yes, provide the name of the SWRP or FE-SWRP, a copy of the SWRP/FE-SWRP Self-Certification form, and proof that the SWRP or FE-SWRP is included in the local Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) as an attachment to this form.

Name of SWRP or FE-SWRP:

Page number(s) where Project(s) is listed:

Contact person and contact information for SWRP or FE-SWRP:

8. **Surface Water Diverter Compliance:** Is the Grantee or member agency a surface water diverter?

☒ Yes ☐ No

A. If yes, please list the name of the agency(-ies) that are surface water diverters.

Agency Name

Casitas Municipal Water District
City of Ventura

- B. Has the agency(-ies) submitted the surface water diversion reports to the State Water Resources Control Board in compliance with the requirements outlined in Part 5.1 (commencing with § 5100)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification

- C. If not, please explain and provide the anticipated date for meeting the requirements. DWR may not be able to enter into an agreement.

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9. **Sustainable Water Use and Demand Reduction:** SBx7-7 (Water Code §10608 et seq.) conditions the receipt of a water management grant or loan for urban water suppliers on gallons per capita per day reduction targets with the end goal of a 20% reduction by 2020. Is the Grantee and/or member agency an urban water supplier?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

- A. If yes, list the member agency(-ies) that are urban water suppliers.

Casitas Municipal Water District
City of Ventura

- B. Is the agency(-ies) on track for meeting the SBx7-7 per capita water use targets? If not, DWR cannot enter into an agreement.

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

10. **Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP):** An urban water supplier shall adopt and submit to DWR an UWMP in accordance with Water Code § 10610 et seq. to be eligible to receive SGM Grant Program funding. Eligible Urban Water Suppliers must have the most recent UWMP (2015, 2020) that has been verified as complete by DWR before a grant agreement will be executed. Per Executive Order B29-15, Urban Water Suppliers must provide the State Water Resources Control Board with monthly information on water usage, conservation, and enforcement on a permanent basis.

Does the Grantee and/or member agency that are Urban Water Suppliers submit an UWMP to DWR?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Does the Grantee and/or member agency that are Urban Water Suppliers been submitting monthly information on water usage, conservation, and enforcement to the State Water Resources Control Board?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

If no to either question, DWR cannot sign an agreement with the Grantee.

Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification

11. **Water Metering Compliance:** Any Urban Water Supplier applying for State grant funds for wastewater treatment projects, water use efficiency projects, drinking water treatment projects, or for a permit for a new or expanded water supply, shall demonstrate that they meet the water meter requirements in Water Code § 525 et seq.

Is the Project a wastewater treatment projects, water use efficiency projects, drinking water treatment projects, or for a permit for a new or expanded water supply?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If so, does the Grantee and/or member agency that are Urban Water Suppliers meet the water meter requirements in Water Code § 525 et seq.?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

12. **Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP):** Does the Project(s) or Component(s) include activities associated with the implementation of an adopted GSP or approved Alternative and listed within an adopted GSP or approved Alternative?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A (Only for adjudicated basin)

If no, DWR cannot enter into an agreement.

I, _____, understand that the Department of Water Resources will rely on this signed certification in order to approve funding and that false and/or inaccurate representations in this Self-Certification may result in loss of all funds awarded to the Grantee and that reimbursement of any grant funds is reliant upon the Grantee and all member agencies within the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (-ies) continuing to meet all eligibility requirements outlined within this Self-Certification form, the 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Guidelines, and the Grant Agreement terms and conditions. Additionally, for the aforementioned reasons, the Department of Water Resources may withhold disbursement of project funds and/or pursue any other applicable legal remedy.

Bryan Bondy

Name of Authorized Representative
(Please print)

Signature

Executive Director
Title

Click or tap to enter a date.
Date

ATTACHMENT 3
APPLICATION WORK PLAN, BUDGET, AND SCHEDULE

Grant Proposal Title: Upper Ventura River Valley GSP Implementation

Applicant: Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

A. General

The Upper Ventura River Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) identified four areas where uncertainty limits the ability to track progress towards achieving GSP objectives, to monitor changes in conditions relative to minimum thresholds, quantify changes in water budget components, and to develop appropriate management actions. First is the limited data on the interconnection between the Ventura River and the Upper Ventura River Valley Groundwater Basin (UVRGB). The UVRGB is a thin, highly permeable basin with a large north to south gradient and there is limited data concerning the interaction between interconnected surface water of the Ventura River and groundwater. Flows in the Ventura River and water table elevation are characterized by a high degree of temporal variability. Additional streamflow gages and monitoring wells would improve the understanding of the extent and timing of interconnection of the surface water and groundwater systems in the lower portion of the UVRGB, which is necessary for avoiding undesirable results for depletions of interconnected surface water, including federally designated critical habitat for steelhead and several special status aquatic species. The second area of uncertainty is indirect depletions of interconnected surface water associated with wells located upstream of the interconnected reach of the Ventura River. There is significant pumping in the northern part of the UVRGB and the relationship to this pumping and indirect depletion of interconnected surface water are not well understood due to lack of data. The third area of uncertainty is the nature and extent of aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystems in the UVRGB and the health of these systems relative to depletions of interconnected surface water. The fourth area of uncertainty is the status of domestic wells in the Basin and susceptibility to nitrate impacts. More information is needed identify which domestic wells are used for drinking water supply and are susceptible to nitrate contamination in order to prevent undesirable results for the degradation of water quality sustainability indicator. To address these data gaps, the following five projects are proposed: (1) Groundwater and Surface Water Data Gaps Project; (2) Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study; (3) Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Surface Water; (4) Domestic Well Outreach and Water Quality Testing; and (5) Annual Reporting and Monitoring Water Years 2022 to 2024. All actions will benefit the understanding of the UVRGB. The five projects will directly allow UVRGB to track progress towards GSP objectives, refine Sustainable Management Criteria to be based on best available science rather than being skewed by uncertainty; and to develop Management Actions accepted by the stakeholders.

Details for all five actions are below.

1. (4 points) Project or Component Description:

Groundwater and Surface Water Data Gaps Project

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that groundwater sustainability agencies establish and track locally defined significant and unreasonable conditions for each of the applicable sustainability indicators. Data should come from a robust monitoring network to minimize uncertainty and be collected in a manner that various datasets can be combined and interpreted. Data from an adequate monitoring network leads to a better understanding of the dynamic groundwater and surface water interaction. Monitoring must be done in a manner that is both spatially and temporally adequate. As shown in Figure 3-1 (provided as part of Attachment 4), the existing groundwater level monitoring network includes locations in the north and far south of the basin; but there is very limited groundwater level monitoring in the central part of the basin generally between Highway 150 and Foster Park. Groundwater level monitoring in this area is critical because the Ventura River alternates between being interconnected and disconnected from the water table in this area and because indirect streamflow depletion effects could potentially cause undesirable results in the South

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Santa Ana Riparian Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Unit, the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area, and Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area as identified in the GSP, including federally designated critical habitat for steelhead and several special status aquatic species (Figure 3-1). These wells are also needed to facilitate the establishment of minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for other sustainability indicators in this portion of the UVRB, including chronic lowering of groundwater levels, storage depletion, and water quality degradation. In addition, better groundwater quality monitoring is needed to track nitrate concentrations in the eastern and northern portions of the Basin within and adjacent to areas where nitrate has been detected at concentrations exceeding the maximum contaminant level.

Similarly, there are identified data gaps for surface water flow. As shown in Figure 3-2 (provided as part of Attachment 4), there are extensive areas of the Ventura River without stream gages. Stream gages exist upstream of the basin on two tributaries and recently a gage was installed, the Camino Cielo Gage, at the specific northerly tip of the basin. The rating curve for the Camino Cielo Gage has not yet been developed. There is an existing stream gage approximately 1.25 miles down-stream of the northern edge of the basin, and then not another gage until approximately 8.5 miles downstream. This stream flow information is needed to better understand interconnected streamflow and depletions of interconnected surface water of the Ventura River in areas that have federally designated critical habitat for steelhead and several special status aquatic species.

This component includes the planning, design, permitting, installation and other activities to address identified shortcomings of the monitoring network. Specifically, this component includes (a) construction of nine groundwater monitoring wells, (b) installation of a stream gage on the Ventura River, and (c) development of a rating curve for an existing stream gage recently installed.

The new groundwater monitoring wells are proposed to be single completion monitoring wells, for anticipated locations see Figure 3-1 (provided as part of Attachment 4). Given the geology in the area, new monitoring wells are considered feasible, but will require use of sonic or rotary drilling. The proposed new stream gage would be installed just south of the confluence with San Antonio Creek at the downstream edge of the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area (see Figure 3-2 provided as part of Attachment 4). The gage will consist of a stilling well and transducer or bubbler device to continuously monitor stream stage. Given the extensive area in which stream gages could be installed, UVRGA anticipates no particular difficulty in finding a suitable location for the new stream gage. The recently installed gage (see Figure 3-2 provided as part of Attachment 4) is located near the upstream point of inflow into the UVRGB and was selected to provide more accurate monitoring of dry weather flows into the basin than the gages located further upstream on the tributaries that confluence to form the Ventura River, however a rating curve still needs to be developed.

The new monitoring infrastructure in this component is proposed to be installed in the first five years of GSP implementation (years 2022 to 2027). As further discussed in Part D of this Attachment, the Groundwater and Surface Water Data Gaps Project will start in October 2022, with monitoring infrastructure completed by June 2025 (approximately 32 months), but with data collection occurring through December 2025 and grant administration through January 2026.

The additional data provided will assist with avoiding minimum threshold exceedances and meeting the measurable objectives for: (a) chronic lowering of groundwater levels, (b) reduction of groundwater storage, (c) degraded water quality, and (d) depletion of interconnected surface water. Currently the monitoring network and related data is insufficient to assess whether surface water depletion effects in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area are significant and unreasonable for steelhead and several special status aquatic species. The Sustainable Management Criteria for the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area cannot not be evaluated, nor

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minimum thresholds set until these data gaps have been addressed. The additional data will also reduce uncertainty in a key inflow term in the basin water budget (related to the rating curve developed for the recently installed gage in the north). The monitoring well proposed in the Mira Monte/Meiners Oaks hydrogeological area will assist with tracking nitrate levels in eastern part of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin, an area with limited nitrate data but also a high concentration of domestic wells.

The direct benefit area for the project is the entire Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin and the communities that utilize water from the basin, including Oak View, Meiners Oaks, Casitas Springs, and the City of Ventura (a population of approximately 122,542 persons based on the 2020 Census). The component will improve management of the groundwater and surface water resources and would benefit streamflow from the Upper Ventura River Basin to the lower Ventura River Basin. This in turn would positively affect lower Ventura River beneficial uses such as warm fresh-water habitat, cold freshwater habitat, terrestrial wildlife habitat, migration of aquatic organisms, spawning and reproduction, wetland habitat, and recreation.

The new groundwater level monitoring sites will help refine the hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM), facilitate numerical model calibration refinements, and ultimately lead to improved estimates of indirect depletion of interconnected surface water. The new monitoring will allow for comparative groundwater level monitoring at wells sites that are collocated with stream gages. The new sites will provide the data needed to understand the interconnected streamflow, to provide better estimates of indirect depletion of surface water in areas with federally designated critical habitat for steelhead and several special status aquatic species, and help evaluate the relationship between the depletions of interconnected surface water sustainability indicator and the chronic lowering of groundwater levels and reduction of groundwater storage sustainability indicators. The additional data will also reduce uncertainty in a key inflow term in the basin water budget.

Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study

“Habitat areas” are portions of the Ventura River that provide steelhead and other aquatic species with refuge, rearing, and spawning or breeding habitat required for survival and/or reproduction. These areas are generally comprised of several physical elements such as glides, runs, and pools, providing adequate connection and structure for various lifecycle activities. Five aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) were identified within the Upper Ventura River Valley Groundwater Basin, the South Robles Critical Riffle, the South Santa Ana Critical Riffle, the North Robles Habitat Area, the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area, and the Foster Park Habitat Area (See Figure 3-2, provided as part of Attachment 4).

The Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area occurs in the southern portion of the Basin near the confluence of the Ventura River with San Antonio Creek (see Figure 3-2 provided as part of Attachment 4). This habitat area is characterized by cool upwelling groundwater and inflow from upstream areas of UVRGB and San Antonio Creek. The Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area includes federally designated critical habitat for steelhead and California red-legged frog. The Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area also provides important habitat for two-striped garter snake, southwestern pond turtle, and Pacific lamprey. San Antonio Creek provides important spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead and fish must pass through the confluence area to reach this tributary of the Ventura River. One notable pool within the confluence area can contain water, even during periods of drought when many other portions of the river go dry.

As part of preparation of the GSP, interconnected surface water depletion was estimated in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area and determined to be potentially significant, but available biological data was inadequate to determine whether the depletion effects have unreasonable effects on the GDEs. For example, it is not known if depletion causes fish stranding or other harm that might constitute unreasonable effects. The need for a Sustainable Management

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Criteria related to the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area cannot be evaluated until these data gaps have been addressed. The goal of the monitoring program is to determine if depletion of interconnected surface water is causing significant and unreasonable effects on the aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystems in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area.

The Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study consists of aquatic GDE monitoring over almost three years to document biological conditions and trends to assess potential effects of interconnected surface water depletion on the aquatic GDEs. The monitoring will consist of habitat mapping, fish stranding and mortality surveys, habitat suitability and snorkel surveys, and temporary water quality and surface water flow monitoring at selected locations within the habitat area. The study result will be a data assessment report and a determination as to whether or not interconnected surface water flow depletion causes significant and unreasonable effects on the aquatic species in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. Data collection and synthesis is typical work done by biologists and presents no particular feasibility challenges.

The habitat monitoring is to take place ahead of the 5-Year GSP Assessment. The workplan for the Biological Monitoring Study was prepared and approved by the UVRGA Board of Directors on August 11, 2022, prior to the cost eligibility period. The intent is to perform monitoring during 2023-2025 and produce a data assessment in early 2026 (39 months).

The benefit area for the project is the entire Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin and the communities that utilize water from the basin, including Oak View, Meiners Oaks, Casitas Springs, and the City of Ventura (a population of approximately 122,542 persons based on the 2020 Census).

The Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study will determine if depletions of interconnected surface water cause significant and unreasonable effects on aquatic species in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area and, hence, whether Sustainable Management Criteria are warranted for depletions of interconnected surface water in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. If potential significant and unreasonable effects are identified during the focused monitoring period, a long-term monitoring program will be developed (see component below, Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water).

Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

As described above, the UVRGB is home to significant habitat areas that includes federally designated critical habitat for steelhead and provides beneficial habitat for special status aquatic species including:

- Spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead
- Breeding, rearing, and dispersal/migratory habitat for California red-legged frog
- Foraging and dispersal habitat for two-striped garter snake
- Feeding, nesting, and basking habitat for southwestern pond turtle
- Pacific lamprey spawning corridor and potentially spawning and rearing

The initial GSP includes a project to develop a one or more actions to address indirect depletion of interconnected surface water that could contribute to minimum threshold exceedances. The purpose of this study is to assess the feasibility of potential projects and/or management actions that would address indirect depletion and identify a preferred project and/or management action for implementation under separate funding.

This component consists of: (1) using data collected since GSP adoption to update the numerical flow model to better quantify indirect depletion; (2) developing appropriately sized projects or management actions to address indirect depletion; and (3) evaluating feasibility of

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project(s) and/or management action(s), including groundwater recharge, to achieve the measurable objective. Data collection and synthesis, updating the numerical flow model, and evaluating projects to address indirect depletion of interconnected surface water is typical work done by hydrogeologists and engineers and presents no particular feasibility challenges.

The project will start in 2025 to provide as much time as possible for additional groundwater, surface water, and biological data collection. The numerical model will be updated by May 2025, then development and evaluation of projects to address depletions of interconnected surface water flow occurring in late 2025 and concluding in early 2026.

The benefit area for the project is the entire Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin and the communities that utilize water from the basin, including Oak View, Meiners Oaks, Casitas Springs, and the City of Ventura (a population of approximately 122,542 persons based on the 2020 Census).

Domestic Well Outreach and Water Quality Testing

There are estimated to be approximately 101 domestic wells in the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin, some of which may lack an alternative drinking water source (see Figure 3-3 provided in Attachment 4). The status of domestic wells is not well understood due to the very limited participation by domestic well owners during the GSP development process. There is uncertainty concerning effects on domestic wells in the Basin.

This component includes outreach to domestic well owners to determine the status of their domestic well including whether a given well is active and used to supply drinking water. The Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency adopted a Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance) that went into effect August 2022. The Ordinance requires well users in the basin to register wells and to begin reporting groundwater extraction volumes to UVRGA on a quarterly basis. Well registration letters were sent in mid-September 2022 and the Ordinance requirements have also been advertised on the UVRGA website. The well registration notices included questions to determine which domestic wells are active and supply drinking water and whether the wells have been subject to going dry. As of this grant application, only a few domestic well owners have responded. The grant funding would facilitate following-up with the non-responsive domestic well owners. After the status of most of the domestic wells has been determined, domestic wells will be prioritized for water quality testing to determine nitrate concentrations, subject to owner permission. As part of the component, 24 domestic wells will be targeted for water quality sampling. After the water quality sampling results are reviewed, selected wells will be added to the monitoring water quality network, subject to owner permission. A Technical Memorandum will summarize the results of the water quality testing performed on the domestic wells. The Technical Memorandum will include mapping that illustrates the estimated extent of nitrate contamination and will be made available to domestic well owners so that they can understand their nitrate contamination risk.

The component will build upon work performed in the fall of 2022, starting in October 2022 and continuing through June 2024.

This information will be used to further evaluate potential effects on domestic wells relative to the degraded water quality and chronic lowering of groundwater levels minimum thresholds and measurable objectives. The first 5-year GSP evaluation will consider this information and the degraded water quality and chronic lowering of groundwater levels minimum threshold will be updated, if appropriate.

The direct benefit area for the project is the entire Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin and the communities that utilize water from the basin, including Oak View, Meiners Oaks, Casitas

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Springs, and the City of Ventura (a population of approximately 122,542 persons based on the 2020 Census).

The Domestic Well Outreach and Water Quality Testing will benefit beneficial users and property interests in the Basin by ensuring that the groundwater level Sustainable Management Criteria prevents significant and unreasonable effects for domestic wells in the Basin and provides water quality data needed by others (such as the City of Ventura) who utilize the basin.

Annual Reporting and Monitoring Water Years 2022 to 2024

This component includes the annual reporting and monitoring for the water years 2022/2023, 2023/2024, and 2024/ 2025. The purpose of the annual reporting and monitoring is to both meet SGMA regulations and to improve basin management over time.

SGMA regulations require submittal of annual reports to DWR concerning GSP implementation status and basin conditions. The reporting requirements are presented in GSP Emergency Regulations §356.2. In general, the annual report must include an executive summary, description and graphical presentation of basin conditions (groundwater levels and storage), reporting of groundwater extractions, surface water supplies to the basin, total water use in the basin, and a discussion of the GSP implementation progress relative to the Sustainable Management Criteria. In order to evaluate the depletions of interconnected surface water sustainability criterion, the numerical model of the basin must be updated each year to calculate the depletion rates. The annual reports will be prepared by the Executive Director with consultant support for model updates and model simulations.

Collected data will be maintained in an Access database and formatted to be consistent with DWR templates and uploaded to the SGMA Portal via the Monitoring Network Module.

2. (4 points) Component Benefits

2A – Implementation Project/Components Only:

The proposal has one implementation component as follows:

Groundwater and Surface Water Data Gaps Project

In the simplest form of measurement, the component benefit will be evaluated by the comparing data availability for specific geographies before and after component implementation. This component will provide daily or more frequent groundwater levels from nine groundwater locations and one stream location currently lacking such data and improve the usefulness of the data from one stream location. Specific benefits from the improved monitoring network are to:

1. Address data gaps within and adjacent to the South Santa Ana Riparian Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Unit, the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area, and Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area, which include federally designated critical habitat for steelhead and several special status aquatic species.
2. Monitor groundwater storage and flow upstream of and entering the South Santa Ana Riparian GDE Unit and the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area
3. Monitor groundwater levels and storage upstream and downstream of the Ventura River confluence with San Antonio Creek
4. Monitor groundwater storage and flow upstream of, and entering, the Foster Park Riparian GDE Unit and Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area
5. Track nitrate concentrations in the eastern and northern portions of the Basin within and adjacent to areas where nitrate has been detected at concentrations exceeding the maximum contaminant level

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6. Provide quantification of the baseflows entering the Upper Ventura River Basin via the Ventura River (at the Camino Cielo Gage)
7. Provide data to correlate groundwater levels with stream gages so as to better understand the complex surface water and groundwater interactions in the primary areas of interconnected surface water
8. Provide the data needed to determine the potential for significant and unreasonable depletions of interconnected surface water

The component will be consistent with UVRGA Monitoring and Data Collection Protocols which were adopted by the UVRGA Board on September 13, 2018.

The benefits will be realized in each Annual Groundwater Report prepared for the Upper Ventura River Basin as the data collected will: (1) refine the hydrologic conceptual model, (2) better track progress on meeting Sustainable Management Criteria, and (3) assess the appropriateness of the Sustainable Management Criteria. The benefits will also be realized in the 5-year GSP update as that update will have greater volumes of data, a better understanding of the relationship between groundwater levels and surface water, and have less uncertainty in evaluating Sustainable Management Criteria.

2B – Planning Project/Components Only:

The proposal has four planning components as follows:

Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study

This component will fill data gaps in the GSP that were known to be lacking. Ultimately the component will provide the data needed to protect a sensitive habitat from undesirable results.

The Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area includes federally designated critical habitat for steelhead and California red-legged frog and provides important habitat for two-striped garter snake, southwestern pond turtle, and Pacific lamprey. As part of preparation of the GSP, estimates of interconnected surface water depletion were developed. However, there was limited available biological data to assess whether depletion effects in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area are significant and unreasonable. The Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study will determine if depletions of interconnected surface water cause significant and unreasonable effects on aquatic species in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area and, hence, whether Sustainable Management Criteria are warranted for depletions of interconnected surface waters in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. The monitoring program will follow established survey protocols and methods including:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Suitability Information Model for Rainbow Trout
- Southern Steelhead Habitat Suitability Index Model
- USFWS Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red legged Frog
- UVRGA Monitoring and Data Collection Protocols
- National Marine Fisheries Service and CDFW Integration of Steelhead Viability Monitoring, Recovery Plans and Fisheries Management in the Southern Coast Area

Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

This component will assist in the feasibility of implementation of the GSP.

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The benefit of this component is to identify, describe, and establish costs and feasibility of actions to avoid significant and unreasonable effects to sensitive habitat areas. The UVRGB is home to significant habitat areas that include federally designated critical habitat for steelhead and which provides beneficial habitat for special status aquatic species. Should indirect depletions of surface water occur, to avoid significant and unreasonable impacts to these species, projects and management actions will be needed.

Domestic Well Outreach and Water Quality Testing

This component will assist in the feasibility of implementation of the GSP.

This component will create a better understanding of the volume of water used by domestic wells, the volume of water used for drinking water, the risk of nitrate (and other contaminants) in domestic and small water system wells, and the risk of dry domestic wells. Further, this component will facilitate review of the appropriateness of the Sustainable Management Criteria in the GSP with respect to domestic beneficial uses and users of groundwater.

Annual Reporting and Monitoring Water Years 2022 to 2024

This component will assist in the feasibility of implementation of the GSP.

Annual reporting and monitoring are important to implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan. First, it keeps the stakeholders engaged and updated on current basin conditions. Second, it ensures all the data collected in the past year is synthesized and put to beneficial use and uploaded to the SGMA portal. Third it is an opportunity to track progress (or lack thereof) on meeting sustainability goals. Finally, it acts as a time to evaluate progress toward goals and “course correct” if the implementation is not achieving the needed milestones. The annual report is a regular commitment in the effort of monitoring, managing, and using groundwater in a sustainable way.

3. (2 points): Provide a regional and Project/Component map(s).

The following maps are provided as part of Attachment 4 to this application:

- Figure 3-1. Existing and Proposed Groundwater Monitoring Locations
- Figure 3-2. Existing and Planned Stream Gage Locations Relative to Habitat Areas
- Figure 3-3. Domestic Well Outreach and Water Quality Testing
- Figure 3-4. Disadvantaged Communities in the Benefit Area

4. (4 points) Explain if the proposed Project or Component will benefit an URC, Tribe or SDAC.

The benefit area for the suite of components is the entire Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin and the communities that utilize water from the basin, including Oak View, Meiners Oaks, Casitas Springs, and the City of Ventura (a population of approximately 122,542 persons based on the 2020 Census). As shown in Figure 3-4, approximately 23 percent of the benefit area of the suite of components qualifies as a Disadvantage Community. Mapping indicated that no part of the benefit area qualified as an EnvDAC or being in the top 25% scoring census tracts based on average pollution burden and population characteristics in the CalEnviroscreen application.

Since the benefit is regionwide and it is estimated that up to 23 percent of the area qualifies as a URC, approximately 23 percent of the grant funding will benefit a URC.

Additionally, the Basin lies within the traditional tribal territory of the Chumash tribe.

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5. (4 points) Describe if the proposed Project or Component will positively impact issues associated with small water systems or private shallow domestic wells (groundwater contamination vulnerability, drawdown, etc.).

The State of California defines a small water system as a system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that serves at least five, but not more than 14, service connections and does not regularly serve drinking water to more than an average of 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days out of the year (Water Code Section 116275). The UVRGB is home to several small water systems. Based on mapping by the County of Ventura, the following small systems reside in the Basin:

- Ojala
- Sheriff's Honor Farm
- Old Creek Road Mutual Water Company
- Tres Canados
- Villanova Road Water Well Association
- Krotona Institute of Theosophy
- Gridley Road Water Group
- Hermitage Mutual Water Company

In addition to these small systems, the basin also is home to over 100 domestic wells (see Figure 3-3 provided as part of Attachment 4). The vast majority of wells are shallow wells and vulnerable to drawdown, contamination from septic system leachate, equestrian facilities, and agricultural fertilizers.

Currently there is not enough data to evaluate if the Sustainable Management Criteria in the Basin are sufficient to prevent significant and unreasonable effects on small water systems and domestic wells. With implementation of the components described in this grant application, there will be improved monitoring of groundwater levels and the progression toward sustainable groundwater management. This in turn will assist these small systems and domestic wells and helps meet the SAFER program (Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience) goals of (1) implementing sustainable solutions and (2) ensuring safe, adequate and affordable drinking water for all residents of California.

In addition, the implementation of the components of this grant application will provide much more data on groundwater quality in the UVRGB, including nitrate. The collection and submittal of water quality testing and associated data for small water systems and domestic wells has typically been carried out by local county health officials but without oversight or guidance or rigorous consistency. A goal of the SAFER program is to regularly and consistently collect water quality data on behalf of small water systems and domestic wells, to develop maps identifying aquifers at risk of containing contaminants that exceed safe drinking water standards, to identify at risk wells and water systems, and in the long term support the right to safe and accessible drinking water. The components in this grant application support these SAFER program activities.

6. (4 points) Describe how the proposed Project or Component addresses the Human Right to Water (AB 685 Section 106.3) and supports the established policy of the State that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking and sanitary purposes.

Since 2012, California law (Assembly Bill 685) has declared that every person in the state has a right to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water. In 2019, Gov. Newsom signed SB 200 to provide funding to achieve the goal to "provide safe drinking water in every California community, for every Californian."

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To measure the Human Right to Water nine indicators are commonly used:

- High potential for exposure to poor water quality
- Long duration of exposure to poor water quality
- Lack of data on water quality
- Non-compliance with drinking water standards
- Duration of non-compliance with drinking water standards
- Vulnerability to water outage
- Ratio of median household income to water cost
- Ratio of county poverty income relative to water cost
- Ratio of deep poverty income to relative to water cost

The components in this grant application directly address, or assist in addressing, six of the nine measures above.

There are over 101 domestic wells in the UVRGB, some of which may not have an alternate source of water (i.e., long duration of exposure to poor water quality and vulnerability to a water outage). Nitrate is a known contaminant in the eastern portion of the UVRGB, and the limited data indicates several wells with historical and recent nitrates above the maximum contaminant level of 10 mg/ (non-compliance with drinking water standards). But information on the specific extent and the impact on domestic wells that supply drinking water, particularly in the northeast part of the basin is lacking (i.e., high potential for exposure to poor water quality coupled with lack of data on water quality). Similarly, there is lack of information on domestic wells concerning the susceptibility of the wells to going dry (i.e., vulnerability to a water outage).

The components in this application provide data on water quality and specifically will assist in understanding the risk of groundwater contamination in domestic and small water system wells and will facilitate review of the appropriateness of the Sustainable Management Criteria in the GSP with respect to domestic beneficial uses and users of groundwater.

PROJECT/COMPONENT DETAILS

B. Scope of Work and Deliverables (maximum of 4 points possible)

7. (4 points) Work Plan

a. Scope of Work and Deliverables

Grant Agreement Administration

Budget Category (a): Grant Agreement Administration

Task 1: Agreement Administration

Grantee will respond to DWR's reporting and compliance requirements associated with grant administration and will coordinate with the project managers responsible for implementing the components in the agreement. Grantee will compile invoices for submittal to DWR. This includes collecting invoice documentation for each component in the agreement. Grantee will be responsible for compiling progress reports for submittal to DWR. Grantee will coordinate with project managers for the various components as needed to prepare and submit progress reports and final reports for each component as well as a grant completion report.

Deliverables Task 1:

- Environmental Information Forms for components
- Preparation of schedule of deliverables for each component
- Draft and Final Grant Completion Report
- Quarterly Invoices
- Quarterly Progress Reports

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Groundwater and Surface Water Data Gaps Project

Budget Category (a): Component Administration

Task 1: Component Management

Task includes UVRGA staff time to attend meetings and provide direction to consultants, vendors, and contractors handling the design and implementation of the component. General contract administration and the review and approval of vendor/consultant/contractor invoices is part of Task. Work includes preparation of grant reporting materials specific to the Groundwater and Surface Water Data Gaps project, including submittal of listed deliverables, preparation of quarterly progress reports and collection and organization of backup materials for charges during each quarter. A Draft Component Report will be prepared for submittal to DWR. Following DWR comments a Final Component Report will be prepared.

Deliverables Task 1:

- Quarterly Progress Reports
- Invoices documenting component costs
- Summary of quarterly component costs
- Draft and Final Component Completion Report

Budget Category (b): Environmental/Engineering/Design

Task 2: Identify Sites for New Monitoring

The general locations for the desired new groundwater monitoring wells have already been identified (see Figure 3-1). UVRGA staff or selected consultant will identify specific proposed sites within each general location for consideration with the corresponding landowners. The general location where the new stream gage is desired has also been determined. Through field reconnaissance, a specific site will be selected and the installation and equipment materials will be determined.

Deliverables Task 2:

- Identification of feasible sites for new monitoring wells

Task 3: CEQA Documentation

Data collection is categorically exempt from CEQA. Further, the minor land disturbance associated with the new monitoring wells and gages should also qualify for a CEQA categorical exemption. UVRGA staff or selected consultant will prepare necessary CEQA documentation.

Deliverables Task 3:

- CEQA Documentation/Categorical Exemption

Task 4: Permitting

The new monitoring wells will require a Ventura County Well Permit prior to construction. UVRGA staff or selected consultant will obtain the necessary Ventura County Well Permits for each monitoring well. Because work for the new stream gage will occur within the active portion of the Ventura River it will be necessary to obtain a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and a County of Ventura Watercourse Permit.

Deliverables Task 4:

- Ventura County Well Permit
- Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement
- County of Ventura Watercourse Permit

Task 5: Design

UVRGA staff or selected consultant will prepare a design for the new monitoring wells. Design shall include information on appropriate drilling methods, bore hole construction, filter pack placement, filter pack seal, identify above ground riser piping and outer casing, surface pads, and surface protection (e.g., crash posts). Design will be reflected in the Notice Inviting Bids (see Deliverables for Task 7).

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Budget Category (c): Implementation/Construction

Task 6: Land Purchase/Easement

It is assumed that nine new monitoring wells will be drilled, necessitating the acquisition of approximately 225 square feet of permanent easement (25 square feet per well) and 3,600 square feet of temporary easement (400 square feet per well) for construction. UVRGA staff or selected consultant will acquire the necessary easements with landowners. Land purchase and easement activities can occur concurrent with CEQA documentation and permitting, as is shown in the schedule in Part D.

Deliverables Task 6:

- Access agreements and/or easement documentation for new wells

Task 7: Contracting

For the nine new monitoring wells, UVRGA will advertise in local periodicals a Notice Inviting Bids. The Notice Inviting Bids will be made publicly available. Bidding and advertising will be consistent with UVRGA's procurement standards and the Public Contract Code.

Deliverables Task 7:

- Notice Inviting Bids New Monitoring Wells

Task 8: Construction/Implementation

UVRGA or selected consultant will perform construction administration activities. Construction administration activities will consist of oversight during construction to ensure proper installation of equipment according to UVRGA and State standards. Construction administration will also include ensuring contractors are complying with Labor Code and Prevailing Wage requirements.

Includes installation of nine new single depth monitoring wells up to 200 feet in depth, depending on local geologic conditions. New monitoring wells will be 2- or 4-inch PVC wells with 8 to 10 inch boreholes. In addition, this task will include installation of a new stream gage and developing rating curves for the new gage and the Camino Cielo gage. Following execution of an access agreement, if required, the new stream gage will be installed and will consist of a stilling well and transducer or bubbler device to continuously monitor stream stage. Work will be performed by a pre-selected qualified professional services consultant. Installation of the stream gage is a minor construction action and could take place once the necessary permits are received. The intent is to prioritize installation of the new stream gage to maximize the amount of time the gage collects data before the GSP update.

Deliverables Task 8:

- Photos documenting the progress of the construction
- Testing documentation of new stream gages, stream rating curves

Budget Category (d): Monitoring/Assessment

Task 9: Data Collection

Currently, UVRGA collects and synthesizes data from 15 groundwater monitoring wells, upon completion of this component, UVRGA will add nine additional wells. It is anticipated that three of these new wells will come online by April 2024 and will collect data for two years of the grant agreement. It's assumed the remaining six will be online by June 2025 and will collect data for approximately 6 months of the grant agreement. Currently, UVRGA collects and synthesizes data from seven streamflow gages, upon completion of this component, UVRGA will add data from two additional gages. It is anticipated that these new gages will come on-line by October 2023 and will collect data for 2 years of the grant agreement.

Deliverables Task 9:

- Annual Report reflecting data from nine additional monitoring wells, the Camino Cielo gage, and one additional stream gage

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Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study

Budget Category (a): Component Administration

Task 1: Component Management

This task includes UVRGA staff time to attend meetings and provide direction to consultants, vendors, and contractors handling work related to the component. This task also includes general contract administration and the review and approval of vendor/consultant/contractor invoices.

This task also involves preparation of grant reporting materials specific to the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study, including submittal of listed deliverables, preparation of quarterly progress reports and collection and organization of backup materials for charges during each quarterly reporting period. A Draft Component Report will be prepared for submittal to DWR. Following DWR comments, a Final Component Report will be prepared.

Deliverables Task 1:

- Quarterly Progress Reports
- Invoices documenting component costs
- Summary of quarterly component costs
- Draft and Final Component Completion Report

Budget Category (b): Environmental/Engineering/Design

This is a planning study and neither CEQA nor permits are applicable.

Task 2: Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study

This task is the preparation of the Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study, as detailed in the UVRGA Board-approved study plan. The selected firm will evaluate at what stream flows, significant undesirable results occur in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. This evaluation will be based on habitat mapping and fish surveys, as correlated to groundwater levels and streamflow.

Deliverables Task 2:

- Final Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study

Budget Category (c): Implementation/Construction

UVRGSA previously selected a firm to conduct the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study, there are no Budget Category (c) tasks associated with this component.

Budget Category (d): Monitoring/Assessment

There are no Budget Category (d) tasks.

Budget Category (e): Engagement/Outreach

Task 3: Stakeholder Outreach

The UVRGA Environmental Stakeholder Director and Executive Director will outreach to environmental interests to get input on the study data and findings.

Deliverables Task 3:

- Comments received on the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study

Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

Budget Category (a): Component Administration

Task 1: Component Management

This task includes UVRGA staff time to attend meetings and provide direction to consultants, vendors, and contractors handling the work related to the component. This task also includes general contract administration and the review and approval of vendor/consultant/contractor invoices.

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This task also involves preparation of grant reporting materials specific to the Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water component, including submittal of listed deliverables, preparation of quarterly progress reports and collection and organization of backup materials for charges during each quarterly reporting period. A Draft Component Report will be prepared for submittal to DWR. Following DWR comments a Final Component Report will be prepared.

Deliverables Task 1:

- Quarterly Progress Reports
- Invoices documenting component costs
- Summary of quarterly component costs
- Draft and Final Component Completion Report

Budget Category (b): Environmental/Engineering/Design

This is a planning study and neither CEQA nor permits are applicable.

Task 2: Feasibility Study of Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

The final result of this component will be a feasibility study. The study will utilize data collected to update the numerical flow model to better quantify indirect depletion, identify appropriately sized projects and/or management actions to address indirect depletions, and to evaluate the feasibility of project(s) and/or management action(s), including groundwater recharge, to achieve the measurable objective.

Deliverables Task 2:

- Final Feasibility Study of Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

Budget Category (c): Implementation/Construction

Task 3: Contracting

Proposals will be solicited from qualified firms to evaluate the feasibility of actions to address indirect depletion of interconnected surface water.

Deliverables Task 3:

- Notice to Proceed Issued to Selected Firm

Budget Category (d): Monitoring/Assessment

There are no tasks under Budget Category (d).

Budget Category (e): Engagement/Outreach

Task 4: Stakeholder Outreach

Two stakeholder workshops will be held to (1) develop options for evaluation and (2) to rank and select preferred option(s) for actions to address indirect depletion of surface water.

Deliverables Task 4:

- Notice of Workshops
- Presentations/Summaries of Stakeholder Meetings

Domestic Well Outreach and Water Quality Testing

Budget Category (a): Component Administration

Task 1: Component Management

This task includes UVRGA staff time to attend meetings and provide direction to consultants, vendors, and contractors handling work related to the component. This task also includes general contract administration and the review and approval of vendor/consultant/contractor invoices.

This task also involves preparation of grant reporting materials specific to the Domestic Well Outreach and Water Quality Testing project, including submittal of listed deliverables, preparation of quarterly

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progress reports and collection and organization of backup materials for charges during each quarterly reporting period. A Draft Component Report will be prepared for submittal to DWR. Following DWR comments a Final Component Report will be prepared.

Deliverables Task 1:

- Quarterly Progress Reports
- Invoices documenting component costs
- Summary of quarterly component costs
- Draft and Final Component Completion Report

Budget Category (b): Environmental/Engineering/Design

Task 2. Domestic Well Water Quality Technical Memorandum

A Technical Memorandum will be prepared describing the domestic well survey results and nitrate water quality sampling performed on domestic wells in the UVRGA, a map will be prepared showing the general locations of the wells sampled, and results of the water quality sampling provided as an attachment. The Technical Memorandum will identify areas that may be at risk of nitrate contamination that exceeds water quality standards.

Deliverables Task 2:

- Technical Memorandum Domestic Well Water Quality Sampling Results

Budget Category (c): Construction/Implementation

The Data Management System developed for the GSP will be sufficient to accommodate new data acquired as part of the well registration and data from the domestic well survey. There are no costs in Budget Category (c).

Budget Category (d): Monitoring/Assessment

This component has no Budget Category (d) tasks.

Budget Category (e): Engagement/Outreach

Task 3: Outreach to Domestic Well Owners

This component includes well registration and the associated domestic well survey. The Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency adopted a Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance) that went into effect August 2022. The Ordinance requires well users in the basin to register wells and to begin reporting groundwater extraction volumes to UVRGA on a quarterly basis beginning with the period July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022. Well registration letters were sent in mid-September 2022. UVRGA will outreach to well owners that do not meet the quarterly well reporting requirements. This includes 125 hours of UVRGA staff time to perform three rounds of follow-up outreach with domestic well owners to ensure widespread participation in the well registration database and participation in the domestic well survey.

Based on the survey responses, domestic wells will be prioritized for water quality sampling. Twenty-four domestic wells will be targeting for nitrate sampling. With owner permission, selected wells will be added to the monitoring water quality network. Deliverables for Task 3, summary of domestic wells sampled for nitrate and summary of nitrate sampling results, will be provided as part of Task 2.

Deliverables Task 3:

- See Deliverables for Task 2

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Annual Reporting and Monitoring Water Years 2022 to 2024

Budget Category (a): Component Administration

Task 1: Component Management

This task includes UVRGA staff time to attend meetings and provide direction to consultants, vendors, and contractors handling the design and implementation of the component. This task also includes general contract administration and the review and approval of vendor/consultant/contractor invoices.

This task also involves preparation of grant reporting materials specific to the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Annual Reports and related monitoring, including submittal of listed deliverables, preparation of quarterly progress reports and collection and organization of backup materials for charges during each quarterly reporting period. A Draft Component Report will be prepared for submittal to DWR. Following DWR comments a Final Component Report will be prepared.

Deliverables Task 1:

- Quarterly Progress Reports
- Invoices documenting component costs
- Summary of quarterly component costs
- Draft and Final Component Completion Report

Budget Category (b): Environmental/Engineering/Design

Task 2. Prepare Upper Ventura River Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Reports for Water Years 2022, 2023, and 2024

Using data collected (see Task 4) information on basin conditions (groundwater levels and storage), information on groundwater extractions, surface water supplies to the basin, and total water use in the basin will be prepared. Additionally, a discussion of GSP implementation progress relative to Sustainable Management Criteria will be prepared. By April 1 each year, the Basin Annual Report will be prepared.

Deliverables Task 2:

- 2022, 2023, and 2024 Annual Report for the Upper Ventura River Valley Groundwater Basin

Task 3. Update UVRGA Numerical Model

Prior to preparing each annual report, the numerical flow model will be updated to incorporate new data from the expanded groundwater and surface water monitoring networks and, when available, modeled ungaged surface water inflows to the UVRGB from the final regional watershed-wide model developed by the State Water Resources Control Board. Model re-calibration may be required when the ungaged surface water inflows are incorporated. Model updates will be summarized and reflected in the Annual Reports.

Deliverables Task 3:

- See Deliverables for Task 2.

Budget Category (c): Construction/Implementation

This component has no Budget Category (c) tasks.

Budget Category (d): Monitoring/Assessment

Task 4. Continued Monitoring

UVRGA will maintain and collect data from the following networks as described in the GSP and incorporate it into the Data Management System:

- Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Network
- Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network

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- Streamflow Monitoring Network
- Riparian Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Monitoring
- Aquatic Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Monitoring (Foster Park Aquatic GDE Area)

Data collected from the monitoring networks, will be summarized in the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Annual Reports (provided in the deliverables for Task 2.

Deliverables Task 4:

- See Deliverables for Task 2.

Budget Category (e): Engagement/Outreach

Task 5: Outreach During Annual Reporting

UVRGA staff will prepare a newsletter and hold a workshop summarizing the changes in basin conditions and progress toward Sustainable Management Criteria for each of the 2022, 2023, and 2024 annual reports.

Deliverables Task 5:

- Newsletter 2022 Annual Report
- Newsletter 2023 Annual Report
- Newsletter 2024 Annual Report
- Presentation/Workshop 2022 Annual Report
- Presentation/Workshop 2023 Annual Report
- Presentation/Workshop 2024 Annual Report

C. Budget (maximum of 1 point possible)

Table 1a: Budget Summary

Grant Title: Upper Ventura River Valley GSP Implementation

Grantee: Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

Components	Grant Amount
Component 1: Grant Administration	\$60,000
Component 2: Groundwater and Surface Water Data Gaps Project	\$1,796,200
Component 3: Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study	\$155,300
Component 4: Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	\$290,400
Component 5: Domestic Well Outreach and Water Quality Testing	\$76,800
Component 6: Annual Report and Monitoring 2022 to 2024	\$717,700
Total:	\$3,096,400

Table 1b: Component Budget Summaries

Component 1. Grant Administration

Component serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community? Yes
(check all that apply): ☒DAC, ☐SDAC, ☐Tribe, and/or ☐Underrepresented Community

Budget Categories	Grant Amount
(a) Grant Agreement Administration	\$60,000
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	\$0
(c) Implementation / Construction	\$0
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$0
(e) Engagement / Outreach	\$0
Total:	\$60,000

The grant administration budget is based on an assumption of final award in June 2023 with grant management of five components going through June 2026 (36 months). The grant administration budget was provided by a consultant who currently performs grant management for a variety of state grants.

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Component 2: Groundwater and Surface Water Data Gaps Project

Component serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community? Yes

(check all that apply): ☒DAC, ☐SDAC, ☐Tribe, and/or ☐Underrepresented Community

Budget Category	Grant Amount
(a) Component Administration	\$146,900
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	\$117,500
(c) Implementation / Construction	\$1,468,500
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$63,300
(e) Engagement / Outreach	\$0
Total:	\$1,796,200

Implementation costs include drilling of nine new groundwater monitoring wells and a new stream gage as well as land acquisition and temporary easements. Construction of each groundwater monitoring well assumed to be \$135,000 and the stream gage cost set at \$108,500, these costs are based on similar projects conducted in 2021, adjusted to 2022 costs and assuming an annual inflation rate of 8%. Land acquisition assumed at \$10,000 well site and \$5,000 per temporary easement. Administration set at 10% of implementation cost. Planning and permitting set at 8% of implementation cost. Cost of monitoring, based on past costs, assumes \$500 per well per year and \$14,700 per stream gage per year. Costs rounded.

Component 3: Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study

Component serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community? Yes

(check all that apply): ☒DAC, ☐SDAC, ☐Tribe, and/or ☐Underrepresented Community

Budget Categories	Grant Amount
(a) Component Administration	\$13,700
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	\$136,600
(c) Implementation / Construction	\$0
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$0
(e) Engagement / Outreach	\$5,000
Total:	\$155,300

Costs for preparation of the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study based on existing contract with the consultant that will perform the work. Costs exclude work performed prior to October 4, 2022. Costs for component administration assumed to be 10% of study costs. Costs rounded.

Component 4: Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

Component serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community? Yes

(check all that apply): ☒DAC, ☐SDAC, ☐Tribe, and/or ☐Underrepresented Community

Budget Categories	Grant Amount
(a) Component Administration	\$25,100
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	\$250,500
(c) Implementation / Construction	\$2,400
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$0
(e) Engagement / Outreach	\$12,400
Total:	\$290,400

Assumes administrative costs of 10% of planning costs. Assumes update of numerical model, estimated at \$66,000. Assumes three potential actions considered and opinions of cost developed at \$61,500 per action evaluated. Two stakeholder workshops anticipated at a cost of \$5000 each plus approximately 12 additional hours for outreach. All costs rounded.

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Component 5: Domestic Well Outreach and Water Quality Testing

Component serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community? Yes
(check all that apply): ☒DAC, ☐SDAC, ☐Tribe, and/or ☐Underrepresented Community

Budget Categories	Grant Amount
(a) Component Administration	\$3,900
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	\$7,500
(c) Implementation / Construction	\$0
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$26,000
(e) Engagement / Outreach	\$39,400
Total:	\$76,800

\$25,000 (about 125 hours) has been budgeted to outreach to domestic well owners. Its assumed 24 water quality samples will be performed at a cost of \$600 each. The resulting technical memorandum is assumed to cost \$7,500. Component administration has been set at 10% of the outreach budget. Costs rounded.

Component 6: Annual Reporting and Monitoring Water Years 2022 to 2025

Component serves a need of a DAC, SDAC, Tribe and/or Underrepresented Community? Yes
(check all that apply): ☒DAC, ☐SDAC, ☐Tribe, and/or ☐Underrepresented Community

Budget Categories	Grant Amount
(a) Component Administration	\$16,600
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	\$166,000
(c) Implementation / Construction	\$0
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$520,100
(e) Engagement / Outreach	\$15,000
Total:	\$717,700

Costs assume administrative costs of 10% of planning costs. Costs for annual reports and monitoring based on historic costs. Costs for update of the numeric groundwater model estimated by the consultant that developed the original numerical model. All costs rounded.

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Table 2 – Ranking of Proposed Components

Rank	Name	SJV Funds Component Requirement	Readiness	Partnerships with Non-Profits, Non-Governmental Organizations (NROs), and/or Colleges/Universities	Benefactors	Cost
1	Groundwater and Surface Water Data Gaps Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 1,796,200
2	Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 155,300
3	Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 290,400
4	Domestic Well Outreach and Water Quality Testing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 76,800
5	Annual Reporting and Monitoring Water Years 2022 to 2024	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 717,700
				Total Cost:		\$3,036,400

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D. Schedule (maximum of 1 point possible)

A summary schedule is provided below. Specific information is provided for environmental compliance and permitting and land acquisition and easements.

Environmental Compliance and Permitting

The environmental compliance and permitting needs and approach for each component is provided in the table below:

Component	CEQA Compliance	Permitting
Groundwater and Surface Water Data Gaps Project	Anticipated to qualify for Categorical Exemption	Will need Ventura County Well Permit; for a monitoring well this is a ministerial permit that will be acquired by the contractor prior to construction. Will require a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement. Application will be put in Summer 2023 and is anticipated to take 4 months. After which construction can begin.
Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study	Not a "project" under CEQA	No permits needed.
Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	Not a "project" under CEQA	No permits needed.
Domestic Well Outreach and Water Quality Testing	Not a "project" under CEQA	No permits needed.
Annual Report and Monitoring 2022 to 2024	Not a "project" under CEQA	No permits needed.

Easement/Land Acquisition

The easement/land acquisitions needs and approach for each component is provided in the table below:

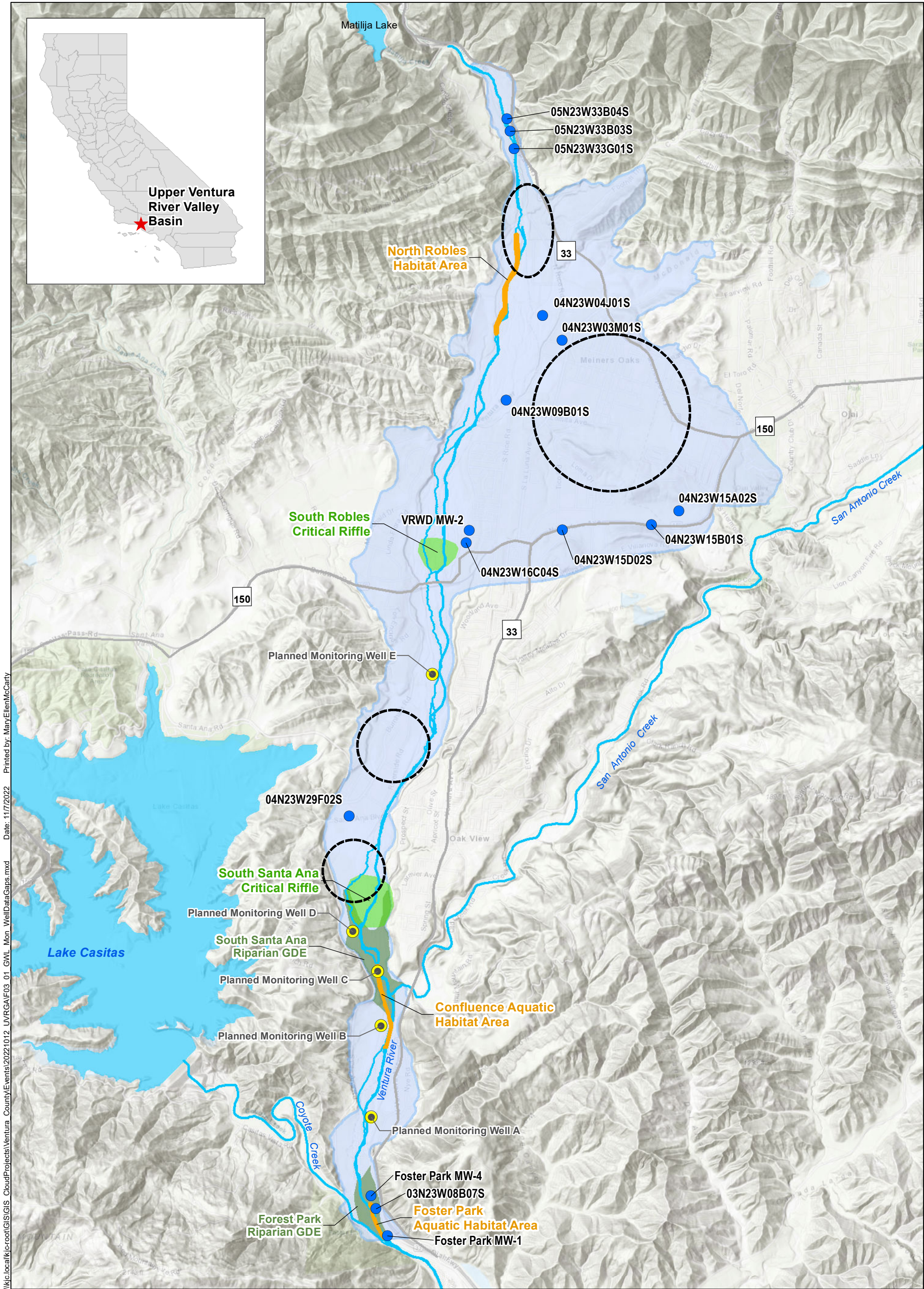
Component	Land Acquisition
Groundwater and Surface Water Data Gaps Project	Land will need to be acquired for nine monitoring wells, each approximately 25 square feet. Given the number of vacant parcels and agricultural land, acquiring these small parcels is not anticipated to present particular difficulty.
Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study	Not applicable.
Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	Not applicable.
Domestic Well Outreach and Water Quality Testing	Not applicable.
Annual Report and Monitoring 2022 to 2024	Not applicable.

SCHEDULE TABLE

Grant Title: Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

Categories	Start Date	End Date
Component 1: Grant Administration	1-Jun-23	30-Jun-26
(a) Component Administration	6/1/2023	6/30/2026
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	Not applicable	
(c) Implementation / Construction		
(d) Monitoring / Assessment		
(e) Engagement / Outreach		
Component 2. Groundwater and Surface Water Data Gaps Project	4-Oct-22	30-Jan-26
(a) Component Administration	10/4/2022	1/30/2026
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	10/4/2022	6/1/2024
(c) Implementation / Construction	10/1/2023	6/1/2025
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	10/1/2023	12/31/2025
(e) Engagement / Outreach	NA	
Component 3. Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study	4-Oct-22	1-Mar-26
(a) Component Administration	10/4/2022	3/1/2026
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	10/4/2022	2/1/2026
(c) Implementation / Construction	NA	
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	NA	
(e) Engagement / Outreach	10/4/2022	2/1/2026
Component 4. Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	1-Jan-25	1-Apr-2026
(a) Component Administration	1/2/2025	4/1/2026
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	4/1/2025	2/28/2026
(c) Implementation / Construction	1/1/2025	3/30/2025
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	NA	
(e) Engagement / Outreach	1/1/2025	2/28/2026
Component 5. Domestic Well Outreach and Water Quality Testing	4-Oct-22	30-Jun-24
(a) Component Administration	10/4/2022	6/30/2024
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	10/4/2022	5/31/2024
(c) Implementation / Construction	NA	
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	NA	
(e) Engagement / Outreach	10/4/2022	5/31/2024
Component 6. Annual Reports & Monitoring WY 2022 to 2024	4-Oct-22	1-Apr-26
(a) Component Administration	10/4/2022	4/1/2026
(b) Environmental / Engineering / Design	NA	
(c) Implementation / Construction	10/4/2022	2/28/2026
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	10/4/2022	2/28/2026
(e) Engagement / Outreach	10/4/2022	2/28/2026

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Legend

- Planned Monitoring Well Locations
- Existing Monitoring Well Locations
- Highway (2-lane)
- Rivers & Streams
- Water Bodies
- Habitat Area
- Critical Riffle
- Riparian Area
- Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin
- Area for Additional Groundwater Monitoring

Kennedy Jenks

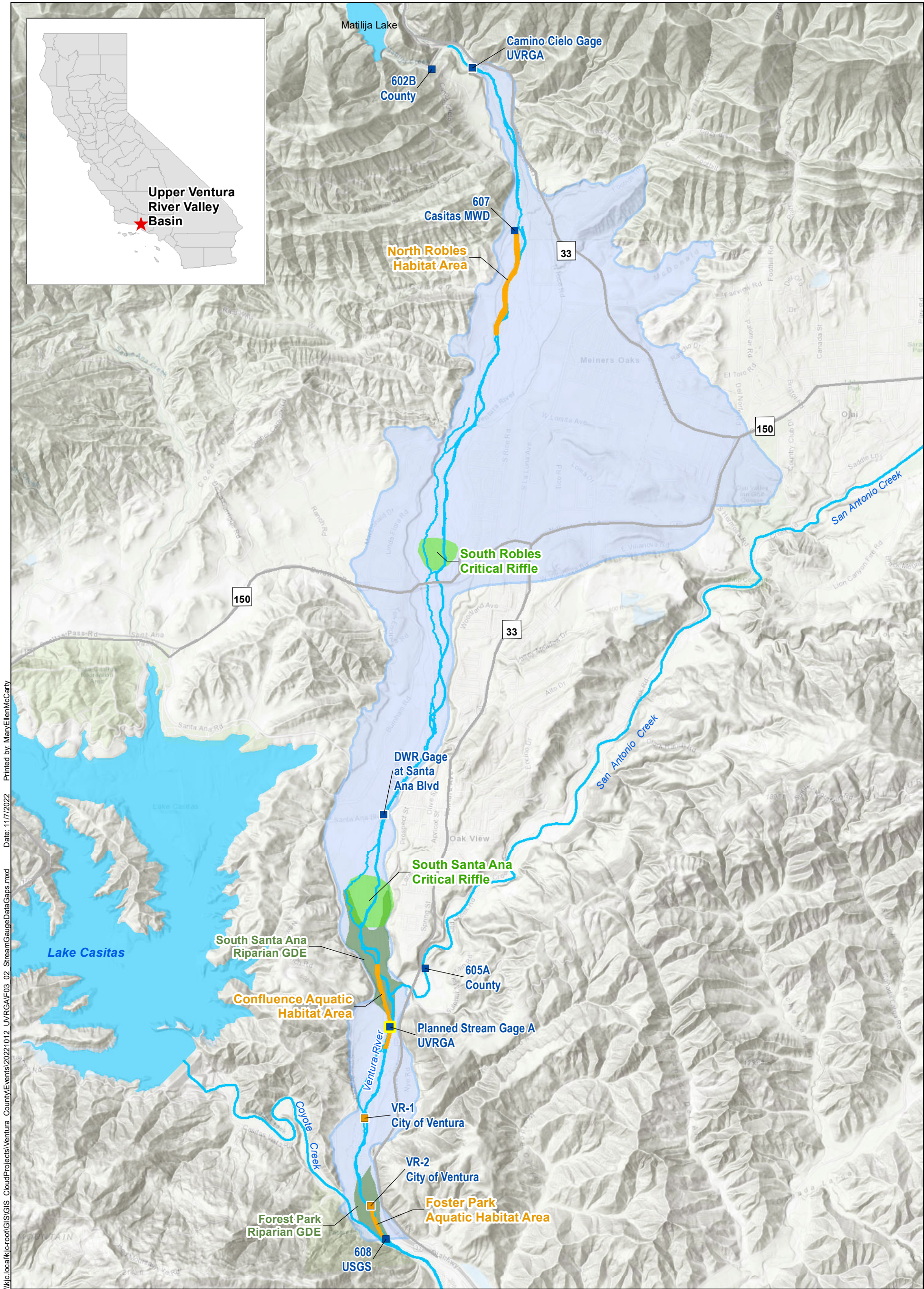
Upper Ventura River Valley Groundwater Basin
Ventura County, California

**Existing and Proposed
Groundwater Level Monitoring Locations**

2244229*00

Figure 3-1

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Legend

- Planned Stream Gage Locations
- City of Ventura Gage
- Stream Gage
- Highway (2-lane)
- Rivers & Streams
- Water Bodies
- Habitat Area
- Critical Riffle
- Riparian Area
- Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin

Kennedy Jenks

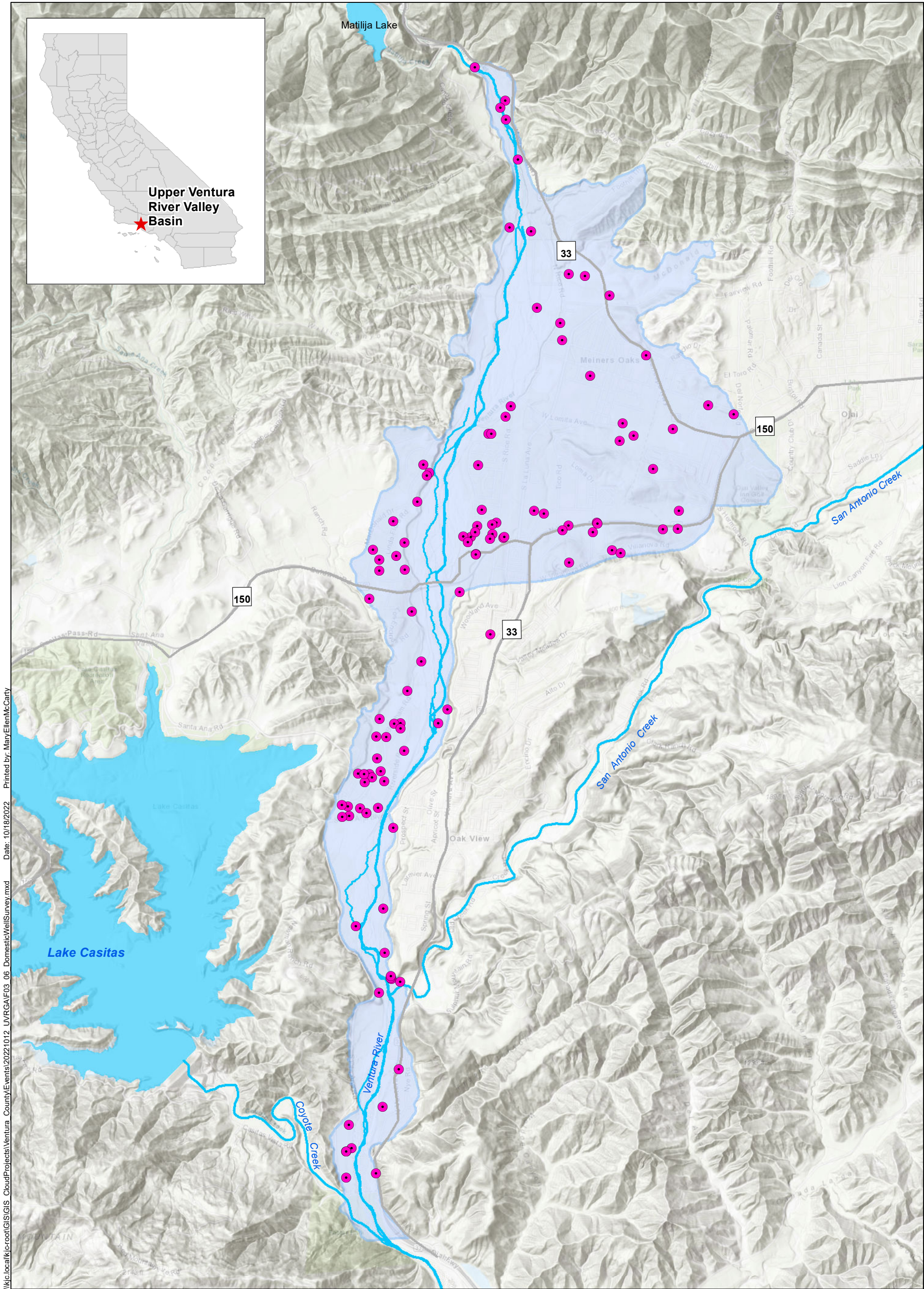
Upper Ventura River Valley Groundwater Basin
Ventura County, California

Existing and Planned Stream Gages
Relative to Habitat Areas

2244229*00

Figure 3-2

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Legend

Domestic Wells

Highway (2-lane)

Rivers & Streams

Water Bodies

Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin

N

0

0.5

1

Miles

KJ

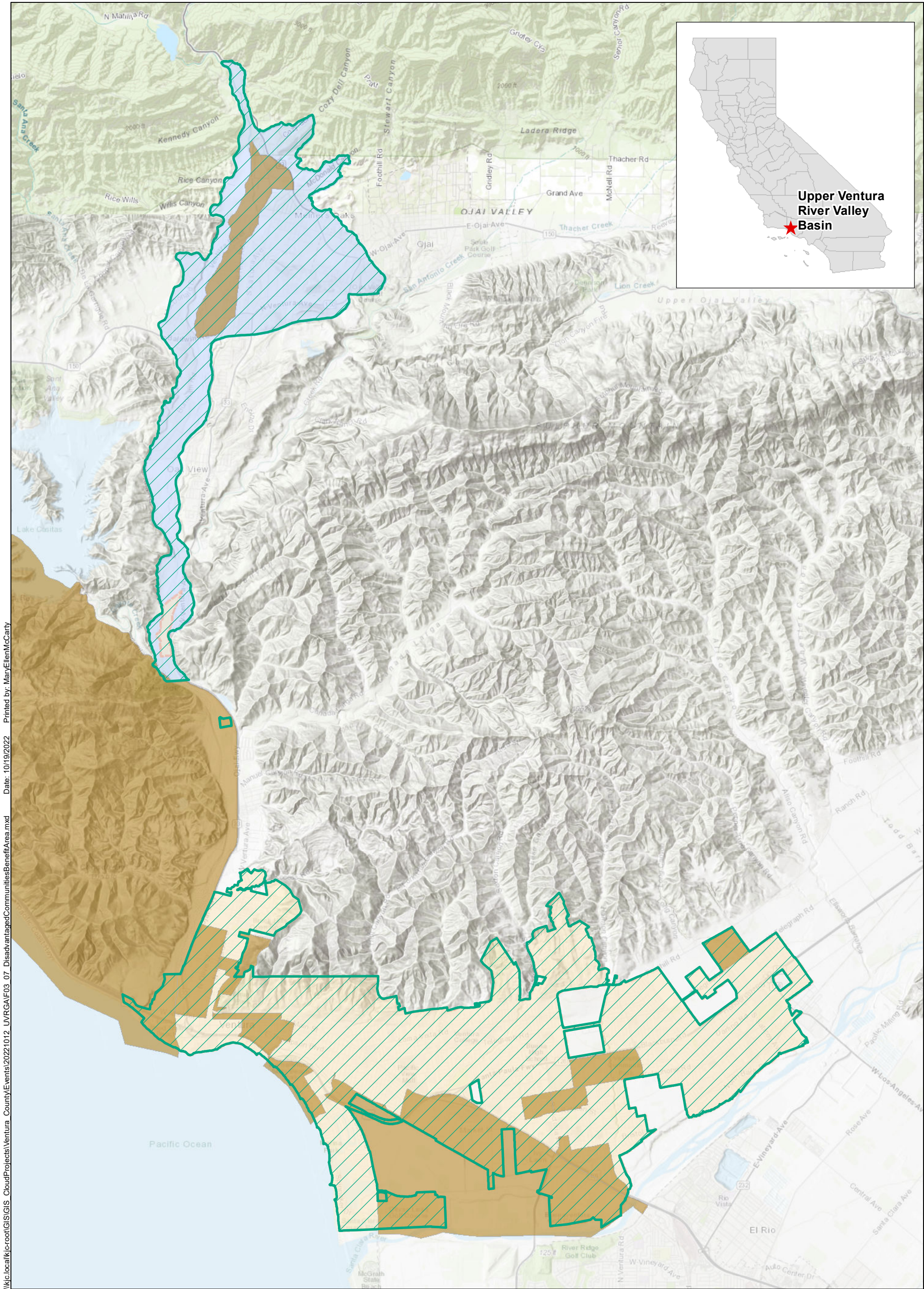
Kennedy Jenks

Upper Ventura River Valley Groundwater Basin
Ventura County, California

Domestic Well Outreach
and Water Quality Testing

2244229*00
Figure 3-3

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Legend

- Benefit Area *23% of Benefit Area meets definition of DAC*
- Disadvantaged Community Census Block Groups 2020
- Ventura City Boundary
- Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin

Kennedy Jenks

Upper Ventura River Valley Groundwater Basin
Ventura County, California

**Disadvantaged Communities
in the Benefit Area**

2244229*00

Figure 3-4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-08

Resolved by the Board of Directors of Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency, that an application be made to the Department of Water Resources to obtain a grant under the 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program SGMA Implementation Grant pursuant to the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Pub. Resources Code, § 80000, et seq.) and the Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022. Be it further resolved that the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency has the authority and shall enter into a funding agreement with the Department of Water Resources to receive a grant for the: Ventura River Valley GSP Implementation.

The Executive Director of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to prepare the necessary data, conduct investigations, file such application, execute a funding agreement and any future amendments thereto, submit invoices, and submit any reporting requirements with the Department of Water Resources.

Passed and adopted at a meeting of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Board of Directors on November 10, 2022.

Authorized Original Signature: _____
Printed Name: Michel Etchart _____
Title: Board Chair _____
Clerk/Secretary: Pete Kaiser _____

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Board of Directors held on November 10, 2022.

Clerk/Secretary: _____

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

DATE: November 10, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee

SUBJECT: Stakeholder Engagement Plan Annual Review and Update

SUMMARY

The Agency's Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee is charged with performing annual reviews of the Agency's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and present any recommended updates for Board consideration. Recommended updates to the SEP are included in Attachment A.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approve amendments to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan recommended by the Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee.

BACKGROUND

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan was adopted by the Board on May 10, 2018. Section 5.3 of the plan states that the plan will be updated at least annually. The Agency's Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee is charged with performing ongoing review of the plan and recommending plan updates each May and presenting any recommended updates in August.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

A. Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan Update

Action: _____

Motion: _____

M. Etchart_ B. Kuebler_ P. Kaiser_ J. Tribo_ A. Anselm_ V. Crawford_ E. Ayala_

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN
UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER BASIN
(4-003.01) VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT
(SGMA) PROGRAM**

**PREPARED AND ADOPTED BY THE UPPER VENTURA
RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY, MAY 10, 2018**

UPDATED ~~SEPTEMBER 10, 2020~~ NOVEMBER 2022

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Engagement Plan) summarizes the strategies to educate and involve stakeholders (those individuals and representatives of organizations who have a direct stake in the outcome of the ~~planning~~ process) and other interested parties in the ~~preparation and~~ implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin (UVR Basin) – Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin No. 4-003.01 (Figure 1). This GSP ~~will be~~ was prepared in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which was signed by Governor Brown in September 2014 and became effective January 1, 2015.

SGMA provides a framework to regulate groundwater for the first time in California's history. The intent of SGMA is to strengthen local management of specified groundwater basins that are most critical to the state's water needs by regulating groundwater and land use management activities. SGMA also aims to preserve the jurisdictional authorities of cities, counties and water agencies within groundwater basins while protecting existing surface water and groundwater rights.

The Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA or Agency), a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), was formed by five local agencies: County of Ventura (County), City of San Buenaventura (City), Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD), Meiners Oaks Water District (MOWD), and Ventura River Water District (VRWD). There was extensive stakeholder engagement during that process. The governing board consists of one representative from each of those agencies plus two stakeholder directors representing environmental and agricultural interests. The GSA is responsible for developing a GSP for the UVR Basin to achieve long-term groundwater sustainability. Additionally, SGMA requires and directs GSAs to encourage active involvement of stakeholders and interested parties in the process to sustainability manage the basin.

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the outreach activities described in this Engagement Plan is to encourage the active involvement of individual stakeholders and stakeholder organizations, and other interested parties in the ~~development and~~ implementation of the GSP for the UVR Basin. ~~This~~ The GSP is required under SGMA ~~was submitted to be completed no later than~~ DWR on January 31~~24~~²⁴, 2022. The projects and management actions necessary to implement the GSP could affect individuals and groups who have a stake in ensuring the basin is sustainably managed as required by SGMA.

In an effort to understand and involve stakeholders and their interests in the decision- making ~~and activities~~ process, the UVRGA ~~has~~ prepared this Engagement Plan to encourage broad, enduring and productive involvement during the GSP development and implementation phases. This Engagement Plan ~~will~~ was used to assist the UVRGA in providing timely information to stakeholders and receive input from interested parties during GSP development. This Engagement Plan ~~will identify~~ identifies stakeholders who have an interest in groundwater in the UVR Basin, and ~~recommend~~ recommends outreach, education and communication strategies for engaging those stakeholders. We polled the participants during the our GSP development workshops to determine what methods of outreach were working participants indicated that they heard from our agency from emails, connections with UVGRA board members and implementation of the GSP. The plan also includes an approach for evaluating the overall

~~success of stakeholder engagement and education of both stakeholders and the public staff or from friends.~~ In consideration of the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, this Engagement Plan has been developed pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.2. Additionally, this Engagement Plan has been developed to encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the UVR Basin, in accordance with GSP Regulations Section 354.10.

3 GENERAL INFORMATION

The following personnel ~~will~~ serve as contacts for the public ~~during GSA formation and GSP preparation.~~

3.1 Agency Administrator

For general information about UVRGA ~~and the GSP status,~~ contact:

Maureen Tucker, Paralegal, ~~Olivarez, Madrugá, Lemieux, O'Neill~~ Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, (805)495-4770, email ~~mtucker@omlclaw.com~~ mtucker@awattorneys.com

3.2 Executive Director and GSP Project Manager

The UVRGA's Executive Director and GSP Project Manager ~~will be~~ is available for stakeholders and the public seeking specific detailed information about the GSP. Contact:

Bryan Bondy, PG, CHG, (805) 212-0484, email BBondy@uvrgroundwater.org

4 OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The UVRGA ~~will implement~~ is implementing the following outreach activities to maximize stakeholder involvement ~~during the development of the GSP and~~ throughout SGMA implementation.

4.1 Public Notices

To ensure that the general public is apprised of local activities and allow stakeholders to access information, SGMA specifies several public notice requirements for GSAs. Refer to Table 1 in Appendix A for a summary of statutory requirements. Three sections of the California Water Code require public notice before establishing a GSA, adopting (or amending) a GSP, or imposing or increasing fees:

- Section 10723(b). "Before electing to be a groundwater sustainability agency, and after publication of notice pursuant to Section 6066 of the Government Code, the local agency or agencies shall hold a public hearing in the county or counties overlying the basin."
- Section 10728.4. "A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing, held at least 90 days after providing notice to a city or county within the area of the proposed plan or amendment. ..."
- Section 10730(b)(1). "Prior to imposing or increasing a fee, a groundwater sustainability agency shall hold at least one public meeting, at which oral or written presentations may be made as part of the meeting....(3) At least 10 days prior to the meeting, the

groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public data upon which the proposed fee is based.”

~~• In accordance with California Water Code Section 10723(b), the following was noticed to the public: On March 9, 2017, the UVRGA held a public hearing to consider becoming a GSA for the UVR Basin. The public hearing was noticed in the *Ventura County Star* and *Ojai Valley News* in accordance with Government Code Section 6066.~~

- Future noticing will occur as required by SGMA.

4.2 Stakeholder Identification

Pursuant to Water Code Sections 10723.8(a)(4) and 10723.2, the Agency will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing a GSP.

UVRGA ~~has~~ engaged stakeholders in the development of the Agency to serve as the GSA. For example, during development of the joint powers authority agreement (“JPA Agreement”) forming the Agency, the signatory members held numerous public meetings to discuss important terms to be included in the JPA Agreement. The signatory members also held multiple stakeholder outreach meetings to engage and educate stakeholders within the UVR Basin about the SGMA requirements, the JPA Agreement, and the Agency’s intention to form a GSA for the UVR Basin. In addition to the Agency’s public outreach efforts, it also designated two seats on its seven-seat Board of Directors for Stakeholder Directors: one seat is reserved for an Agricultural Stakeholder Director and one seat is reserved for an Environmental Stakeholder Director.

The Agency ~~plans to continue~~continues its practice of seeking broad stakeholder engagement in management of the UVR Basin’s groundwater resources as it ~~undertakes the process to develop and implement the Plan for the UVR Basin over the next several years~~carries out and updates the GSP.

SGMA mandates that a GSA establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents. The UVRGA compiled a list of interested persons for this purpose that will be maintained ~~throughout the GSA formation and GSP development phases. An initial and updated.~~ A list of stakeholders and interested parties include, but are not limited to, the following:

a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

- 1) Agricultural well owners - There are agricultural users of groundwater operating on land overlying the UVR Basin. To account for these users’ interests, the Agency designated a seat on its seven-member governing board to be filled by an Agricultural Stakeholder Director. The Agricultural Stakeholder Director is appointed from nominations received by the Ventura County Farm Bureau. The Agricultural Stakeholder Director is responsible for engaging the UVR Basin’s agricultural users of groundwater and representing their interests before the Agency.

- 2) Domestic well owners - There are many domestic wells overlying the UVR Basin. It is believed that the majority—if not all—of these domestic well owners are de minimis users, as defined by SGMA. The Agency anticipates that the Plan will address the collective interests of domestic users of groundwater wells if issues emerge during Plan implementation and plans will reach out to engage in outreach to domestic wellthose owners throughout the development of the Plan throughby inviting their participation in the Agency’s public meetings.
- b) Municipal Well Operators - The Agency is a joint powers authority created by five local public agencies. Two of the Agency’s signatory members—the City of San Buenaventura and Casitas Municipal Water District—operate municipal wells within the UVR Basin and are represented on the Agency’s Board of Directors.
- c) Public water systems
 - 1) Casitas Municipal Water District
 - 2) Casitas Mutual Water Company
 - 3) Meiners Oaks Water District
 - 4) Rancho Matilija Mutual Water Company
 - 5) Tico Mutual Water Company
 - 6) Ventura River Water District
 - 7) Ventura Water (City of San Buenaventura)

Signatory members to the JPA Agreement forming the Agency, as well as the Agency itself, have communicated with these entities throughout development of the JPA Agreement and ~~the Agency’s decision to form a GSA for the UVR Basin.GSP.~~ The Agency will continue to communicate with these entities ~~concerning Plan development and during plan implementation and opportunities to participate in the process, including through the advisory committee to be established. In addition to holding multiple public meetings, the Agency also plans to retain a seat on an advisory committee for a representative chosen from among the public water companies overlying the UVR Basin.~~

- d) Local land use planning agencies - Both the County of Ventura (“County”) and the City of Ojai have land use planning authority on land overlying the UVR Basin. The County is a signatory member to the JPA Agreement forming the Agency and represented on the Agency’s Board of Directors. ~~As noted above, although the~~ The City of Ojai declined to participate in the JPA, ~~the Agency intends to coordinate with.~~ However, in February 2022 the City requested to become a member of Ojai the GSA. An ad hoc committee was appointed, and keep them informed about Plan development activities through public meetings and other outreach. ~~the process has not been completed as of this update.~~

- e) Environmental Organizations and Ecosystem Government Agencies - There are numerous environmental organizations dedicated to preserving and maintaining environmental values operating within the boundaries of the UVR Basin. To account for these users' interests, the Agency designated a seat on its seven- member governing board to be filled by an Environmental Stakeholder Director. The Environmental Stakeholder Director is appointed from nominations received from local environmental nonprofit organizations ~~supportive of operating in~~ the UVR ~~Basin's groundwater sustainability~~ Basin. The Environmental Stakeholder Director is responsible for engaging stakeholders within the UVR Basin representing environmental users of surface and groundwater and representing their interests before the Agency. Environmental organizations and government agencies include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1) California Department of Fish and Wildlife

2) Wildlife Conservation Board

3) State Water Resources Control Board, Instream Flow element of California Water Action Plan

34) Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

45) National Marine Fisheries Service

56) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

7) State Coastal Conservancy

8) Ventura County Public Works, Watershed Protection District

9) Ventura County Resource Conservation District

10) Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

611) Matilija Coalition

712) Surfrider Foundation

813) Friends of the Ventura River

914) Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

1015) Ojai Green Coalition

1116) Cal Trout

1217) Ventura River Watershed Council

- f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater. - Based on past studies performed in the UVR Basin, there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater in certain areas of the Ventura River. The State Water Resources Control Board ("SWRCB") identifies Six entities and/or individuals that have claimed either riparian or appropriative surface water rights to the Ventura River. Three of these six rights holders are signatory members to the JPA Agreement forming the Agency and represented on the Agency's Board of Directors. ~~The Agency plans to engage with the other three water rights holders throughout development of the Plan to better understand and take into account their interests. The Agency is engaged with Mr. Ford and Mr. Cromer through~~

the Agricultural Stakeholder Director, and Rancho Matilija is engaged through the Rancho Matilija Mutual Water Company's representative, who participated in phases of GSP development.

- 1) City of San Buenaventura
- 2) Casitas Municipal Water District
- 3) Meiners Oaks Water District
- 4) Ernest Ford
- 5) Michael Cromer
- 6) Rancho Matilija

g) The federal government – No land overlying the UVR Basin is managed by the Federal Government

h) California Native American Tribes

~~1) Barbareño-Ventureño Band of Mission Indians~~

~~- A representative of overlying California Native American tribes is, the Barbareño-Ventureño Band of Mission Indians, was on the Agency's interested parties list, as a result of which this individual receives notices of all Agency meetings the GSA formed, but then did not re-subscribe once the formal interested parties list was made. The tribe does not have any land overlying the Upper Ventura groundwater basin. Our agency's director reached out directly to the tribe's elder and other stakeholder involvement opportunities. was contacted by the attorney for the tribe just after the formation of the agency.~~

i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems. The community of Casitas Springs is recognized as a disadvantaged community. The community is served by Casitas Mutual Water Company, Ventura River Water District, and Casitas Municipal Water District, the latter two being signatory members to the JPA Agreement forming the Agency. Thus, the community is represented on the Agency's Board of Directors.

~~1) Casitas Springs~~

~~2) Ojala~~

j) Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency. The County is the designated California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring ("CASGEM") entity for the UVR Basin. The County is a signatory member to the JPA Agreement forming the Agency and represented on the Agency's Board of Directors.

The UVRGA ~~intends~~will continue to work cooperatively with partner agencies, stakeholders, and interested parties ~~to develop and implement~~as the GSP is implemented and updated for the UVR Basin ~~and. The Agency will maintain and update~~ a list of stakeholders and interested parties ~~to be included in.~~ After the GSA formation of a new interested parties list was started

~~that only included people who specifically requested to be added to the GSP-list as we added a disclaimer on the website that lets people know their information would be released if a public records act request is received (see <https://uvrgroundwater.org/join-interested-parties-list/>). We emailed the pre-GSA unofficial list on (DATE) to letting them know if they wanted to continue to be on the interested parties list that they would need to register on the website.~~

A person can be added to the interested parties list by following directions on the UVRGA website: <http://www.uvrgroundwater.org> or by contacting the Executive Director.

4.3 Integrated Regional Water Management

The Ventura River Watershed Council is actively involved in the community on a wide range of issues affecting the watershed, including the UVR Basin. The Council prepared a watershed management plan in 2015. Since this group provides a forum for the discussion of issues that are important to the community, it is important for this group to be ~~well informed throughout~~ updated on the GSP development implementation. Representatives from the UVRGA attend Council meetings to provide up-to-date information and hear feedback from Council members.

4.4 Public Hearings/Meetings

4.4.1 Planning Commission

Updates on SGMA ~~planning and~~ implementation will be provided to the Ventura County and City of Ojai Planning Commissions- as needed.

4.4.2 Public Meetings

Comprehensive stakeholder involvement will include ~~regularly scheduled~~ public meetings to aid in ~~developing and~~ implementing the GSP. ~~Each GSP chapter will be the subject of a public meeting to receive comments prior to approval.~~ In addition to signing up to receive information about GSP development implementation at the UVRGA webpage, interested parties may participate in the ~~development and~~ implementation of the GSP by attending and participating in public meetings (Water Code Section 10727.8(a)). Prior public meetings have been held at the Casitas Municipal Water District, 1055 Ventura Avenue, Oak View, or the Oak View Community Center, 18 Valley Rd, Oak View. Future public meetings will likely be held at these locations. During the COVID-18 pandemic, public meetings have been and will be held virtually using ~~GotoMeeting~~ Zoom or similar platform. Special meetings may be held at different locations to accommodate a larger attendance. Each meeting will have a scheduled time for public comments. Information about upcoming meetings can be found on the UVRGA website: ~~<http://www.uvrgroundwater.org>~~ <http://www.uvrgroundwater.org>.

4.4.3 Local Agency Meetings

To ensure their constituency is kept informed of the progress of GSP ~~development and~~ implementation and updates, the Directors representing UVRGA member agencies, which consist of County of Ventura, City of San Buenaventura-, Casitas Municipal Water District-, Meiners Oaks Water District, and Ventura River Water District have committed to providing periodic updates during their regularly scheduled board meetings. These meetings offer a chance for the public to receive information and provide comment. Information about upcoming meetings are provided on the following agency websites, or by the means each agency currently meets its legal noticing requirements, whichever is

appropriate:

<http://venturariverwd.com>

<http://casitaswater.org>

<http://meinersoakswater.com>

<http://cityofventura.ca.gov>

<http://ventura.org> (Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission)

4.5 Direct Mailings/Email

Public meetings and project information will be disseminated through email, from the Agency office, or direct mail under special circumstances if requested. This communication will provide information for the Ventura River ~~valley~~**Basin** community, public agencies, and other interested persons/organizations about milestones, meetings, and the progress of GSP

~~development-implementation.~~ Property owners with groundwater wells within the basin are notified via email and/or direct mailings about the establishment of an interested persons list and given the opportunity to receive future notices.

4.6 Newsletters/Columns

Updates will be provided to the *Ventura County Star* and the *Ojai Valley News* newspapers to advise, educate, and inform the public on SGMA implementation.

4.7 UVRGA Website

Updates on ~~the GSP-development-and~~ implementation will be provided on the UVRGA website. In addition, general information about SGMA and groundwater conditions will be produced by ~~the~~ UVRGA. This information will include maps, timelines, frequently asked questions, groundwater information, and schedules/agenda of upcoming meetings and milestones. This information will be accessible on the UVRGA webpage located at:

<http://www.urvgroundwater.org>. UVRGA staff will update the website and invite users to request information or be added to the interested persons list.

4.8 Database

To distribute information about GSP ~~developmentimplementation and updates~~, an email list has been compiled into a database of interested persons and stakeholders. The database will be updated regularly to add names of attendees at public meetings along with those requesting information via email or the through the UVRGA website.

4.9 Tribal Engagement

~~Portions~~**Members** of the Barbareno-Ventureno Band of -Mission Indians ~~are located~~**live** within the UVR Basin. Although the tribe is not subject to the requirements of SGMA, any federally recognized Indian tribe may voluntarily participate with GSAs in the preparation or administration of a GSP.

Since tribal participation is integral to the success of groundwater sustainability in the UVR Basin, tribal participation is encouraged. After the UVRGA was formed, communication was established with the Tribal Elder, Julie Tumamait, to determine the preferred level of involvement throughout GSP development and implementation. ~~UVRGA will maintain close contact with Barbareno-Ventureno Band of Mission Indians throughout the GSP development~~

~~process and GSP implementation.~~ There was no tribal engagement during GSP development.
A letter was written to the Barbareño-Ventureño Band of Mission Indians (November 2022—TO DO) letting them know about our agency including a link to the GSP and information on how to join the interested parties list.

4.10 Additional Opportunities

Additional opportunities for stakeholder participation (e.g., an advisory committee) will be considered as GSP ~~development~~implementation progresses and as stakeholder interests evolve.

5 EVALUATION

To ~~determine~~evaluate the level of success of the Engagement Plan, the UVRGA will implement the following measures:

5.1 Attendance/Participation

A record of those attending public meetings ~~will be~~has been maintained throughout the GSP development process. The UVRGA ~~will utilize~~utilized sign-in sheets and ~~request~~requested feedback from attendees to determine adequacy of public education and productive engagement in the GSP ~~development and~~ implementation process. Meeting minutes ~~will also be~~were prepared and ~~will be provided~~once approved were uploaded on the UVRGA website ~~once approved.~~

The UVRGA board meeting notes are regularly approved and uploaded to the website and these notes include inquiries and discussions from attending members of the public and interested parties.

5.2 Adherence to Schedule

Public participation in developing projects and management actions for inclusion in the GSP is instrumental to the success of the GSP. Keeping these tasks on schedule will be an important indicator of stakeholder involvement.

5.3 Plan Update

This Plan will be reviewed and updated ~~at least annually every 5 years~~ or more frequently if needed.

APPENDIX A

TABLE 1

TABLE 1: Statutory Requirements of SGMA Referenced in this Plan

<i>During GSA Formation:</i>	
“Before electing to be a groundwater sustainability agency... the local agency or agencies shall hold a public hearing.”	Water Code Sec. 10723 (b)
“A list of interested parties [shall be] developed [along with] an explanation of how their interests will be considered.”	Water Code Sec. 10723.8.(a)(4)
<i>During GSP Development and Implementation:</i>	
“A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing”.	Water Code Sec. 10728.4
“Prior to imposing or increasing a fee, a groundwater sustainability agency shall hold at least one public meeting”.	Water Code Sec. 10730(b)(1)
“The groundwater sustainability agency shall establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents”.	Water Code Sec. 10723.4
“Any federally recognized Indian Tribe... may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a groundwater sustainability plan or groundwater management plan... A participating Tribe shall be eligible to participate fully in planning, financing, and management under this part”.	Water Code Sec. 10720.3(c)
“The groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public and the department a written statement describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan”.	Water Code Sec. 10727.8(a)
<i>Throughout SGMA Implementation:</i>	
“The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater”.	Water Code Sec. 10723.2
“The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin”.	Water Code Sec. 10727.8(a)

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

DATE: November 10, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: GSP Summary Presentation – Part 2 of 2

SUMMARY

For the benefit of the newer UVRGA Directors and the public, the Executive Director will provide a summary of the UVRGA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The first of two presentations was provided during the October 13, 2022 Board meeting and focused on the overall structure of the GSP and the Basin Setting section. The second presentation will be provided during the November 10, 2022 Board meeting and will focus on the sustainable management criteria (SMC) and projects and management actions included in the GSP.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Receive a presentation by the Executive Director summarizing the GSP.

BACKGROUND

The Board of Directors adopted the GSP on January 6, 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

None