

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 12, 2023**

The Regular Board meeting was held via teleconference, in accordance with Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Board Resolution No. 2021-05. Directors present were Bruce Kuebler, Arne Anselm, Pete Kaiser, Jenny Tribo, and Vivon Crawford. Directors absent: Mike Etchart and Emily Ayala. Also present: Executive Director Bryan Bondy, Agency Counsel Keith Lemieux, and Administrative Assistant Maureen Tucker. Identified public members present: Alma Quezada, Bert Rapp, Mary Bergen, and Justin Martinez.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Kuebler called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Executive Director Bondy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) ROLL CALL

Executive Director Bondy called roll.

Directors Present: Bruce Kuebler, Arne Anselm, Pete Kaiser, Vivon Crawford, and Jenny Tribo

Directors Absent: Mike Etchart and Emily Ayala

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

Vice Chair Kuebler asked for any proposed changes to the agenda and an update on the status of Assembly Bill 361. Agency Counsel Lemieux briefed the Board on the termination of the emergency order in February 2023 and rules for remote meetings beginning March 1, 2023.

Executive Director Bondy suggested deferring item 10(c) due to Chair Etchart's absence because the item is intended to benefit directors who were not on the Board during the groundwater sustainability plan development process.

Director Anselm moved agenda approval with the removal of 10(c) and renewal of Resolution 2021-05. Director Kaiser seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y J. Tribo – Y V. Crawford - Y

A. Anselm - Y P. Kaiser – Y

Directors Absent: Mike Etchart and Emily Ayala

5) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

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

No comments were offered.

6) CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Approve Minutes from November 10, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Approve Financial Report for November 2022
- c. Approve Financial Report for December 2022
- d. Approve Fiscal Audit Agreement with Ventura River Water District
- e. Approve Letter of Support for Ventura River Water District Grant Application
- f. Approve Letter of Support for Ojai Valley Land Conservancy Land Acquisition Funding

In reference to Item 6(f), Director Kuebler requested a map of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's proposed land acquisition. Director Crawford said she would provide a map.

Director Crawford moved approval of all consent calendar items. Director Tribo seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y A. Anselm - Y J. Tribo - Y

 P. Kaiser - Y V. Crawford - Y

Directors Absent: Mike Etchart and Emily Ayala

7) DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Directors may provide oral report on items not appearing on the agenda.

Director Kuebler: No report.

Director Crawford: Reported on the effects of flooding and erosion on native vegetation and *arundo donax*.

Director Kaiser asked if any wells were impacted by the flooding. Director Tribo reported on the status of the City of Ventura's facilities.

Director Kaiser No report.

Director Anselm No report.

Director Tribo No further report.

Directors Absent: Mike Etchart and Emily Ayala

8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Bondy reported on Agency matters since the last Board meeting.

Director Kaiser inquired about potential FEMA funding. Executive Director Bondy said he would investigate if any monitoring wells were lost.

No public comments.

9) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a. Reappoint Agricultural Stakeholder Director

Director Kaiser moved the reappointment of Emily Ayala for the Agricultural Stakeholder Director two-year term beginning February 1, 2023. Director Crawford seconded the motion.

No public comments.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y A. Anselm - Y J. Tribo - Y

 P. Kaiser - Y V. Crawford - Y

Directors Absent: Mike Etchart and Emily Ayala

b. Reappoint Environmental Stakeholder Director

Director Kaiser moved the reappointment of Vivon Crawford for the Environmental Stakeholder Director two-year term beginning February 1, 2023. Director Tribo seconded the motion.

No public comments.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y A. Anselm - Y J. Tribo - Y

 P. Kaiser - Y V. Crawford - Y

Directors Absent: Mike Etchart and Emily Ayala

No public comments.

c. Conflict of Interest Code Amendment

Executive Director Bondy summarized the proposed changes to the conflict of interest code recommended by the Ventura County. Director Kaiser thanked Executive Director Bondy for the changes and moved adoption of Resolution 2023-01 to update the conflict of interest code. Director Anselm seconded the motion.

No public comments.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y A. Anselm - Y J. Tribo - Y

P. Kaiser - Y V. Crawford - Y

Directors Absent: Mike Etchart and Emily Ayala

10) GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. Well Registration Update

Executive Director Bondy provided an update on the well registration progress. Letters were sent to well owners on September 16, 2022. Registration status is: (1) registrations not required – 46 wells; (2) wells registered – 48; and (3) unregistered wells: 94. He added that 25 of 94 unregistered wells are suspected to be abandoned or inactive based on County of Ventura records or information compiled by former Director Larry Rose. He proposed no future action on those wells. He described planned follow-up actions for the remaining 69 wells.

Public Comment: Alma Quezada suggested adding Ventura County staff person Jeff Dorrington’s contact info to the letters in case the well owners need to obtain information about their well.

Director Anselm recommended including a phone number that will work in case Jeff Dorrington is out of the office. Director Anselm will provide the phone number to the Executive Director.

Director Kaiser inquired if there is any recourse if well owners do not comply. Executive Director Bondy said the ordinance defines fines and penalties. Agency Counsel Lemieux briefly summarized the options.

Director Kaiser said he wants equitable treatment of all parties. He requested an update on the status of unregistered wells at the next meeting.

b. PUBLIC HEARING - Proposed Amendment to Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2)

Executive Director Bondy and Agency Counsel Lemieux summarized the proposed ordinance amendment.

Vice Chair Kuebler opened the public hearing at 1:24 p.m.

Alma Quezada inquired if the ordinance applies to *de minimis* well owners and public water systems. Agency Counsel confirmed the ordinance applies to all wells within the Agency.

After hearing no further testimony, Vice Chair Kuebler closed the public hearing at 1:26 p.m.

Director Kaiser moved to read proposed Ordinance No. 2 in title only and schedule a second public hearing at the next regular meeting. Director Anselm seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Kuebler read in title “An Ordinance of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Amending Ordinance No. 1 (Well Registration, Metering, and Reporting Requirements), Section 2.1.1, as it relates to new Well Registrations.”

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y V. Crawford – Y J. Tribo - Y

 A. Anselm - Y P. Kaiser – Y

Directors Absent: Mike Etchart and Emily Ayala

c. GSP Summary Presentation – Part 2 of 2

This item was postponed during agenda review.

11) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee

No report.

No public comments.

12) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Penalties for well registration non-compliance, when appropriate.

13) ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B. Kuebler__ P. Kaiser__ A. Anselm__ M. Etchart__ J. Tribo__ V. Crawford__ E. Ayala__