

## **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 12:30 P.M. on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at the Ventura River Water District Meeting Room, 409 Old Baldwin Road, Ojai, CA 93023.**

#### **ON-LINE / TELECONFERENCE ACCESS FOR REMOTE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**DIAL-IN: Toll Free US 1 (888) 788-0099 or 1 (877) 853-5247**

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88500007127?pwd=aXp5NWIDLzBEVHh5RDJWL0RqVWg2QT09>

Meeting ID: 885 0000 7127 Passcode: 680259

### **UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**May 11, 2023**

#### **1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

#### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **3. ROLL CALL**

#### **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

#### **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 March 9, 2023 Regular Board Meeting**

**b. Approve Financial Report for March 2023**

**c. Approve Financial Report for April 2023**

**d. Authorize Executive Director to Execute Agreement with Ventura County Office of Assessor for Assessor Parcel Maps and Property Records**

## **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. Fiscal Year 2023/2034 Annual Budget**

The Board will consider approving a fiscal year 2023/2024 budget and multi-year budget projection and consider scheduling a public hearing to adopt groundwater extraction fees for fiscal year 2023/2024.

### **b. Financial Reserves Investment**

The Board will consider providing direction to an ad hoc committee and/or staff concerning investment of the Agency's financial reserves.

## **10. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS**

### **a. Impact of Flooding on Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems and Associated Monitoring Programs**

Rincon Consultants, Inc. will provide a presentation concerning flooding impacts to riparian vegetation, Ventura River channel morphology, and the GDE monitoring programs. The Board may provide feedback or direction to staff.

### **b. Well Registration Update**

The Executive Director will provide an update on well registration progress. The Board may provide feedback or direction to staff concerning well registration process and/or penalties for non-compliance.

### **c. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Approval**

The Executive Director will provide a summary of the Department of Water Resources GSP assessment and approval. The Board may provide feedback or direction to staff.

## **11. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

The committee will provide an update on Stakeholder Engagement Plan implementation activities since the last Board meeting and receive feedback from the Board.

## **12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

This is an opportunity for the Directors to request items for future agendas.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2023 at 12:30 P.M.

## **UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MARCH 9, 2023**

The Regular Board meeting was held in person at Ventura River Water District Meeting Room, 409 Old Baldwin Road, Ojai, CA 93023. Directors present were Bruce Kuebler, Arne Anselm, Mary Bergen, Jenny Tribo, Mike Etchart, Emily Ayala, and Vivon Crawford. Also present: Executive Director Bryan Bondy, Agency Counsel Keith Lemieux and Administrative Assistant Maureen Tucker. Identified public members present: Jim Kentosh and Alma Quezada.

Directors and Alternate Directors were sworn in prior to the start of meeting: Bruce Kuebler, Mary Bergen, Emily Ayala, Vivon Crawford, Alma Quezada.

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

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

### **2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Executive Director Bryan Bondy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3) ROLL CALL**

Executive Director Bondy called roll.

Directors Present: Bruce Kuebler, Mary Bergen, Vivon Crawford, Jenny Tribo, Mike Etchart, and Emily Ayala

Directors Absent: Arne Anselm (arrived after Item No. 6).

Executive Director Bondy welcomed the new/returning Directors.

### **4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Etchart asked for any proposed changes to the agenda.

Director Kuebler moved agenda approval. Director Ayala seconded the motion.

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

M. Bergen – Y Etchart - Y Ayala - Y

Director Absent: A. Anselm

**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 January 12, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Approve Financial Report for January 2023
- c. Approve Financial Report for February 2023
- d. Approve Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Financial Audit Report

Executive Director Bondy requested to pull item (d) Approve Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Financial Audit Report for discussion.

Director Bergen moved approval of consent items a, b and c. Director Crawford seconded the motion.

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

M. Bergen - Y V. Crawford – Y Etchart – Y

Directors Absent: A. Anslem

Executive Director Bondy explained that the auditors have not finalized the audit report and that it must be submitted to the County by April 1.

Director Kuebler moved to authorize the Executive Director to submit the audit report and make the final report available to the Board at its next meeting. Director Ayala seconded the motion.

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

M. Bergen - Y V. Crawford – Y Etchart – Y

Directors Absent: A. Anslem

Director Arne Anslem arrived following the vote.

## **7) DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Director Kuebler: Attended the recent OBGMA meeting. General Manager John Mundy is retiring. Casitas Municipal Water District is providing staff in the interim.

Director Crawford: OVLC has applied for funding for the projects in the watershed.

Director Bergen: Lake Casitas level is 53% and rising.

Director Anselm: No report.

Director Tribo: No report.

Director Ayala: No report.

Director Etchart: No report.

Director Kuebler asked Director Anselm about the use of eminent domain to remove Arundo. Agency counsel cautioned the Directors against discussing matters not on the agenda.

Director Absent: None

## **8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

Director Ayala asked about groundwater levels. Executive Director Bondy said groundwater level data are downloaded twice per year. The next batch of data will be available in June.

Director Crawford mentioned that OVLC has acquired some post-flood drone aerial photography. Executive Director Bondy said he would ask Rincon Consultants, Inc. to contact her.

No public comments.

## **9) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

- a. **Small Groundwater Sustainability Agency Coalition Participation**

Executive Director Bondy briefed the Board on the Small GSA Coalition's efforts lobbying for financial funding for small GSAs. He described the criteria for inclusion in the coalition and explained how participation may benefit UVRGA financially. The

coalition would like to use name, basic information, and logo when lobbying. He wants to make sure the Board is comfortable with this.

Director Kuebler said he supports participation in the coalition.

Director Crawford asked if other Ventura County agencies are involved. Executive Director Bondy said the Mound Basin GSA will be deciding soon. He mentioned that the Carpinteria and Montecito GSAs are participating.

Director Bergen moved to direct Executive Director Bondy to participate on behalf of UVRGA in the Small Groundwater Sustainability Agency Coalition. Director Anselm seconded the motion.

No public comments.

Roll Call Vote:            B. Kuebler – Y   A. Anselm - Y   J. Tribo - Y  
                                     M. Bergen - Y   V. Crawford – Y   Etchart – Y   Ayala - Y

Directors Absent: None

**b. Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Mid-Year Budget Report and Mid-Year Budget Modifications**

Executive Director Bondy summarized the Mid-Year Budget Report and recommended budget modifications.

Director Ayala moved to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Mid-Year Budget Report and approve moving \$82,069.36 from capital expenditures and \$9,206.94 from capital expenditures contingency to a capital reserve. Director Anselm seconded the motion.

No public comments.

Roll Call Vote:            B. Kuebler – Y   A. Anselm - Y   J. Tribo - Y  
                                     M. Bergen - Y   V. Crawford – Y   Etchart – Y   Ayala - Y

Directors Absent: None

## **10) GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS**

### **a. PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **Proposed Amendment to Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2)**

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the Proposed Amendment to Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2). The Board conducted a public hearing at the January 12, 2023 meeting, and read the Ordinance in title only. A second public hearing and adoption of the ordinance is proposed for today.

Agency Counsel Lemieux stated that UVRGA, as the legal agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) can determine that the ordinance is exempt from CEQA review.

**Chair Etchart opened the public hearing at 1:09 p.m.**

Chair Etchart asked for public comments. No comments provided.

**Chair Etchart closed the public hearing at 1:10 p.m.**

Director Anslem made a clarification regarding the permits issued by the County. The County does not control water out of the well. UVRGA can regulate pumping.

Director Anslem moved to read Ordinance No. 2 in title only. Director Kuebler seconded the motion.

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

M. Bergen - Y V. Crawford – Y Etchart – Y Ayala - Y

Directors Absent: None

Agency Counsel Keith Lemieux read the ordinance in title only: “Ordinance No. 2: 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.”

Director Kuebler moved adoption of Ordinance No. 2: 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.”

Director Tribo seconded the motion.

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

M. Bergen - Y V. Crawford – Y Etchart – Y Ayala - Y

Directors Absent: None

### **b. Well Registration Update**

Executive Director Bondy provided an update on the well registration progress:

- Registration Not Required: 47 wells (+1 since January)
- Registered: 51 wells (+3 since January)
- Unregistered: 90 wells (-4 since January)

Of the 90 unregistered wells, 52 are listed as active in County records and did not respond to the registration request sent in September. Some people contacted UVRGA to notify us they are no longer the property owner. It appears the contact information is outdated. Executive Director Bondy requested the assessor rolls from the County Assessor’s office in December, but has not had any luck despite numerous follow-ups. He requested Director Anselm’s assistance.

Public Comment: Jim Kentosh asked if *de minimis* pumpers need to register. Executive Director Bondy said that they need to register, but there are no fees or flow meter requirements.

Public Comment: Alma Quezada asked if quarterly reporting is required. Executive Director Bondy said yes. The Member Agencies are already reading their meters and the data is available. This is mostly to get private pumpers to do the same.

Public comments: None

### **c. Annual Report for Water Year 2021/2022**

Executive Director Bondy said UVRGA is required to submit annual reports to the Department of Water Resources by April 1, 2023. The second annual report was prepared by Intera, Inc. in collaboration with Executive Director Bondy. He asked if there were any comments on the annual report.



Director Kuebler requested clarification of the discussion concerning change in storage, groundwater levels, and streamflow on Page 1 of the Executive Summary because some of the discussion seems internally inconsistent. Executive Director Bondy reviewed the text and said he sees the issue and will work with Intera, Inc. to make things clearer.

Director Kuebler asked for an explanation of Figure 3.4. Executive Director Bondy reviewed and explained charts in the figure.

Executive Director Bondy said he can make sure the requested changes to the executive summary are made prior to submitting the report to DWR. Agency Counsel stated that the Board could adopt the report and direct the Executive Director to make the changes prior to submittal.

Director Kuebler moved approval of the Annual Report for Water Year 2021/2022 and direct the Executive Director to revisit the language on page 1 of the executive summary. Director Anselm seconded the motion.

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

A. Anselm - Y M. Bergen – Y Etchart – Y Ayala - Y

Directors Absent: None

#### **d. GSP Summary Presentation – Part 2 of 2**

Executive Director Bondy presented part 2 of the GSP Summary. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes.

### **11) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

The committee has not met and does not have a report.

### **12) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No items were requested by any directors.

Alternate Director Bergen requested future meetings include a Zoom option for the public. She would like to listen remotely when she is not actively serving on the Board.

No public comments.

**13) ADJOURNMENT**

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2023, at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.


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







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

B. Kuebler \_ A. Anslem \_ V. Crawford \_ M. Bergen \_ J. Tribo \_ M. Etchart \_ E. Ayala

UPPER VENTURA RIVER  
GROUNDWATER AGENCY  
GSP SUMMARY PRESENTATION  
PART 2 OF 2



NOVEMBER 10, 2022  
ITEM 10(c)



1

Original scheduled date of presentation.  
Deferred until March 13, 2023.

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.

2

TOPICS

°Part 1 (Last Month)

- SGMA Background
- What's in a GSP
- Summary of Basin Setting

°Part 2 (Today)

- Sustainable Management Criteria
- Projects and Management Actions
- GSP Implementation

3

Upper Ventura River  
GROUNDWATER AGENCY  
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

SUSTAINABLE  
MANAGEMENT  
CRITERIA



Surface Water  
Depletion

Reduction  
of Storage

Degraded  
Quality

Seawater  
Intrusion

Land  
Subsidence

Lowering  
GW Levels



4

## SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

### ° Sustainability Goal

### ° Sustainability Indicators



#### ■ Undesirable Results

- Significant and unreasonable effects occurring throughout the basin related to any of the six sustainability indicators

#### ■ Minimum Thresholds

- Quantitative metrics indicating undesirable results exist in a particular area

#### ■ Measureable Objectives

- Quantitative metrics that reflect basin desired conditions in a particular area

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## SUSTAINABILITY GOAL

### ° High-level policy framework to guide development of Sustainable Management Criteria & Plan Actions:

*Sustainably manage the groundwater resources of the Upper Ventura River Basin for the benefit of current and anticipated future beneficial users of groundwater, including the environment, and the welfare of the general public who rely directly or indirectly on groundwater... ensure the long-term reliability of the Upper Ventura River Basin groundwater resources by avoiding SGMA undesirable results no later than 20 years from Plan adoption through implementation of a data-driven and performance-based adaptive management framework.*

6

6

## DEFINING UNDESIRABLE RESULTS IS A CRITICAL STEP IN GSP DEVELOPMENT

### ° Qualitatively, its the effects that GSA wants to avoid:

- Based on potential effects on the beneficial uses and users of groundwater, on land uses and property interests.
- Not all effects are necessarily unreasonable.



### ° Quantitatively, URs are the combination of minimum threshold exceedance deemed to indicate URs are occurring.

### ° URs determined locally by GSA in consultation with stakeholders and public input.

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## IDENTIFIED BENEFICIAL USERS CONSIDERED IN SMC DEVELOPMENT

### ° Groundwater

- Municipal, agricultural, and domestic water supply wells
- Riparian Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs)



### ° Surface Water:

- Municipal diversions
- Agricultural diversion
- Aquatic GDEs
- Recreation



DBAG

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## IDENTIFICATION OF GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS

° 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 depend on groundwater for survival
  - 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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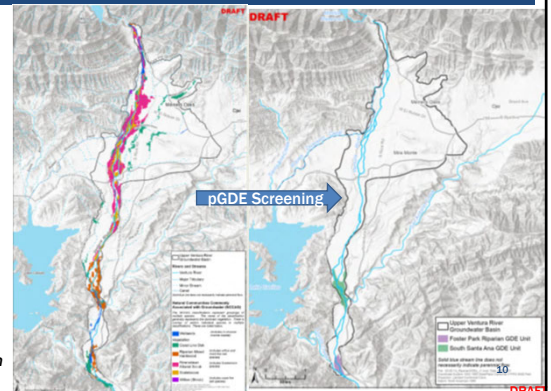
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## IDENTIFICATION OF RIPARIAN GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS

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

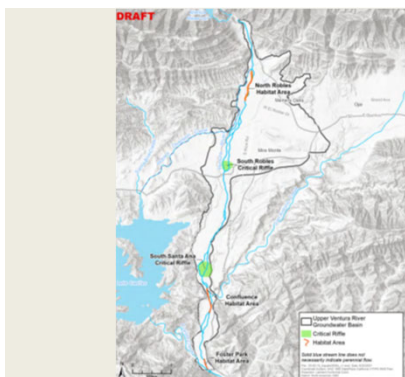


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## IDENTIFICATION OF AQUATIC GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS

Potential aquatic habitat areas were identified and reviewed

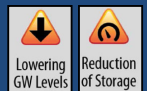
Five aquatic habitat areas identified for consideration in the GSP



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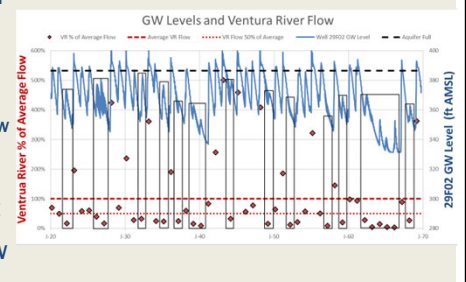
## GROUNDWATER LEVELS & STORAGE SMC



° No chronic GW level declines or storage reduction historically and not anticipated

° Basin refills in years when Ventura River flow is  $\sim$ 50% of average flow


° Address pumping effects during periods of low GW levels




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GROUNDWATER LEVELS & STORAGE SMC

Lowering GW Levels


Reduction of Storage


° Undesirable Results:

- **Qualitative:** Inability to produce water absent an alternative water supply and/or riparian GDEs unable to rebound after drought
- **Quantitative:** MTs exceeded in all seven representative monitoring wells across the basin

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GW LEVELS & STORAGE MINIMUM THRESHOLDS

Lowering GW Levels

Reduction of Storage


° Basis for Minimum Thresholds:


- No reported S&U effects with historical low GW levels
- Wells may be impacted at lower GW levels
- Impacts to riparian GDEs - Deeper groundwater levels could lead to more widespread or longstanding effects.

**Conclusion:** *minimum thresholds set at historical low GW levels will be reasonably protective against significant and unreasonable effects*

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GROUNDWATER LEVELS & STORAGE MEAS. OBJECTIVE

Lowering GW Levels


Reduction of Storage

° **Measurable Objectives:** Set at the typical high GW level historically observed in years when aquifer fills

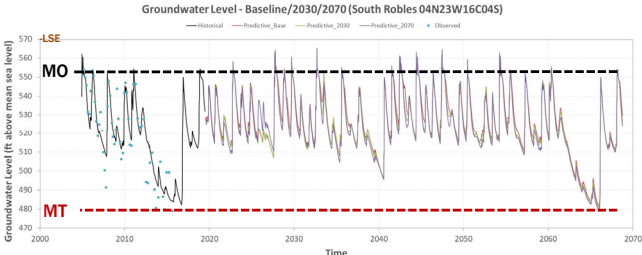
- MO usually should be met with spring high GW level when VR flow is > 50% of mean

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EXAMPLE SMC: SOUTHERN ROBLES AREA WELL



Groundwater Level - Baseline/2030/2070 (South Robles 04N23W16C04S)



MO

MT

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### GROUNDWATER LEVEL AND STORAGE UNDESIRABLE RESULTS

- 15 wells in monitoring network
- 7 wells have sufficient historical data to establish SMC
- Undesirable results = MT exceedance in all seven representative wells
- Gaps in monitoring network to be addressed during GSP implementation

Well with sufficient historical data to establish SMC

No longer in network

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### DEGRADED WATER QUALITY SMC

Degraded Quality

- GSA are required to address degradation of groundwater quality caused by “groundwater conditions”:
  - Groundwater pumping that causes degradation or that causes already degraded water to spread
  - GSP implementation – projects or management actions that cause degradation or that cause already degraded water to spread
- GSA are not responsible for any other aspects of water quality

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### DEGRADED WATER QUALITY SMC

Degraded Quality

- Naturally occurring water quality constituents:
  - Surface water quality controls groundwater quality
  - No meaningful nexus with groundwater pumping
  - No SMC required

Boron

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### DEGRADED WATER QUALITY SMC

Degraded Quality

- Nitrate
  - Elevated nitrate concentrations in Mira Monte / Meiners Oaks Area
  - Undesirable result = spreading of nitrate in excess of MCL (10/mg/L) to other areas of basin caused by pumping
  - MT = any 10 mg/L isocontour outside of MMMO area caused by pumping
  - MO based on background conc.
    - 7.5 mg/L in percolating GW areas
    - 3 mg/L in rising GW areas

MMMO

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## DEPLETION OF INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER SMC PROPOSAL






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**INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER (ISW) DEPLETION**

- ° SGMA requires quantification of 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.


GSP must address both types of depletion

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**ISW DEPLETION SMC**

- ° GSA must address pumping-related significant and unreasonable impacts (depletion) on beneficial uses:
  - Recreation
  - Surface water diversions
  - Aquatic GDEs




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ISW DEPLETION  
MODELING



Surface Water  
Depletion

° **Evaluation Method:** Compare model simulation with and without pumping

° **Evaluation Areas:**


- Near surface water diversions
- Near two critical riffle areas
- Near three habitat areas

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ISW DEPLETION  
EFFECTS ON DIVERSIONS



Surface Water  
Depletion

° **Surface water diversions:**


- **Rancho Matilija MWC (Kennedy Area)**
- **Robles Diversion (Robles Area)**
- **Downstream of Basin:**
  - Two small abandoned diversions (N/A)

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ISW DEPLETION  
EFFECTS ON DIVERSIONS

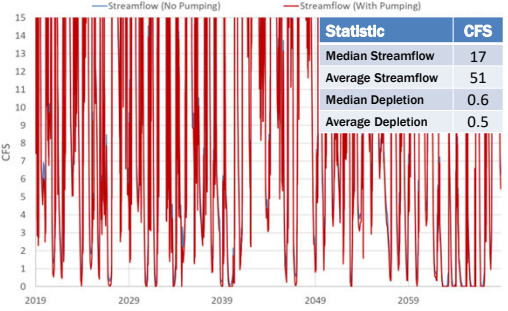


Surface Water  
Depletion

Simulated Increase in Ventura River Flow Without Non-City Pumping in Dry Season  
Near Rancho Matilija MWC and Robles Diversions

—Streamflow (No Pumping)

—Streamflow (With Pumping)




Statistic	CFS
Median Streamflow	17
Average Streamflow	51
Median Depletion	0.6
Average Depletion	0.5

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DIVERSIONS



Surface Water  
Depletion


° **Because estimated depletions are small, conclude there are not significant and unreasonable effects of depletion on diversions**

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ISW DEPLETION  
EFFECTS ON RECREATION



Surface Water  
Depletion

° Prominent Recreation Areas Coincide with Habitat Areas:

▪ Robles “Pool” – Robles Habitat Area

▪ Confluence / Steelhead Preserve – Confluence Habitat Area

▪ Foster Park – Foster Park Habitat Area


° Assume no significant and unreasonable effects on recreation if GDEs are addressed

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ISW UNDESIRABLE RESULTS  
FOR AQUATIC GDES



Surface Water  
Depletion

° Qualitative: prevent depletions of interconnected surface water that cause a degradation in habitat conditions that lead to substantial stress and/or potential mortality for steelhead

▪ Considerations:

▪ Riffle passage during migration season

▪ Stranding

▪ Mortality

° Quantitative: Exceedance the ISW depletion minimum threshold for a particular habitat area

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IMPORTANT  
AQUATIC GDE  
AREAS

° Critical Riffles

▪ South Robles

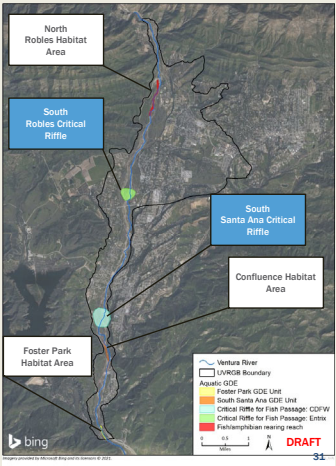
▪ Santa Ana

° Habitat Areas

▪ North Robles

▪ Confluence

▪ Foster Park




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MODELED DEPLETION  
IN AQUATIC GDE AREAS

Depletion of  
Potential Concern  
Under Certain  
Conditions



Surface Water  
Depletion

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Robles CR</b>												
Median Flow	4.4	26	22	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	0.6
Median Depletion	<0.1	0.2	0.4	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	<0.1
<b>Santa Ana CR</b>												
Median Flow	2.3	12	14	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	0.1
Median Depletion	<0.1	<0.1	1.2	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	<0.1
<b>Robles HA</b>												
Median Flow	14	32	32	12	6.3	0.9	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	0.5	5.2
Median Depletion	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	DRY	DRY	DRY	DRY	0.1	0.2
<b>Confluence HA</b>												
Median Flow	16	44	50	22	17	13	8.8	5.4	2.1	1.0	2.0	7.5
Median Depletion	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.8
<b>Foster Park HA</b>												
Median Flow	23	51	61	28	23	19	16	14	13	13	13	15
Median Depletion	4.0	7.0	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.1	6.6	35.1

All values are cubic feet per second (cfs).

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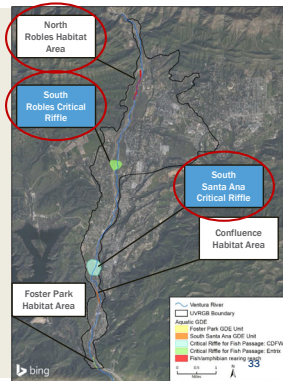
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## AQUATIC GDE AREAS



- Because estimated depletions are small, conclude there are not significant and unreasonable effects of depletion on three of the five Aquatic GDE areas:
  - North Robles Habitat Area
  - S. Robles Critical Riffle
  - S. Santa Ana Critical Riffle



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## CONFLUENCE HABITAT AREA WHAT DO WE KNOW?



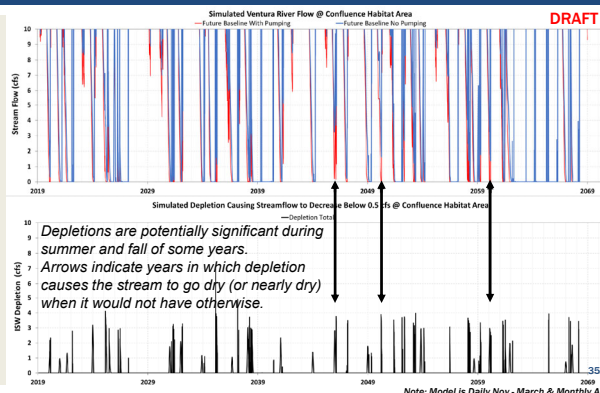
- Undepleted stream flow declines to zero (no flow) in the dry seasons of many years.
- Depletion causes stream to go dry sooner than it would otherwise.
  - Only a few years in which depletion causes the stream to go dry (or nearly dry) when it would not have otherwise.

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## STREAMFLOW DEPLETION CONFLUENCE HABITAT AREA

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## CONFLUENCE HABITAT AREA WHAT DON'T WE KNOW?



- Insufficient data to assess whether depletion effects are significant and unreasonable
  - Unknown whether aquatic species become stranded during critical periods or take refuge in perennial areas (San Antonio Creek or Foster Park)
- Groundwater levels and stream flow within the habitat area
- Uncertainty in model estimates of indirect depletion in the habitat area

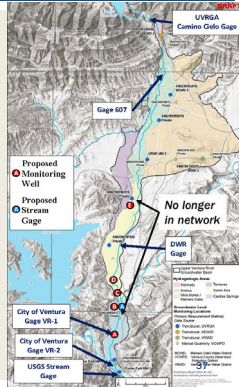
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## CONFLUENCE HABITAT AREA APPROACH



- ° Biological monitoring to assess whether S&U effects on aquatic GDEs occurs
- ° Construct monitoring wells within and upstream of habitat area
  - Sites B, C, D, & E
- ° Construct stream flow gage (A)
- ° Update modeling to better assess indirect depletion at habitat area
- ° Revisit need for SMC in first 5-year GSP assessment



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## FOSTER PARK HABITAT AREA UNDESIRABLE RESULTS



- ° Qualitative: Prevent depletions of interconnected surface water that cause a degradation in habitat conditions that lead to substantial stress and/or potential mortality for steelhead
- ° Quantitative: Exceedance of Foster Park area ISW depletion minimum threshold

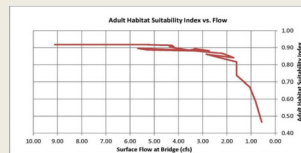
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## FOSTER PARK HABITAT AREA WHAT DO WE KNOW?



- ° Best available science for understanding ISW depletion effects at Foster Park = Hopkins (2013)
- ° Concurrent Rainbow Trout Habitat Suitability Indices (HSI) and surface flow monitoring.
- ° HSI score dropped steeply at 2 cfs (measured at the Casitas Vista Road bridge) indicating significant effects



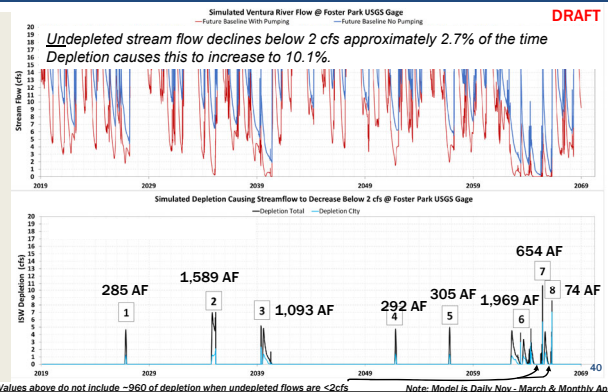
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Hopkins, 2013 available at: <https://uvrgroundwater.org/library/>

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## STREAMFLOW DEPLETION FOSTER PARK HABITAT AREA

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## FOSTER PARK HABITAT AREA WHAT DON'T WE KNOW?



- ° How representative the Hopkins 2013 study is over a longer period and with different antecedent conditions
- ° Groundwater levels between Foster Park and upstream portions of Basin – currently only one monitoring well between Foster Park and HWY 150
- ° Uncertainty in model estimates of indirect depletion in the habitat area

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## FOSTER PARK HABITAT AREA APPROACH



- ° Establish initial minimum threshold to prevent depletions of interconnected surface water that cause a degradation in habitat conditions that lead to substantial stress and/or potential mortality for steelhead based on Hopkins 2013 study
- ° Review in 5-yr GSP assessments based on
  - Biological monitoring
  - Implementation of “Foster Park Protocols”
  - Additional groundwater level and stream flow monitoring
  - Update modeling to better assess indirect depletion

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## FOSTER PARK HABITAT AREA APPROACH



- ° Data Gaps
  - Construct monitoring wells upstream of Foster Park in data gap areas (Sites A – E)
    - Couple Site A with City gage VR-1
    - Facilitate model updates to better estimate indirect depletion
  - Construct stream flow gage near confluence (Site A)
    - Understand surface water inflow to Foster Park



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## FOSTER PARK HABITAT AREA INITIAL ISW SMC




- ° Hopkins 2013 indicates potential significant and unreasonable results may occur if depletion causes depletion to or below a critical stream flow rate of 2 cfs (at USGS gage)
- ° Minimum Threshold based on Hopkins 2013:
  - Avoid causing stream flow to drop below critical flow (2cfs at USGS gage) when undepleted flow would not otherwise fall below 2 cfs
  - Avoid depletion when undepleted flows would be below 2cfs at USGS gage to avoid exacerbating critical conditions for aquatic species

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FOSTER PARK HABITAT AREA  
INITIAL ISW SMC

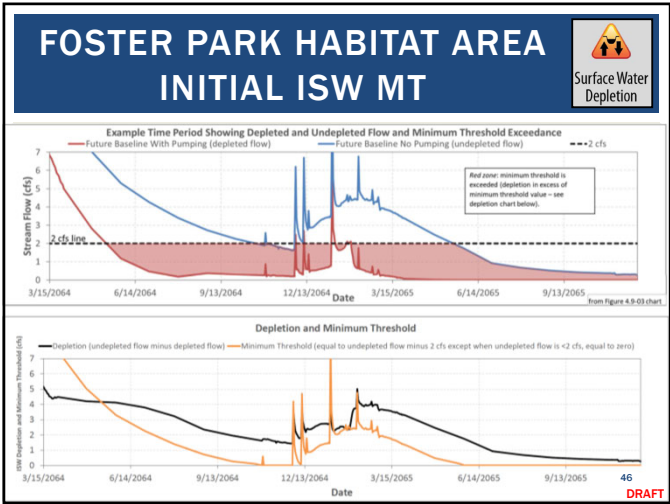


- Undepleted flow and depletion to be determined via modeling as provided for by SGMA
- **Note:** UVRGA is not responsible for maintaining 2 cfs of stream flow at Casitas Vistas Road bridge.

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PROPOSED SMC  
IMPLEMENTATION




- ° Modeling suggests that minimum thresholds will be exceeded 7.5% of the time
  - During multi-year dry periods
- ° It is anticipated that the Foster Park Flow Protocols will address direct depletion by the City of Ventura
- ° Measures would be needed to address indirect depletion caused by pumping wells located upstream of Foster Park.
- ° Proposed actions to achieve the measurable objective are outlined on next slide

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OUTLINE OF ACTIONS TO  
ADDRESS ISW DEPLETION



Action No.	Action Description	Milestone	Target Date
<b>M #1 Period: 0-5 years (2022 – 2027)</b>			
1.1	Develop Foster Park Habitat Area Monitoring Plan - work with other entities to develop a coordinated monitoring program for the Foster Park Habitat Area	Foster Park Habitat Area Monitoring Plan and cost sharing agreements adopted by coordinating entities	1/31/2024
1.2	Initiate Foster Park Habitat Area Monitoring Program	Initiate monitoring activities; annual monitoring data published in GSP annual reports	6/30/2024
1.3	Add monitoring wells and stream gauging to monitoring networks	Access agreements or constructed monitoring wells and stream gauging installation	6/30/2025
1.4	Add new monitoring wells to groundwater level and quality monitoring networks	Initiate monitoring of new wells	6/30/2025
1.5	Update numerical model calibration and ISW depletion estimates	Model update tech memo and updated depletion simulation results	6/30/2026
1.6	Begin planning for project(s) and/or management action(s) to achieve measurable objective	Memo: preliminary feasibility analysis of project(s) and/or management action(s) to achieve measurable objective	6/30/2026
1.7	5-year GSP assessment. Update SMC, if appropriate.	GSP assessment document and GSP update	1/31/2027
<b>M #2 Period: 5-10 years (2027 – 2032)</b>			
2.1	Continued monitoring	Annual monitoring data published in GSP annual reports	Annually by April
2.2	Update numerical model calibration, update depletion simulations, simulate potential project(s) and/or management action(s)	Model update and simulations tech memo	6/30/2029
2.3	Feasibility study of project(s) and/or management action(s) to achieve measurable objective	Feasibility study report	12/31/2030
2.4	Select project(s) and/or management action(s) to achieve measurable objective	UVRGA Board-approved project(s) and/or management actions for inclusion in GSP update	6/30/2031
2.5	5-year GSP assessment and update. Include updated SMC, if appropriate. Add projects and/or management actions selected to achieve measurable objective.	GSP assessment document and GSP update	1/31/2032
<b>M #3 Period: 10-15 years (2032 – 2037)</b>			
3.1	Continued monitoring	Annual monitoring data published in GSP annual reports	Annually by April
3.2	Develop project(s) and/or management action(s)	Progress toward enhancement(s), agreement(s), or design, as appropriate, based on selected project(s) and/or management action(s)	1/31/2037
3.3	5-year GSP assessment. Update SMC, as needed	GSP assessment document and GSP update	1/31/2037
<b>M #4 Period: 15-20 years (2037 – 2042)</b>			
4.1	Continued monitoring	Annual monitoring data published in GSP annual reports	Annually by April
4.2	Implement project(s) and/or management action(s)	Completed enhancement(s), agreement(s), or construction, as appropriate, based on selected project(s) and/or management action(s)	1/31/2040
4.3	5-year GSP assessment. Update SMC, as needed	GSP assessment document and GSP update	1/31/2042

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# PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & GSP IMPLEMENTATION

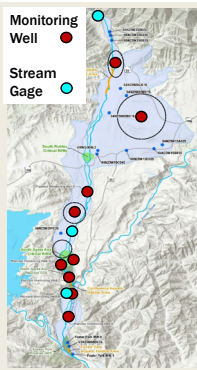




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## PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- ° Groundwater Level Monitoring Well Data Gaps Project ●
  - Areas of limited data
  - Co-locate with stream gages
- ° Stream Gage Data Gaps Project ○
  - Basin inflow gage
  - Santa Ana Blvd.
  - Confluence Area



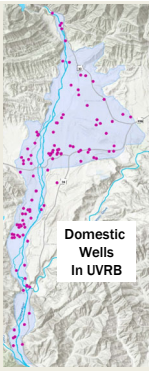
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## PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- ° Domestic Well Survey
  - Survey domestic well owners about well status and whether water is used for drinking
  - Sample domestic wells for nitrate where feasible
  - Educate domestic well owners about nitrate risk
  - Update GSP, as needed, based on findings



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## PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- ° Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study
  - Determine if depletions of ISW cause significant and unreasonable effects on aquatic species in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area
- ° Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water
  - See earlier slide
- ° Foster Park Protocols to Address Direct Depletion
  - City of Ventura will implement operational rules to address direct depletion of interconnected surface water at FP

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

**DATE:** April 12, 2023  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Carrie Troup C.P.A., Treasurer  
**SUBJECT:** Approve Financial Report for March 2023

---

**February 2023 UVRGA Balance** \$ 430,597.05

**March 2023 Activity:**

**Expenditures Paid:**

**Checks Pending Signature:**

Vendor checks will no longer be back dated to the prior month.

Vendor checks will be dated on the date they are written.

Checks written in April will be dated in April and will appear on the April report.

Total Expenditures Paid & To Be Paid \$ -

**March 2023 UVRGA Ending Balance:** \$ 430,597.05

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 Item No. 6(c)**

**DATE:** May 5, 2023  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Carrie Troup C.P.A., Treasurer  
**SUBJECT:** Approve Financial Report for April 2023

---

**March 2023 UVRGA Balance** \$ 430,597.05

**April 2023 Activity:**

**Expenditures Paid:**

**Checks and Electronic payments:**

2389 Rincon Consultants, Inc.	March Services	\$ 2,407.65
2390 VOID		
2391 VOID		
2392 VOID		
2393 Rincon Consultants, Inc.	March Services	\$ 1,401.00
2394 Rincon Consultants, Inc.	March Services	\$ 1,410.75
2395 Bondy Groundwater Consulting, Inc.	March Services	\$ 6,312.10
2396 Intera Incorporated	March Services	\$ 3,430.00
2397 Carrie Troup, CPA	March Services	\$ 1,196.05
2398 Aleshire & Wynder, LLP	Services Through 4/11/23	\$ 2,159.27
EFT Go Daddy		\$ 179.88
Total Expenditures Paid & To Be Paid		\$ 18,496.70

**April 2023 UVRGA Ending Balance:** \$ 412,100.35

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(c), Page 1 of 1

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

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Authorize Executive Director to Execute Agreement with Ventura County Office of Assessor for Assessor Parcel Maps and Property Records

**SUMMARY**

The Ventura County Assessor requires the attached agreement be executed prior to releasing assessor rolls data. The assessor rolls data will be used to mail letters to unregistered well owners.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Authorize Executive Director to execute the agreement with Ventura County Office of Assessor for Assessor Parcel Maps and Property Records.

**BACKGROUND**

Of the ninety unregistered wells, fifty-two are listed as active in County records and the owners did not respond to the registration requests sent in September 2022. Several people contacted UVRGA to notify us that they are no longer the property owner. Thus, it appears the contact information is outdated. Assessor rolls data were requested from the County Assessor's office in December, and they recently provided the attached agreement as a condition to releasing the data.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

Not applicable

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Agreement with Ventura County Office of Assessor for Assessor Parcel Maps and Property Records.

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

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

M. Etchart\_ B. Kuebler\_ P. Kaiser\_ J. Tribo\_ A. Anselm\_ V. Crawford\_ E. Ayala\_



# Office of the Assessor

## County of Ventura

800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009-1270  
(805) 654-2181\* Fax (805) 645-1305  
[assessor.countyofventura.org](http://assessor.countyofventura.org)

**KEITH TAYLOR**  
**ASSESSOR**

**Theresa Betka - Administration**  
Chief Deputy Assessor

**Travis Ekema - Valuation**  
Chief Deputy Assessor

### A G R E E M E N T

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this Third day of May, 2023, by Ventura County Assessor's Office and between Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency, hereinafter called "the Requestor," and the COUNTY OF VENTURA, a political subdivision of the State of California, hereinafter called "the County,"

### WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the County maintains various documents, including the Assessment Roll, which contains property characteristics ("Assessor's property records"), and maps and indexes, which may be made public under the provisions Chapter 1511 of the statutes of 1986 Revenue and Taxation Code section 408.3 (hereinafter called "section 408.3"); and

WHEREAS, the County maintains Assessor's parcel maps, which reflect the configuration of the boundaries of the real property contained on the annual Assessment Roll, as well as supporting indices ("Assessor's parcel maps"); and

WHEREAS, the Assessor's property records and Assessor's parcel maps may be made available by the Ventura County Assessor under the provisions of Sections

408, 408.1, 408.3, 409, 451, 481, 601, 602 and 618 of the Revenue and Taxation Code of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the County to take advantage of Section 408.3 with regard to the disposition of revenue received, to make the public portion of Assessor's property records and Assessor's parcel maps available at the lowest cost to the County, to reduce the amount of time the County expends in the distribution of the Assessor's property records and/or Parcel Maps en masse, and to maintain a high level of privacy and quality of reproduction; and

WHEREAS, the Requestor desires to use the Assessor's property records and/or Assessor's parcel maps for subsequent distribution in the Requestor's own format, and agrees not to reproduce and resell the data received from the County in the format in which it was provided to the Requestor.

THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED BY THE PARTIES HERETO AS FOLLOWS:

I. County Responsibilities:

The County agrees to make available to the Requestor for use a copy of the Assessor's property records and/or Assessor's parcel maps on electronic media, following the close of the 2022 Assessment Roll, for the 2022/2023 assessments as of January 1, 2022. In addition, the County will make available to the Requestor for use the complete set of Assessor's parcel maps, or map pages that have had changes effective for the 2022/23 roll.

II. Duplication and Resale of the Assessor's Property Records

The Requestor is prohibited from distributing the Assessor's property records in the same or similar format and quantity in which the County provided them to the Requestor. The Requestor is prohibited from relinquishing possession of the Assessor's property records received from the County to any other person or persons or entity, nor may the Requestor or the Requestor's agents or employees rent, lease, sublease, loan, or copy the Assessor's property records or allow others to use said Assessor's property records in the format in which they were provided by the County to the Requestor without the prior written approval of the County.

The Requestor is absolutely prohibited from using, disseminating, or distributing or causing the use, dissemination, or distribution, on the Worldwide Web (Internet) the name, home address, telephone number, or any other information, of an elected or appointed official, or public safety official, including the official's spouse or child that resides with the official ("public official information"). "Public safety officials" are defined in section 6254.24 of the Government Code of California. Be advised that information of "Public safety officials" as defined in section 6254.24 of the Government Code of California has been redacted from the Assessor's property records, however those redacted from the Assessor's property records should not be construed as complete or inclusive all elected or appointed officials, or public safety officials residing in the County of Ventura. It is the Requestor's responsibility to ensure that Public Official Information is not distributed or disseminated on the Internet in any way whatsoever.

The Requestor is also prohibited from using, disseminating, or distributing any of the Assessor's property records on the Internet or Worldwide Web in any format, whether in the format provided by the County or as altered by the Requestor, unless all of the following terms and conditions are satisfied: (1) the Assessor's property records on the Internet or Worldwide Web are provided only to an individual or entity who is permitted access to the Requestor's system on a restricted basis using an assigned password or other security mechanism to order the Requestor's products; (2) the property records do not contain public official information or the name, home address, or telephone number of any other person provided in Government Code section 6254.21; and (3) prior written approval of the Assessor is obtained, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

### III. Disclaimer

The Requestor acknowledges and agrees that neither the Assessor's property records nor the Assessor's parcel maps may be relied upon as completely accurate. The parties further acknowledge, and shall be bound by, Revenue and Taxation Code section 408.3, subdivision (d), which reads as follows: "The Legislature finds and declares that information concerning property characteristics is maintained solely for assessment purposes and is not continuously updated by the Assessor. Therefore, neither the County nor the Assessor shall incur any liability for errors, omissions, or approximations with respect to property characteristics information provided by the Assessor to any party pursuant to this section. Further, this subdivision shall not be

construed to imply liability on the part of the County or the Assessor for errors, omissions, or other defects in any other information or records provided by the Assessor pursuant to the provisions of this part."

IV. Indemnification:

The Requestor shall indemnify and hold harmless the County, the Assessor, and its officers and employees, from any and all loss, cost, damage, expense or liability which may arise, directly or indirectly, as a result of any and all claims, losses, damages and/or injuries arising out of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, those alleged to have occurred as a result of: (1) the conduct of the Requestor, the Requestor's agents, employees, officers, contractors, subcontractors, bailees, subscribers or customers or any of them, whether purportedly on behalf of the Requestor or on behalf of the County; and/or (2) the release, dissemination, publication, broadcast or other use of data or information that is the subject of this Agreement.

V. General Conditions

With regard to compliance with laws, the Requestor shall at all times observe and comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and orders of public agencies which relate to this Agreement or any agreement entered hereunder.



## VI. Notices

All notices required under this agreement shall be made in writing and addressed or delivered as follows:

**TO THE COUNTY:      The Honorable Keith Taylor  
Assessor of Ventura County  
800 S. Victoria Ave.  
Ventura CA 93009-1270**

**TO THE REQUESTOR:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Either party may, by written notice to the other, change its address where notices shall be made.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the County has caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized officers, and the Requestor has executed this Agreement on the day and year first written above.

COUNTY OF VENTURA

REQUESTOR (Print name of person or entity)

\_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Keith Taylor<sup>1</sup>  
Assessor of Ventura County

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>1</sup> Keith Taylor or other authorized agent.

## Bryan Bondy

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**From:** Vivon Crawford <vivon@ovlc.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:40 AM  
**To:** Bryan Bondy  
**Subject:** Updated watershed imagery post-floods

Hi Bryan,

I wanted to share our updated drone footage and mapping of the Ventura River and tributaries! We started this mapping project in 2021 with a focus on Arundo, and re-flew these areas again in early February 2023, just after the big storms. Thought this would probably be of interest to the board, so feel free to include the link and login in our upcoming board packet. I'm happy to do a walk-through of how to interact with the data for the board as well.

Here is the link to [OVLC's Data Viewer](#) with drone footage of the Ventura River, San Antonio, Lion, Thatcher, and Reeves Creeks from 2021 and 2023. In 2021, we started at Foster Park, but in 2023 we were able to include the lower 6 miles of the mainstem as well. If you zoom in to an area, you will see survey grids and a video icon for each one-mile reach. Click the icon and it will take you to the Youtube video. Login and password below.

Login: **OVLC\_guest**  
Password: **Arundo\_2021**

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions!  
Cheers,

--

Vivon Crawford, MESM  
Restoration Program Director



[Ojai Valley Land Conservancy](#)  
PO Box 1092  
Ojai, CA 93024  
[\(805\) 633-1093](#)

## UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 8

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**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: No report.
2. Financial:
  - a. Groundwater Extraction Fees: Private well owner invoices for the July 1 – December 31, 2022 semi-annual period were issued on April 28, 2023. The next batch of Member Agency invoices is scheduled for August 2023 and will be for the period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.
  - b. GSP Development Grant: The grant completion report and retention release request were submitted to Department of Water Resources (DWR) on January 25, 2022. A retention payment in the amount of \$63,006.06 is expected following approval. The Executive Director contacted the DWR Project Manager in mid-February. DWR comments on the grant completion report were promised within a week but have not been received. DWR staff have been pulled from their normal duties to work on flooding issues.
  - c. The fiscal year 2021/2022 financial audit was completed and filed with the County of Ventura. The final audit documents can be viewed at: <https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/UVRGA-FY-21-22-Audit-Documents.pdf>
  - d. The Small GSA Coalition lobbied legislators concerning various funding options to support small GSAs leading up to an Assembly budget committee hearing held in late April. The latest draft State budget is expected to be released in mid-May. The coalition is working on an outreach letter to send to legislators following the release of the updated draft budget. However, it seems unlikely that new funding will be earmarked in the fiscal year 2023/2024 budget due to budget challenges (low revenue and delays associated with tax return deadline extensions). The Small GSA will also lobby to earmark a portion of the existing \$60M set aside for the third round of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program.

3. Legal: No report.

4. GSP Implementation:

- a. GSP: DWR approved the GSP on April 27, 2023. Please see Item No. 10(c) for more information.
- b. GSP Implementation Grant: The SGMA Implementation Round 2 Grant is under review by the DWR. Award announcements are expected in August 2023.
- c. Well Registration: The Executive Director assisted well owners with completing their well registration forms and reached out to non-compliant well owners. Please see Item No. 10(b) for more information.
- d. Monitoring Networks:
  - i. Groundwater Level Monitoring: Semi-annual transducer data downloads are scheduled for May.
  - ii. Surface Water Flow Monitoring: Deployment of the Camino Cielo gage is being reassessed due to the recent flooding.
  - iii. Visual Surface Water Monitoring: Monthly monitoring is ongoing.
  - iv. Riparian Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Monitoring: Monitoring is on hold pending decrease in Ventura River flow.
  - v. Aquatic GDE Monitoring: Monitoring is on hold pending decrease in Ventura River flow.
- e. Annual Report: The draft water year 2021/2022 annual report was finalized and submitted to DWR. The final annual report can be viewed at:  
[https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/4-003.01\\_WY\\_2022.pdf](https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/4-003.01_WY_2022.pdf)

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

6. Correspondence: The Executive Director received inquiries from Ventura River Water District staff concerning the adjudication (Attachment B).

### **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. Small GSA Coalition Fact Sheet dated 4/20/23

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

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

M. Etchart\_ B. Kuebler\_ P. Kaiser\_ J. Tribo\_ A. Anselm\_ V. Crawford\_ E. Ayala\_



## Implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans Funding Small Basins

*Pending logo approval: Ukiah Valley GSA, Lake County, and Coachella Valley*

### THE PROBLEM

Very small groundwater basins and small basins with large underrepresented communities' are struggling to fund the implementation of recently submitted Groundwater Water Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and the administration of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). Support for administration and reporting (tasks which are not eligible for DWR grants) is needed to help these GSAs bridge the gap while they seek reasonable options for long-term, sustainable agency funding.

### PROPOSED SOLUTION

Allocate a total of \$10 million over two years (\$5 million in FY 2023-24 and \$5 million in FY 2024-25) in state budget funds for non-competitive matching funding to very small GSAs to cover a portion of SGMA-required annual operating and monitoring costs. Very small GSAs include those that manage an average of less than 10,000 acre-feet (AFY) of groundwater annually or those that manage on average less than 20,000-acre feet and at least half area managed is classified as an underrepresented community.

### FIXED COSTS

The mandates under SGMA result in fixed administrative and reporting costs. These include support for running a public agency such as Board meetings, Brown Act compliance, budgeting, accounting, and legal review. Costs also are incurred for maintaining new monitoring networks, data management systems, annual reports, groundwater models, and five-year updates. In basins with large populations or extensive commercial agriculture, these costs can be spread out over many users, but smaller basins do not benefit from such an economy of scale. Table 1, below, illustrates these challenges in seven basins with annual groundwater pumping of less than 10,000-acre feet annually (AFY).

**Table 1. Annual fees required to cover basic costs of GSA compliance**

Basin	Acre Feet pumped annually (AFY)	Annual basic costs of compliance*	Annual amount per AFY (for basic compliance)	Additional amount per AFY to fill data gaps, model, project planning	Total fee per AFY
Langley Subbasin	1,100	\$230,000	\$209	\$83	\$292
Corral de Tierra	1,295	\$230,000	\$177	\$77	\$254
Petaluma Valley	2,795	\$500,000	\$178	\$215	\$393
Santa Margarita	2,700	\$400,000	\$148		
Santa Cruz Mid-County	5,100	\$450,000	\$88		
Sonoma Valley	6,920	\$500,000	\$72	\$101	\$173
Ukiah Valley	6,484	\$330,000	\$51		
Upper Ventura River Valley	5,035		\$59		\$163

*\*Basic compliance costs vary widely from basin-to-basin depending on local labor costs, staff support provided by other local government agencies, history of groundwater issues/monitoring, and other factors.*

## FUNDING OPTIONS

There has been limited assistance or guidance from the State in terms of options for funding the GSAs. The two most common approaches being pursued in California are member-agency funding and pumping-fee funded, based on actual or estimated pumping amounts, which is more common in agricultural hubs. A basin wide parcel tax can spread costs more widely but requires two-thirds voter support and is expensive to place on the ballot.

Member-agency funding leads to questions of the equitable distribution of costs. For example, in the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin, some residents are paying for the GSA costs through both their water rates and their property tax. The cost allocations are based on pumping impacts to the basin from each member agency, though the administrative burdens of SGMA are arguably independent of those impacts.

Table 1 illustrates the fee levels that would be required if these very small basins charged fees based on groundwater use. Two of these basins – Petaluma Valley and Sonoma Valley – completed fee studies in 2022 and adopted fees based on estimated use. In order to reduce the burden to groundwater pumpers (the majority are rural residents who use their wells for drinking water), the County of Sonoma provided a two-year contribution to the GSAs that allowed the fees to temporarily drop to \$40 per AFY. The subsidy, which was possible due to a one-year budget surplus, ends in 2024 and is not expected to be renewed.

Other basins with large underrepresented communities are struggling to identify funding options that are affordable to low-income residents and small farmers who rely on wells for drinking water, crops and livestock.

For more information, please contact Mark Fenstermaker at [mark@pacificpolicygroup.com](mailto:mark@pacificpolicygroup.com)



## Bryan Bondy

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**From:** Bryan Bondy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2023 5:48 PM  
**To:** 'Bert'  
**Cc:** Bruce Kuebler; Peggy Wiles; Alma  
**Subject:** RE: Pumping impact downstream

Hi Bert,

Regarding your question about the ratio of pumping reduction to increased flow, the work we completed for the GSP suggests that the ratio you are after is probably not a constant value as is posed in the question. The ratio probably ranges from 0:1 to something approaching 1:1, depending on timing and location of the upstream pumping, the delay between the pumping and arrival of the effect at Foster Park, whether stormflows occur during the delay period (which could lessen or eliminate the pumping effects before they hit Foster Park), and the antecedent groundwater level and streamflow conditions in the basin. For example, upstream pumping before a good size storm could have no measurable impact at Foster Park if stormflow percolation fills up the lower part of the basin before the pumping effects arrive at Foster Park (ratio 0:1). Or maybe there is pumping but the stormflows percolation doesn't fill up the lower part of the basin until after some of the effect has already hit Foster Park or only partially fills up the lower portion of the basin (ratio somewhere between 0:1 and 1:1). Or maybe we have a very dry year with no stormflow and the effect could approach 1:1. I say *approach*, because a lower water table due to the pumping might result in less riparian evapotranspiration in the lower part of the basin, which could free up some groundwater to discharge to the river that would have otherwise been transpired. This latter point may be minor quantitatively, but I mention it to make the point that the ratio may not actually ever reach 1:1. Anyhow, the overall point is that the issue you are inquiring about is far more complex than posed and there is no single ratio that would apply to all upstream pumping under all conditions. Subject to UVRGA Board approval and UVRGA legal counsel review, the UVRGA technical team could model specific set(s) of conditions or scenarios that the mediation parties believe to be relevant to mediation process. Doing so may lead to a more robust, fact-based, and stable settlement and may also prevent significant inconsistencies between a settlement and GSP that could lead to future problems.

Best Regards,

Bryan

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**From:** Bert <bert@venturariverwd.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2023 4:48 PM  
**To:** Bryan Bondy <bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org>  
**Cc:** Bruce Kuebler <bkuebler@venturariverwd.com>; Peggy Wiles <pwiles@venturariverwd.com>; Alma <Alma@venturariverwd.com>  
**Subject:** Pumping impact downstream

Bryan;

As part of the Adjudication Mediation process I have been tasked with providing a description on the impact of upstream pumping on the surface water in the Foster Park area. Basically is there a 1:1 ratio of pumping reduction and increased flow or is it something less?

Item 8, Attachment B

I am wondering if you can send me an Excel spreadsheet of the Depletion output from the Surface Water Groundwater Interaction model that produced the chart showing the two scenarios: Depleted and Undepleted. Then if I know the quantity being pumped I could calculate the ratio.

Call me if we need to discuss this.



**Bert Rapp, P.E.**  
*General Manager*  
**Ventura River Water District**  
*(805) 646-3403 office*  
*(805) 340-7263 mobile*

## Bryan Bondy

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**From:** Bert <bert@venturariverwd.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 31, 2023 7:24 AM  
**To:** Bryan Bondy  
**Cc:** Bruce Kuebler; Keith Lemieux (klemieux@awattorneys.com); Mike Etchart  
**Subject:** RE: Edits to Draft Physical Solution - Confidential

Bryan;

The target date to get our responses in to the City of Ventura and Casitas is April 13<sup>th</sup> and the UVRGA Board Meeting is April 11<sup>th</sup> so that should work.



**Bert Rapp, P.E.**  
*General Manager*  
**Ventura River Water District**  
*(905) 646-3403 office*  
*(905) 340-7263 mobile*

---

**From:** Bryan Bondy <bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2023 3:15 PM  
**To:** Bert <bert@venturariverwd.com>  
**Cc:** Bruce Kuebler <bkuebler@venturariverwd.com>; Keith Lemieux (klemieux@awattorneys.com) <klemieux@awattorneys.com>; Mike Etchart <Etchart@meinersoakswater.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Edits to Draft Physical Solution - Confidential

Hi Bert,

I would be happy to assist; however, based on past direction from the UVRGA Board, I am not comfortable doing so without their approval. I am one foot out the door for spring break and can discuss further when I return to work after April 10.

Thanks and best regards,

Bryan

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**From:** Bert <[bert@venturariverwd.com](mailto:bert@venturariverwd.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2023 2:34 PM  
**To:** Bryan Bondy <[bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org](mailto:bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org)>  
**Cc:** Bruce Kuebler <[bkuebler@venturariverwd.com](mailto:bkuebler@venturariverwd.com)>  
**Subject:** Edits to Draft Physical Solution - Confidential

Bryan;

The Adjudication Mediator David Cepos has assigned me to reach out to you to update the descriptions of flows from the upper watershed. Can you take a look at page 1 and see if you would suggest any edits? **This is a draft confidential document do not share it.**

- h. Section 7.3.5: Bert Rapp (Ventura River Water District [VRWD]) will work with Brian Bondy of the Upper Venture River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA) to update descriptions of flows from the upper watershed.

There are 5 pages in the attached but I think your input would only be on page 1.

A lot of the text describes (1) Foster Park Protocols. You can ignore this section because it is straight from the City of Ventura/SB Channelkeeper settlement and will not be changing short of a new negotiation between the parties.

Section (2) San Antonio Creek is probably outside of your area of responsibility so likely nothing you can add to that section.

Section (3) North Fork Matilija may be something you would like to comment on.



**Bert Rapp, P.E.**  
*General Manager*  
**Ventura River Water District**  
*(805) 646-3403 office*  
*(805) 340-7263 mobile*

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

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget and Multi-Year Budget Projection

### **SUMMARY**

The draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/2024 budget has been prepared for consideration (Attachment A).

#### Expenses

Expenses are pursuant to the currently adopted multi-year budget projection, except that \$85,000 was added to FY 2023/2024 for a numerical flow model update to address for changes in the stream morphology of the Ventura River caused by recent flooding. This budget increase includes funding to procure updated (post-flooding) stream elevation data using light detection and ranging (Lidar), which will inform the model update.

As a reminder, expense assumptions include the following:

1. No litigation.
2. 5% annual inflation (per Board direction in May 2022).
3. Actual costs will be pursuant to the GSP implementation cost projections.

#### Financial Reserves

##### *Operational Reserve*

The Board adopted a \$100,000 operational reserve target for FY 2023/2024 during last year's budgeting process.

##### *Capital Reserve*

The Board adopted a \$131,345.61 capital reserve target for FY 2023/2024 during last year's budgeting process. However, there were no capital expenditures during FY 2022/2023 because work was delayed in order to align with the implementation grant application work schedule. The Board transferred most of the FY 2022/2023 capital funds to capital reserve in March 2023 and the draft budget shows the remaining \$10,000 being transferred at year end, making the projected FY 2022/2023 year end capital reserve balance \$268,676. Staff proposes to maintain this capital reserve balance in FY 2023/2024 in anticipation of capital expenditures in FY 2024/2025.

### Grants

Although UVRGA applied for a Round 2 GSP Implementation Grant, no grant revenue has been included in the FY 2023/2024 budget and multi-year projection because there is no guarantee of a grant award. Award announcements are expected in August 2023 at which time the Board could consider modifying the budget and projection.

### Groundwater Extractions

3,357 AF of groundwater extractions are assumed in the FY 23/24 budget, as detailed below. Assumed extractions for FY 24/25 – 27/28 are assumed to be the same as estimated for FY 23/24.

### *Member Agency Extractions Basis*

For FY 2022/2023 budget and extraction fee, the Board directed staff to use the most recent 3-year average extractions for the Member Agencies. The FY 2023/2024 budget has been prepared assuming the Board will use this approach again. The updated 3-year average is 3,173 AF, compared with AF 3,665 last year (13% lower). Please see Attachment B for further details.

### *Private Well Owner Extractions Basis*

Several private well owners transitioned to metered pumping during FY 2022/2023. If full compliance with the Agency's Ordinance is achieved, all private pumpers will be metered during the FY 2023/2024. The estimated private well extractions for FY 2023/2024 is 184 AF, which is 50% lower than the estimate used in prior budgets. The FY 2023/2024 estimate takes into consideration the fact that metered extractions reported thus far have been 47% lower than the prior estimate. In addition, one agricultural well was destroyed during the early 2023 flooding.

### Groundwater Extraction Fees

The extraction fee for FY 2023/2024 and projected extraction fees for the following years were calculated by dividing the annual revenue requirement to balance the budget by the assumed extractions. The results are shown in the green box on the budget sheet. The draft extraction fee for FY 2023/2024 is \$140/AF compared with \$151/AF included in last year's multi-year projection. The estimated extraction fees for FY 2024/2025 through 2027/2028 range from \$131/AF to \$170/AF. The projected extraction fees are generally higher than last year's projection because the assumed extractions have decreased.

### Next Steps

Extraction fees for FY 2023/2024 will need to be adopted by the Board following a public hearing. The adopted FY 2023/2024 budget must be published at least 20 days before the public hearing, as required by Water Code Section 10730(b)(3). Assuming the Board adopts a FY 2023/2024 budget today, it is recommended that the Board schedule the public hearing to adopt an extraction fee for FY 2023/2024 during the next Regular Meeting on June 8, 2023.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Approve a fiscal year 2023/2024 budget and multi-year budget projection and schedule a public hearing to adopt groundwater extraction fees for fiscal year 2023/2024.

**BACKGROUND**

The multi-year budget projection was most recently adopted on May 12, 2022.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

Please see summary.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Draft Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget and Multi-Year Budget Projection
- B. Historical and Groundwater Extractions and Proposed Extractions for FY 23/24 Budget

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

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

B. Kuebler\_ M. Etchart\_ P. Kaiser\_ J. Tribo\_ A. Anselm\_ V. Crawford\_ E. Ayala\_





Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

DRAFT FY 2023/2024 Budget and Multi-Year Projection

Cash Flow Projections

	FY 23 Budget	Jul 22 - Mar 23 Actuals	April - June 22 Projection	FY 23 Year-End Projection	DRAFT FY 24 Budget	FY 25 Projected	FY 26 Projected	FY 27 Projected	FY 28 Projected	Comments
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 242,299	\$ 165,627	\$ 412,280	\$ 165,627	\$ 393,039	\$ 368,676	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	
Grant Payments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,006	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Assume grant retention payment of \$63,006 in FY 24.
GW Extraction Fees	\$ 596,648	\$ 542,420	\$ 22,480	\$ 564,900	\$ 470,536	\$ 532,215	\$ 576,021	\$ 579,462	\$ 449,674	
Other/Misc.	\$ -	\$ 35	\$ -	\$ 35	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Cash Inflows	\$ 596,648	\$ 542,455	\$ 22,480	\$ 564,935	\$ 533,542	\$ 532,215	\$ 576,021	\$ 579,462	\$ 449,674	
Expense Payments	\$ (406,270)	\$ (205,802)	\$ (41,721)	\$ (247,523)	\$ (482,279)	\$ (459,296)	\$ (545,592)	\$ (579,462)	\$ (449,674)	
Capital Payments	\$ (101,276)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (75,625)	\$ (341,596)	\$ (30,429)	\$ -	\$ -	
Loan Repayment (with interest)	\$ (90,000)	\$ (90,000)	\$ -	\$ (90,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Cash Outflows	\$ (597,546)	\$ (295,802)	\$ (41,721)	\$ (337,523)	\$ (557,904)	\$ (800,891)	\$ (576,021)	\$ (579,462)	\$ (449,674)	
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 241,400	\$ 412,280	\$ 393,039	\$ 393,039	\$ 368,676	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	
Designated Reserve for Capital Projects	\$ 167,400			\$ 268,676	\$ 268,676	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Designated for General Reserve	\$ 74,000			\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	
Projected Unreserved Cash	\$ -			\$ 24,362	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (0)	Zero values indicated balanced budgets. FY 22/23 projected unreserved cash will be used to reduce FY 23/24 extraction fee.

**Historical and Groundwater Extractions and Proposed Extractions for FY 23/24 Budget**

Calendar Year	Rainfall (in)	Groundwater Extraction (acre-feet)					
		Casitas MWD <sup>1</sup>	City of Ventura	MOWD	VRWD	Private <sup>2</sup>	Total
2012	13.75	229	3,184	1,021	1,251	368	6,053
2013	4.15	171	2,173	837	908	368	4,457
2014	13.82	42	3,238	512	994	368	5,154
2015	4.97	54	1,298	466	847	368	3,033
2016	16.79	35	1,849	303	760	368	3,315
2017	23.16	164	3,647	668	856	368	5,703
2018	14.85	142	1,876	204	874	368	3,464
2019	31.32	115	2,588	610	776	368	4,457
2020	11.05	179	2,418	486	907	368	4,358
2021	18.44	201	1,364	412	922	368	3,267
2022	10.10	176	1,136	451	866	336	2,966
Values for FY 23/24 Fees <sup>3</sup>	N/A	185	1,639	450	898	184	3,357

- Notes:
- (1) For FY 22/23 fees, 2021 was estimated due to lack of data for months of Oct-Dec. and has since been updated with actuals.
  - (2) 2012 through 2021 values are the 2017 estimated pumping determined by the Agency. 2022 is the invoiced amount, which was a mix of estimated and metered extractions.
  - (3) Three-year average for Member Agency and assumed extractions for private wells. Assumed private well extractions takes into consideration the fact that available metered extractions were 47% lower than the estimates used to date and one agricultural well was destroyed by the early 2023 flooding.

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

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Financial Reserves Investment

**SUMMARY**

The Agency's projected year end cash balance is \$393,039, which includes \$368,676 in designated reserves. The cash balance exceeds the \$250,000 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) limit and inflation is currently 3.7% (per the latest Los Angeles area 12-month consumer price index). In order to protect the Agency's cash assets and keep up with inflation, it is recommended that the Agency open additional account(s) and place some or all of the reserves in a liquid investment, such as a high yield savings account, CD, Treasury Bond.

Because setting up new account(s) will require action by an officer, it is recommended that this task be delegated to an ad hoc committee.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Consider providing direction to an ad hoc committee and/or staff concerning investment of the Agency's financial reserves.

**BACKGROUND** - None

**FISCAL SUMMARY** - Please see summary.

**ATTACHMENTS** - None

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

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

B. Kuebler\_ M. Etchart\_ P. Kaiser\_ J. Tribo\_ A. Anselm\_ V. Crawford\_ E. Ayala\_

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

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Impact of Flooding on Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems and Associated Monitoring Programs

**SUMMARY**

Rincon Consultants, Inc. will provide a presentation concerning flooding impacts to riparian vegetation and the Ventura River channel morphology and the associated impact on the Agency's GDE monitoring programs.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Receive a presentation concerning flooding impacts to riparian vegetation and the Ventura River channel morphology and the associated impact on the Agency's GDE monitoring programs.  
Consider providing feedback or direction to staff.

**BACKGROUND**

Not applicable

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

Not applicable

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

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

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

M. Etchart\_ B. Kuebler\_ P. Kaiser\_ J. Tribo\_ A. Anselm\_ V. Crawford\_ E. Ayala\_

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

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Well Registration Update

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to update the Board on well registration progress.

On September 16, 2022, letters were mailed to the owners of all parcels on which County of Ventura records indicate a potentially active well is present (i.e., any well with a County-noted status other than “destroyed”). The letters explained the new ordinance, including the well registration requirements, and provided instructions for registering wells and providing flowmeter documentation. A total of 116 letters were mailed addressing 188 potentially active wells identified in County records.

The following table summarizes the updated registration status:

Category	March Status (# of wells)	May Status (# of wells)	Change (# of wells)
Registration Not Required	47	74	+27
Registered	51	60	+9
Unregistered	90	54	-36
Total	188	188	0

Attachment A provides a detailed breakdown of the registration status as of May 8, 2023.

### FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Receive an update on the well registration progress. The Board may provide feedback or direction to staff concerning well registration process and/or penalties for non-compliance.

### BACKGROUND

The Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance was adopted on July 14, 2022 and became effective August 14, 2022.

### ATTACHMENTS

- A. Well Registration Status Table

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

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

B. Kuebler\_ M. Etchart\_ P. Kaiser\_ J. Tribo\_ A. Anselm\_ V. Crawford\_ E. Ayala\_

**Item 10(b), Attachment A**  
**Well Registration Status (updated 4/27/23)**

Status	Count	Comment
<b>Registration Not Required</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmed abandoned or inactive based on conversation with landowner and/or information provided by landowner</li> </ul>	44	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suspected abandoned or inactive based on County records or information previously compiled by Larry Rose</li> </ul>	25	No further action proposed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated monitoring well</li> </ul>	4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well is actually a surface water diversion</li> </ul>	1	
<b>Subtotal Registration Not Required</b>	<b>74</b>	
<b>Registered</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration form received</li> </ul>	60	
<b>Subtotal Registered</b>	<b>60</b>	
<b>Not Registered</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listed as active on County records</li> </ul>	52	13 agricultural, 40 domestic. Includes four wells for which the letter recipient is no longer the landowner. <b><i>Follow-up letters are pending receipt of updated mailing addresses from assessor.</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Received contact from landowner, but registration form not yet received</li> </ul>	1	This is an entity that has a known active well and has paid UVRGA fees in past. 3 <sup>rd</sup> request letter sent to well owner via e-mail and certified mail on 4/27/23. Also certified mailed and e-mailed a letter to the tenant / well operator on 4/27/23. Progress is being made with tenant.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One entity with a known active well that has paid UVRGA fees in the past</li> </ul>	1	Sent 3 <sup>rd</sup> request letters by certified mail on 3/6/23. Mailed and emailed 4 <sup>th</sup> request letters on 4/27/23.
<b>Subtotal Not Registered</b>	<b>54</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	

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

**DATE:** May 11, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Groundwater Sustainability Plan Approval

### SUMMARY

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) approved UVRGA's GSP on April 27, 2023. The DWR approval letter is available for viewing on the UVRGA website at:

[https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/UpperVenturaRiver\\_GSP2023\\_Determination.pdf](https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/UpperVenturaRiver_GSP2023_Determination.pdf) and can be downloaded from the SGMA Portal at: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/assessments/77>.

DWR is required to evaluate whether a submitted groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) conforms to the specific requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), is likely to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin covered by the GSP, and whether the GSP adversely affects the ability of an adjacent basin to implement its GSP or impedes achievement of sustainability goals in an adjacent basin (Water Code § 10733). Application of these standards can lead to one of three possible determinations: “approved,” “incomplete,” or “inadequate.” DWR’s Statement of Findings explains their rationale for the determination that UVRGA’s GSP satisfies the objectives of SGMA, substantially complies with the GSP Regulations and is, therefore “Approved.”

The staff report attached to DWR Statement of findings proposes “Recommended Corrective Actions” that DWR believes will enhance the GSP and facilitate their future GSP evaluations. DWR strongly encourages the Recommended Corrective Actions be given due consideration and suggests incorporating all resulting changes to the GSP in future updates. Failure to address DWR’s Recommended Corrective Actions before their first five-year review may lead to a Plan being determined incomplete or inadequate at that time. DWR will initiate the first five-year review of the Upper Ventura River GSP no later than January 24, 2027.

The recommended corrective actions generally focus on the following:

- Provide clarification on the definition of undesirable results and evaluate potential impacts to beneficial uses and users at the proposed minimum thresholds for chronic lowering of groundwater levels.
- Continue to fill data gaps, collect additional monitoring data, coordinate with resources agencies and interested parties to understand beneficial uses and users that may be impacted by depletions of interconnected surface water caused by groundwater pumping, and potentially refine sustainable management criteria.



- Clarify how the Foster Park protocols and settlement agreement may impact the GSA's ability to manage groundwater.

Attachment A to this staff report provides a more detailed presentation and analysis of the Recommended Corrective Actions.

#### **FISCAL SUMMARY**

Not applicable.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Receive a summary of the Department of Water Resources GSP assessment and approval.  
Consider providing feedback or direction to staff.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The GSP was adopted by the Board on January 6, 2022.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

A. DWR Recommended Corrective Actions Summary Table

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

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

B. Kuebler\_ M. Etchart\_ P. Kaiser\_ J. Tribo\_ A. Anselm\_ V. Crawford\_ E. Ayala\_

**Item 10(c), Attachment A**  
**GSP Corrective Actions and Staff Preliminary Review Notes**

No.	Applicable Sustainability Indicator	DWR Recommended Corrective Action	UVRGA Staff Preliminary Review Notes
1a	Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels	Amend the quantitative definition of undesirable results to account for localized threshold exceedances or provide additional information to the GSP to support why undesirable results will not occur until minimum thresholds are exceeded in 100 percent of representative monitoring sites and clarify the time component in the definition.	The Domestic Well Survey will provide valuable information that will inform further evaluation of the definition of undesirable results for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels sustainability indicator. Reevaluate after completing the Domestic Well Survey.
1b	Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels	Revise the definition of undesirable results to remove the groundwater extraction condition or clearly explain how the Subbasin can be managed in a way where groundwater extractions would not contribute at all to a combination of threshold exceedances that lead to undesirable results.	Perform additional analysis of the relationship between stream inflow to the Basin and groundwater levels. Provide more framing and context to demonstrate where and under what conditions pumping can cause undesirable results. Revise the definition of undesirable results, as appropriate based on findings of the additional analysis.
2	Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels	Implement the management action entitled, “ <i>Domestic Well Survey</i> ” to obtain additional information about domestic wells in the Subbasin. After the project is implemented, the GSA should identify the degree/extent of potential impacts including the percentage, number, and location of potentially impacted wells at the proposed minimum thresholds for chronic lowering of groundwater levels.	The GSP already proposes to do this, and this effort has already been initiated.
3a	Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	Investigate and define what is considered significant and unreasonable conditions in the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area. Establish sustainable management criteria consisting of the rate or volume of surface water depletions caused by groundwater use that will avoid those conditions in this portion of the Plan area.	The GSP already proposes to do this, and this effort has already been initiated.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Applicable Sustainability Indicator</b>	<b>DWR Recommended Corrective Action</b>	<b>UVRGA Staff Preliminary Review Notes</b>
3b	Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	Consider utilizing the interconnected surface water guidance, as appropriate, when issued by the Department to establish quantifiable minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and management actions.	The recommended guidance document does not yet exist. Depending on the timing of guidance publication, it may or may not be feasible to implement prior completion of UVRGA's first five-year GSP assessment and update.
3c	Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	Continue to fill data gaps, collect additional monitoring data, and implement the current strategy to manage depletions of interconnected surface water and define segments of interconnectivity and timing.	The GSP already proposes to do this, and this effort has already been initiated.
3d	Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	Prioritize collaborating and coordinating with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies as well as interested parties to better understand the full suite of beneficial uses and users that may be impacted by pumping induced surface water depletion within the GSA's jurisdictional area.	Perform outreach to listed entities and hold periodic workshops as data from the Confluence Aquatic Habitat Area Biological Monitoring Study and Foster Park Aquatic GDE Monitoring Program become available.
4	Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	Provide further discussion surrounding how the Foster Park Protocols and the settlement agreement may impact or limit the GSA's ability to manage groundwater in the Subbasin. Specifically, the GSA should describe how these existing agreements may temporarily modify operations within the subbasin and discuss any possible mitigation measures or actions that may be taken by the GSA in response.	Consult with the City of Ventura regarding the settlement provision that allows for temporary modification or suspension of operational protocols following a declaration of emergency, which could potentially lead to minimum threshold exceeds and undesirable results. Revisit this issue with UVRGA Board after City consultation and update the GSP as necessary.