

## UVRGA Groundwater Sustainability Plan Approved by DWR

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is charged with evaluating Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) within two years of GSP submission. The UVRGA GSP for the Upper Ventura River Basin was submitted to DWR on January 24, 2022. The purpose of DWR's evaluation is to determine if a GSP conforms to specific requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA or Act), is likely to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin covered by the Plan, and whether the Plan 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 leads to one of three possible outcomes: "approved," "incomplete," or "inadequate."

On April 27, 2023, UVRGA received notice that the UVRGA GSP received an "approved" determination from DWR. DWR's Statement of Findings explains their rationale for the determination that UVRGA's GSP satisfies the objectives of SGMA and substantially complies with the GSP Regulations. The DWR determination letter can be downloaded here <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/>.

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.



Ventura River at Casitas Vista Rd. 2-13-23.

### Public Hearing to Adopt Groundwater Extraction Fees for Fiscal Year 23/24

**UVRGA must fund implementation of the GSP to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The UVRGA Board will hold a public hearing on June 8, 2023 to consider adopting a \$140 per acre-foot groundwater extraction fee for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Please visit the "Latest News" section at <https://uvrgroundwater.org> for more information.**

### Well Registration and Metering Reminder

**If you own or operate a well in the Basin and it has not been registered with UVRGA, please visit the "Latest News" section of the UVRGA home page at <https://uvrgroundwater.org/> to learn how to register your well or contact our Executive Director, Bryan Bondy at 805-212-0484 for assistance.**

**In addition to the well registration requirement, all non-exempt wells must be outfitted with a flow meter by June 30, 2023. Proof of meter calibration may also be required, depending on the meter age or amount of time since the meter was last calibrated.**



Habitat Mapping, November, 2022

## Upcoming UVRGA Board Meetings

The UVRGA Board of Directors scheduled its 2023 Regular Board meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 12:30 PM. The next scheduled regular meeting is June 8, 2023. Special meetings are also scheduled on as-needed basis. The UVRGA Board meets at the Ventura River Water District located at 409 Old Baldwin Road, Ojai, CA 93023.

For the latest updates concerning Board meetings, please visit: <https://uvrgroundwater.org/public-meetings/>



Example Flowmeter Photo

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.

As a reminder, GSP adoption and approval by DWR do not represent the end of the process; rather, it marks the beginning of a twenty-year implementation timeframe to ensure sustainable management of the Upper Ventura River Basin. The GSP establishes sustainable management criteria for the Basin and a plan to achieve them that will be implemented over the next 20 years. UVRGA has begun implementation of the various monitoring programs identified in the GSP. These include groundwater level and groundwater quality monitoring, visual and gaged surface water flow monitoring, and aquatic biological monitoring in the Ventura River at Foster Park and near the confluence with San Antonio Creek.

UVRGA has much work to do to implement the GSP and your feedback and comments along the way will help ensure the GSP is successfully implemented. We encourage your continued involvement. If you haven't already, please join our interested parties list at: <https://uvrgroundwater.org/join-interested-parties-list/> or contact our Executive Director, Bryan Bondy for more information at: [bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org](mailto:bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org).

## Flowmeter Photo Reminder

Please remember to take a digital photograph of your well flowmeter on a quarterly basis each March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 of and submit the photos to [bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org](mailto:bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org)

The next flowmeter photo date is June 30, 2023.