

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 9, 2023

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency was held in the offices of the Ventura River Water District, 409 Old Baldwin Road, Ojai, CA 93023 on Thursday, November 9, 2023. Chair Kaiser called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. ROLL CALL

Directors Present:

Pete Kaiser, Chair
Bruce Kuebler, Vice Chair
Arne Anselm, Secretary
Emily Ayala, Stakeholder Director
James Kentosh, Member Director
Jenny Tribo, Member Director (arrived at 1:08 p.m.)

Director Absent: Vivon Crawford

Staff Present:

Bryan Bondy, Executive Director
Keith Lemieux, Agency Counsel
Maureen Tucker, Administrative Assistant

Identified Members of the Public:

In person: Kelly Dyer

Online: Burt Handy, Michael Flood (Casitas MWD), Nicole Collier Yamagiwa, and Kevin DeLano

D. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Kaiser asked for any proposed changes to the agenda. No requests were made.

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

Roll Call Vote: E. Ayala - Y J. Kentosh – Y B. Kuebler – Y
 P. Kaiser – Y A. Anselm - Y

Directors Absent: Vivon Crawford and Jenny Tribo

E. OCTOBER 12, 2023 CLOSED SESSION REPORT

Agency Counsel reported on the October 12, 2023 closed session that the Board met in closed session for one item: conference with legal counsel - existing litigation – *Santa Barbara Channel Keeper v. City of San Buenaventura* and no reportable action took place.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

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

No public comments were offered.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) Approve Minutes from October 12, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
- b) Approve Financial Report for October 2023
- c) Fiscal Year 2023-2024 First Quarter Budget Report

Chair Kaiser asked if any Director wanted to pull any items for discussion. No request requests were made.

Director Kuebler moved approval of the consent items. Director Kentosh seconded the motion.

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

 P. Kaiser – Y A. Anselm – Abstained on Item No. 1(a)
 Yes on Item Nos. 1(b) and (c)

Directors Absent: Vivon Crawford and Jenny Tribo

2. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Director Ayala: Commented on the expected weather next week.
Director Anselm: No report.
Director Kaiser: No report.
Director Kentosh: No report.
Director Kuebler: No report.

Directors Absent: Vivon Crawford and Jenny Tribo

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Private well owner groundwater extraction fees for the January through June 2023 period are paid except one invoice. Member Agency groundwater extraction fees for fiscal year 2023/2024 are paid except one invoice. The City of Ventura intentionally held this payment due to the Agency's bank balance approaching the bank contract limit. This payment can be made now that the bank balance has been reduced.

Regarding the fiscal audit, the Executive Director and Agency counsel reviewed Government Code Section 12410.6 requiring local agencies to switch auditors after six consecutive audits if the lead audit partner is the same. It appears that the current auditor will be able to meet this requirement if they are selected next year. Chair Kaiser requested that the auditor provide a letter of conformity with Government Code 12410.6 next year.

UVRGA's Treasurer is working on opening the investment accounts at Bank of America and Pacific Western Bank.

Director Tribo arrived.

The Executive Director briefly summarized the status of the various monitoring programs. He noted that an access agreement was executed with the new owner of the Arroyo Mobile Home Park to monitor groundwater levels in their well. He explained that the previous owner had ceased providing access after a few years of monitoring. Resuming monitoring at this well will help address data gap area "B" identified in the GSP. The Executive Director met with Roger Essick, who is on the OVLC Board and is a private ranch manager. Four other existing wells were assessed with Mr. Essick for potential addition to the UVRGA groundwater level monitoring network. Access agreement requests were submitted for three of the four wells for consideration (two on OVLC property and one on a private ranch). If access is granted, these wells will help address data gap areas "B" and "D" identified in the GSP. The Executive Director worked with the well owner of state well number 04N23W20A01 to determine if the well could be retrofitted to facilitate monitoring. An access agreement is already in place for this well. If the well can be retrofitted and monitoring resumes at this well it will help address data gap area "E" identified in the GSP.

The Executive Director briefly summarized two GSP implementation actions San Antonio Creek Flow Depletion Assessment and Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water. San Antonio Creek Flow Depletion Assessment was scheduled for completion in September 2023, but was put on hold pending approval of the Ojai Valley Basin GSP. Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water is scheduled for completion by June 2026.

The Executive Director reminded the Board about the upcoming Aquatic GDE field trip scheduled for Nov. 30th and highlighted the field trip flyer included in the meeting packet.

The Executive Director reported that he had a discussion with Casitas MWD staff about exploring opportunities to coordinate surface water flow and biological monitoring activities.

The Executive Director reported that he met with VCWPD staff to discuss the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project on November 1, 2023. VCWDP staff and the Executive Director

discussed the potential temporary effects of the dam removal project on groundwater recharge and aquatic habitat and agreed that monitoring will be important for determining the effects and potential impact on achieving the UVRGA GSP sustainability goal. VCWDP staff and the Executive Director agreed that the agencies should coordinate monitoring efforts. To this end, VCWDP staff and the Executive Director are working on an access agreement for UVRGA to begin groundwater level monitoring in a monitoring well constructed by VCWDP on the west bank levee just north of Santa Ana Blvd. If access is granted to this monitoring well, the data that would be collected would help address data gap area “E” identified in the GSP.

The Executive Director reported that the Small GSA Coalition worked on better understanding and documenting the specific needs of each coalition member agency.

Director Anslem asked about the audit frequency. The Executive Director said the audits are performed annually.

Director Kuebler asked if the computer model was up to date. The Executive Director said the model update is in progress.

Director Ayala asked if the field trip on Nov. 30th is open to the public. The Executive Director said yes.

No public comments.

4. AGENCY COUNSEL’S REPORT

Agency Counsel Lemieux stated there is nothing to report this month and mentioned an LA Times article regarding the GSA in Ridgecrest.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a. 2024 Regular Board Meeting Calendar

The Board briefly discussed scheduling the regular board meetings for 2024.

Director Anslem moved approval of regular board meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. for 2024. Seconded by Director Ayala.

No public comments.

Roll Call Vote:	E. Ayala - Y	J. Kentosh – Y	B. Kuebler – Y
	J. Tribo – Y	P. Kaiser – Y	A. Anselm - Y

Director Absent: Vivon Crawford

b. Agency Bylaws Amendment Concerning Procedures for Approval of Warrants and Signature of Checks.

The Board discussed amending the agency bylaws concerning procedures for approval of warrants and signature of checks and to add Agency Treasurer, Carrie Troup as an authorized signer. This would be necessary pursuant to the Board’s previous direction to the Treasurer to open the investment accounts. The Treasurer could also take over as account manager at the Agency’s current depositor, Bank of Sierra.

Director Kentosh indicated there is a small typo on the title of 2023-07 resolution. “Or” should be “Of.”

Director Kentosh moved adoption Resolution No. 2023-07 with the title change, “Or” to “Of.”
Seconded by Director Anselm.

No public comments.

Roll Call Vote: E. Ayala - Y J. Kentosh – Y B. Kuebler – Y
 J. Tribo – Y P. Kaiser – Y A. Anselm - Y

Director Absent: Vivon Crawford

c. Bank Account Signers

The Board discussed three resolutions (2023-08, 2023-09, 2023-10), one for each bank, to extend check signing authority to the Agency Treasurer, Carrie Troup. Adding Carrie Troup to the current bank will allow Ms. Troup to open the Board approved investment accounts and take over as account manager at the Agency’s current depositor, Bank of Sierra.

Director Ayala moved adoption of Resolution Nos. 2023-08, 2023-09 and 2023-10 designating signing authorities at the specified banks. Seconded by Director Tribo.

No public comments.

Roll Call Vote: E. Ayala - Y J. Kentosh – Y B. Kuebler – Y
 V. Crawford – Y P. Kaiser – Y A. Anselm - Y

Director Absent: Vivon Crawford

6. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. Well Registration and Flowmeter Compliance Update

Executive Director Bondy provided a brief update on the status of well registrations and flowmeter compliance. Five wells were registered since the last report. Two wells were determined to not require registration since the last report. Forty wells remain pending further evaluation. Out of the twenty-six wells determined to require a flowmeter, three remain out of compliance. Two of the

three wells have a calibrated flowmeter installed and are just pending clarification of the calibration date.

Director Questions: None.

No public comments.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee

Director Ayala said there is no report.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. CLOSED SESSION

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

The Board discussed the upcoming November 30th field trip. It was noticed as a special board meeting. Agency Counsel clarified that the field trip could proceed unofficially if a quorum of the board does not attend. The Executive Director clarified access and parking pursuant to a question from public attendee Burt Handy.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Action: _____

Motion: _____

E. Ayala__ P. Kaiser__ J. Kentosh__ B. Kuebler__ J. Tribo__ A. Anselm __ V. Crawford__