

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY**

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (“Agency”) Board of Directors (“Board”) will hold a **Regular Board Meeting at 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 9, 2024 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=aXp5NWIDLzBEVHh5RDJWJL0RqVWg2QT09>

Meeting ID: 885 0000 7127 Passcode: 680259

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

**May 9, 2024**

**A. MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. ROLL CALL**

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**E. 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.

**REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

**1. 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 April 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting**
- b. Approve Financial Report for April 2024**

**2. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

### **3. 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.

### **4. AGENCY COUNSEL'S REPORT**

The Board will receive a verbal update from Agency Counsel concerning Agency matters. The Board may provide feedback to Agency Counsel.

### **5. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

#### **a. Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Annual Budget**

The Board will consider approving a fiscal year 2024/2025 budget and multi-year budget projection and consider scheduling a public hearing to adopt groundwater extraction fees for fiscal year 2024/2025.

### **6. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS**

#### **a. Well Registration and Flowmeter Compliance Update**

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

### **7. 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.

### **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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

### **CLOSED SESSION AGENGA**

1. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (§ 54956.9): Name of Case: Santa Barbara Channelkeeper v. City of San Buenaventura

### **REGULAR SESSION AGENGA (CONTINUED)**

### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2024 at 1 P.M.

*The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, the Agency's services, programs, or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or if you require agenda materials in an alternative format, please contact the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Executive Director at (805) 212-0484. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Agency to make appropriate arrangements.*

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 11, 2024**

**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, April 11, 2024. Chair Kaiser called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**C. ROLL CALL**

Directors Present:

Gina Dorrington, Alternate Director  
Pete Kaiser, Chair  
James Kentosh, Director  
Alma Quezada, Alternate Director  
Vivon Sedgwick, Director

Directors Absent: Emily Ayala, Arnie Anselm

Staff Present:

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

Identified Members of the Public:

In Person: none

Online: Burt Handy, Mary Bergen, and Kevin Delano

**D. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA**

Chair Kaiser asked for public comments on items not appearing on the agenda. No comments were offered.

## **REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

### **1. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a) Approve Minutes from March 14, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- b) Approve Financial Report for March 2024

Chair Kaiser asked if any Director wanted to pull any items off the consent calendar for discussion. No requests were made.

Director Kentosh moved approval of the consent calendar. Director Quezada seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:        J. Kentosh – Y        B. A. Quezada – Y    P. Kaiser – Y  
                              V. Sedgwick - Y        G. Dorrington - Y

Directors Absent: E. Ayala, A. Anslem

Public Comments: None

### **2. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements were made.

### **3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

Groundwater extraction fees are current except for one well owner who owes \$1,628.00 for the January 1 through June 30, 2023 semi-annual billing period.

The Ventura County Treasury investment pool account has been set up and funded with \$500,000.

Executive Director Bondy continued working on well registration.

Executive Director Bondy summarized the status of the UVRGA's field monitoring programs.

Groundwater level data downloads, Camino Cielo stream gauge deployment, and aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystem monitoring are all scheduled for May. The Ventura River is still flowing across the entire basin, so monthly visual monitoring has not been necessary.

The encroachment permit application for access to two Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCPWD) owned monitoring wells on the Live Oak Acres Levee is under review. The board-approved contract with Layne was issued to modify the wellhead to facilitate groundwater level monitoring equipment in well 04N23W32C03S.

Executive Director Bondy summarized recent outreach efforts. Executive Director Bondy and Rincon Consultants, Inc. presented on UVRGA's field monitoring programs during the April 4

Ventura River Watershed Council (VRWC) meeting. Executive Director Bondy was invited to speak at the upcoming Groundwater Resources Association of California SGMA Implementation Summit conference concerning the SGMA depletions of interconnected surface water.

The Small GSA Coalition held a conference call on March 28.

Questions: None

No public comments.

#### **4. AGENCY COUNSEL’S REPORT**

No report.

#### **5. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

##### **a. Casitas Mutual Water Company Groundwater Extraction Fee Waiver**

Executive Director Bondy explained that UVRGA has been invoicing groundwater extraction fees to Casitas Mutual Water Company (CMWC) based on the annual groundwater extraction volume estimate developed in 2019. CMWC has paid invoiced fees through December 2022, but has not paid the invoice for the January through June 2023 semi-annual period. Executive Director Bondy recently learned that CMWC stopped using its well due to water quality issues and has instead been obtaining water from Casitas MWD. He was able to confirm this on the CMWC’s well registration. He recommended waiving the groundwater extraction fees for the January through June 2023 semi-annual period. Executive Director Bondy said CMWC would be billed based on meter readings going forward, which are anticipated to be *de minimis* and, therefore, exempt from fees.

Director Quezada asked Agency Counsel Lemieux if she must abstain because Ventura River Water District is in the process of annexing CMWC. Agency Counsel Lemieux said he does not believe there is a conflict of interest.

Director Quezada moved to waive Casitas Mutual Water Company groundwater extraction fees invoiced for the January through June 2023 semi-annual period. Seconded by Director Kentosh.

Roll Call Vote: J. Kentosh – Y B. A. Quezada – Y P. Kaiser – Y

V. Sedgwick - Y G. Dorrington - Y

Directors Absent: E. Ayala, A. Anslem

##### **b. Executive Director Purchasing Authority**

Executive Director Bondy introduced Resolution No. 2024-03, to establish the Executive Director’s purchasing authority. He informed the Board that he discussed with Chair Kaiser that the way things are now, the Board would need to have a meeting anytime unanticipated minor expenses are encountered. For example, the April 2024 Board meeting would not have been necessary to approve travel expenses for attendance at the SGMA Implementation Summit. He mentioned that

the General Manager of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency has a \$2,500 purchasing authority and said that would be a reasonable amount for now.

Director Kentosh moved to adopt Resolution No. 2024-03 to establish that the Executive Director has purchasing authority up to \$2,500.00. Seconded by Director Sedgwick.

Roll Call Vote: J. Kentosh – Y B. A. Quezada – Y P. Kaiser – Y  
V. Sedgwick - Y G. Dorrington - Y

Directors Absent: E. Ayala, A. Anslem

## **6. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS**

### **a. Well Registration and Flowmeter Compliance Update**

Executive Director Bondy provided an update on the status of well registrations and flowmeter compliance. Two wells have been addressed since the March Board meeting. Thirty-one wells remain unregistered. All registered wells are in compliance with the flowmeter requirements.

Executive Director Bondy confirmed that letters notifying owners of penalty accrual were sent out per Board Direction during the March meeting.

Director Kentosh asked how UVRGA will collect penalties. Agency counsel responded there is a due process requirement and enforcement hearing.

Director Kentosh asked if the \$10 per day fee is in place yet.

Executive Director Bondy responded that the penalties will begin to accrue on May 1<sup>st</sup> for some owners and June 1<sup>st</sup> for others.

No public comments.

### **b. SGMA Implementation Summit**

Executive Director Bondy notified the Board that he was invited to participate in a panel discussion at the upcoming Annual GSA Summit on June 5-6 in Sacramento. The conference is put on by the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRA) in collaboration with Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Groundwater Committee. He explained that this is an annual conference designed specifically for GSAs with the goal of creating a forum for groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs), Department of Water Resources (DWR), etc. to foster progress on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation. UVRGA has received recognition by some across the State for its handling of depletions of interconnected surface water in the groundwater sustainability plan, which will be panel discussion topic. Executive Director Bondy added that he is also trying to schedule a meeting with DWR management while he is in Sacramento to discuss their comments on UVRGA's GSP.

The Board discussed approving travel expenses for an amount not-to-exceed \$2,000 for the Executive Director to attend the annual SGMA Implementation Summit as an invited speaker.

Director Quezada moved approval of travel expenses not-to-exceed \$2,000 for the Executive Director to attend the annual SGMA Implementation Summit as an invited speaker. Seconded by Alternate Director Dorrington.

Roll Call Vote: J. Kentosh – Y B. A. Quezada – Y P. Kaiser – Y  
V. Sedgwick - Y G. Dorrington - Y

Directors Absent: E. Ayala, A. Anslem

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee**

Director Sedgwick stated there is no report.

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**9. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA**

The Board adjourned into closed session at 1:34 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 1:54 p.m.

Agency Counsel Lemieux reported on existing litigation: *Santa Barbara Channelkeeper v. City of San Buenaventura*. No reportable action took place.

**REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2024 @ 1:00 p.m.

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

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

P. Kaiser \_ B. Kuebler\_ A. Anslem \_ E. Ayala\_ V. Sedgwick\_ J. Tribo \_ J. Kentosh\_

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 1(b)**

**DATE:** May 3, 2024  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Carrie Troup C.P.A., Treasurer  
**SUBJECT:** Approve Financial Report for April 2024

---

**March 2024 UVRGA Checking Balance** \$ 589,941.47

**April 2024 Activity**

**Revenues/ Credits:**

Groundwater Extraction Fees \$ 15,849.24

**Checks and Electronic payments:**

2491	Ventura River Water	Audit Services 2022/23	\$	13,500.00
2492	Aleshire & Wynder, LLP	March Services	\$	2,726.88
2493	Intera Incorporated	March Services	\$	20,327.50
2494	Carrie Troup, CPA	March Services	\$	1,158.40
2495	Bondy Groundwater Consulting, Inc.	March Services	\$	9,838.34
EFT	Go Daddy	Annual	\$	239.88
Wire	Transfer to Ventura County Treasury		\$	500,000.00
EFT	Bank Transfer Fee		\$	27.50

Total Transfers & Expenditures Paid & To Be Paid \$ 547,818.50

**April 2024 UVRGA Ending Checking Balance:** \$ 42,122.97

**March 2024 UVRGA VC. Treasury Investment Pool Balance** \$ -

EFT Transfer in funds from checking \$ 500,000.00

**April 2024 UVRGA VC. Treasury Investment Pool Ending Balance<sup>1</sup>** \$ 500,000.00

**April 2024 UVRGA Total Funds Ending Balance<sup>1</sup>** \$ 542,122.97

Notes:

(1) Does not include April 2024 investment returns

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.

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

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

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