

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

Item 1(a)

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

Item 1(a)

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 1st for some owners and June 1st 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.

Item 1(a)

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 Balance¹ \$ 500,000.00

April 2024 UVRGA Total Funds Ending Balance¹ \$ 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 ___

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 3

DATE: May 9, 2024

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 reportable activity.
2. Financial:
 - a. Groundwater Extraction Fees:
 - i. Private Well Extraction Fees for the January 1 – June 30, 2023 Semi-Annual Period: On April 11, 2024, the Board approved a waiver of the remaining unpaid private well owner invoice for this period.
 - ii. Private Well Extraction Fees for the July 1 – December 31, 2023 Semi-Annual Period: Private well owner invoices dated April 12, 2024 were mailed on April 8, 2024. Invoice payments are due May 12, 2024.
3. GSP Implementation:
 - a. Well Registration and Flowmeter Compliance: The Executive Director reviewed well registration submittals, responded to questions from well owners, issued follow-up letters, and tracked registered mailings. Please see Item No. 6(a) for more information.
 - b. Monitoring Networks:
 - i. Groundwater Level Monitoring:
 1. Groundwater level monitoring is ongoing. Semi-annual groundwater level data downloads are scheduled for May.
 2. Well modifications necessary to facilitate groundwater level monitoring in State Well No. 04N23W32C03S were completed. Please see Attachment A for construction photos.
 3. The encroachment permit application for monitoring groundwater levels in two monitoring wells constructed by Ventura County

Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) within and adjacent to the Live Oak Acres Levee located on the western bank of the Ventura River north of Santa Ana Blvd was approved.

4. The request to the City of Ventura to evaluate whether there are City-owned wells in the vicinity of data gap area “A” that can be utilized for monitoring is pending a reduction in Ventura River flows.
 - ii. Surface Water Flow Monitoring: The Camino Cielo gage was removed on December 5, 2023. Monitoring will resume when Ventura River flows decline to a safe level, which is currently anticipated to occur in May. The Executive Director obtained a renewal of the County Transportation encroachment permit covering the monitoring at this location.
 - iii. Visual Surface Water Monitoring: No activity has been required as the Ventura River has been flowing across the entire Basin since December 2023.
 - iv. Riparian Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Monitoring: Quarterly drone imagery of the riparian GDE were collected in late March.
 - v. Aquatic GDE Monitoring: Quarterly drone imagery of the aquatic GDE was collected in late March. Field monitoring activities are suspended until Ventura River flows decline to a safe level (anticipated in May).
4. Outreach and Coordination: No reportable activity.
5. Small GSA Coalition:
 - a. The Executive Director participated in the Small GSA Coalition’s monthly teleconference call on May 2.
6. SWRCB / CDFW Instream Flow Enhancement Coordination: No update.
7. Correspondence: None

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. State Well No. 04N23W32C03 Sounding Tube Installation Photos

Action: _____

Motion: _____

P. Kaiser _ B. Kuebler_ A. Anslem _ E. Ayala_ V. Sedgwick_ J. Tribo _ J. Kentosh__

Attachment A
State Well No. 04N23W32C03 Sounding Tube Installation Photos



Photo 1. Crane used to remove and reinstall pump.



Photo 2. Lowering pump into well. 1.25-inch PVC sounding tube is visible to the right of the pump column.



Photo 3. Wellhead landed on well casing. Note new well head with capped 1.25-inch PVC sounding tube on right side.

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 5(a)

DATE: May 9, 2024

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget and Multi-Year Budget Projection

SUMMARY

The draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/2025 budget has been prepared for consideration (Attachment A).

Expenses

Expenses for the FY 2024/2025 budget and the multi-year projection were updated based on current cost information and adjustments to anticipated scope. The scope adjustments are based on groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) implementation progress to date and Department of Water Resource's GSP recommended corrective actions. Most of the Agency's expenses are for Other Professional Services, which are broken down in Attachment B.

Expense assumptions include the following:

1. No litigation;
2. No water rights adjudication related expenses; and
3. 5% annual inflation (per Board direction in May 2022).

Financial Reserves

The projected ending cash balance for FY 2024/2025 is \$456,863. The budgeted ending capital reserve for the current fiscal year is \$268,676. The budgeted ending operating reserve for the current fiscal year is \$100,000. Projected unreserved cash at year end is \$88,186.

Given that the stream gages identified in the GSP have established and significant progress has been made on addressing groundwater level monitoring data gaps with existing wells, it is recommended that the capital reserve be reduced to \$150,000, which would be held until it is known whether it will be necessary to drill a monitoring well in Data Gap Area A or if an existing well can be monitored. It is further recommended that the balance of the projected year-end cash be moved to the operational reserve. The proposed modified reserves for year-end are as follows:

- FY 2024/2025 Year End Capital Reserve: \$150,000
- FY 2024/2025 Year End Operating Reserve: \$306,863

Looking ahead, it is proposed that the \$206,863 of excess operational reserve funds be used to help fund operations during the next three fiscal years such that the reserve balance is reduced to the \$100,000 target in FY 2026/2027.

Groundwater Extractions

3,449 AF of groundwater extractions are assumed for the FY 2024/2025 budget, as detailed below. Groundwater extractions for FY 2025/2026 – 2028/2029 are assumed to be the same as for FY 2024/2025.

Member Agency Extractions Basis

For the FY 2023/2024 budget and extraction fee, the Board directed staff to use the most recent 3-year average extractions for the Member Agencies. The FY 2024/2025 budget has been prepared assuming the Board will use this approach again. The updated 3-year average is 3,248 AF, compared with AF 3,173 last year (2% higher). Please see Attachment C for further details.

Private Well Owner Extractions Basis

Private well owners continued to transition to metered pumping during FY 2023/2024. Some are not fully transitioned and continue to be billed based on extraction estimates developed by the Agency in 2017. Based on the currently available information, the estimated private well extractions for FY 2024/2025 is 201AF.

Groundwater Extraction Fees

The extraction fee for FY 2024/2025 and projected extraction fees for the following years were calculated by dividing the annual revenue requirement by the estimated annual groundwater extractions. The results are shown in the green box on the budget sheet. The draft extraction fee for FY 2024/2025 is \$166/AF compared with \$156/AF in last year's multi-year projection. The increase is due to the increase in costs for other professional services described earlier in this staff report.

Next Steps

Extraction fees for FY 2024/2025 will need to be adopted by the Board following a public hearing. The adopted FY 2024/2025 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 2024/2025 budget today, it is recommended that the Board schedule the public hearing to adopt an extraction fee for FY 2024/2025 during the next Regular Meeting on June 13, 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approve a fiscal year 2024/2025 budget and multi-year budget projection and schedule a public hearing to adopt groundwater extraction fees for fiscal year 2024/2025.

BACKGROUND

The multi-year budget projection was most recently adopted on May 11, 2023.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Please see summary.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Draft Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget and Multi-Year Budget Projection
- B. Historical and Groundwater Extractions and Proposed Extractions for FY 24/25 Budget
- C. Breakdown of Other Professional Services

Action: _____

Motion: _____

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

**Item 5(a), Attachment A
Draft Fiscal Year 24/25 Budget and Multi-Year Budget Projection**

| Budget | FY 23/24 Q1- Q3 Actuals | FY 23/24 Q4 Projection | FY 23/24 YE Projection | Draft FY 24/25 Budget | FY 25/26 Projected | FY 26/27 Projected | FY 27/28 Projected | FY 28/29 Projected | Comments | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|--|
| <i>Estimated Groundwater Extractions (AF)</i> | 3,357 | N/A | N/A | 3,413 | 3,449 | 3,449 | 3,449 | 3,449 | 3,449 | <i>See Attachment B for more information. FY 26 - 29 extractions are assumed to be the same as FY 25 estimate.</i> |
| <i>Estimated Extraction Fee (\$/AF)</i> | \$ 140 | N/A | N/A | \$ 140 | \$ 166 | \$ 158 | \$ 157 | \$ 143 | \$ 190 | <i>Equals groundwater extraction fee revenue divided by estimated groundwter extractions.</i> |

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 43000 · Groundwater Extraction Fee | \$ 469,091 | \$ 459,454 | \$ 17,477 | \$ 476,931 | \$ 570,985 | \$ 545,876 | \$ 539,969 | \$ 494,673 | \$ 656,584 |
| Total Income | \$ 469,091 | \$ 459,454 | \$ 17,477 | \$ 476,931 | \$ 570,985 | \$ 545,876 | \$ 539,969 | \$ 494,673 | \$ 656,584 |

Expense

55000 · Administrative Exp

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 55011 · Computer Maintenance | \$ 551 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 55015 · Postage & Shipping | \$ 110 | \$ 16 | \$ 602 | \$ 618 | \$ 625 | \$ 656 | \$ 689 | \$ 724 | \$ 760 |
| 55020 · Office Supplies & Software | \$ 551 | \$ 512 | \$ 200 | \$ 712 | \$ 750 | \$ 788 | \$ 827 | \$ 868 | \$ 912 |
| 55025 · Minor Equipment | \$ 276 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 300 | \$ 315 | \$ 331 | \$ 347 | \$ 365 |
| 55035 · Advertising and Promotion | \$ 1,606 | \$ - | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,250 | \$ 1,313 | \$ 1,378 | \$ 1,447 | \$ 1,519 |
| 55055 · Insurance Expense-SDRMA | \$ 3,843 | \$ 3,843 | \$ - | \$ 3,843 | \$ 4,250 | \$ 4,463 | \$ 4,686 | \$ 4,920 | \$ 5,166 |
| 55060 · Memberships-CSDA | \$ 1,906 | \$ 1,906 | \$ - | \$ 1,906 | \$ 2,100 | \$ 2,205 | \$ 2,315 | \$ 2,431 | \$ 2,553 |
| 55065 · Permit Fees | \$ - | \$ 2,632 | \$ - | \$ 2,632 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Total 55000 · Administrative Exp | \$ 8,843 | \$ 8,909 | \$ 1,802 | \$ 10,711 | \$ 9,275 | \$ 9,739 | \$ 10,226 | \$ 10,737 | \$ 11,274 |

58000 · Professional Fees

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Misc. Monitoring Expenses | \$ - | \$ 1,696 | \$ - | \$ 1,696 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 58005 · Executive Director /GSP Manager | \$ 37,464 | \$ 27,060 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 47,060 | \$ 47,000 | \$ 49,350 | \$ 51,818 | \$ 54,408 | \$ 57,129 |
| 58010 · Legal Fees | \$ 37,464 | \$ 14,500 | \$ 9,700 | \$ 24,200 | \$ 39,337 | \$ 41,304 | \$ 43,369 | \$ 45,538 | \$ 47,815 |
| 58015 · Website | \$ 3,211 | \$ 2,083 | \$ 500 | \$ 2,583 | \$ 3,372 | \$ 3,540 | \$ 3,717 | \$ 3,903 | \$ 4,098 |
| 58020 · Accounting | \$ 17,661 | \$ 13,630 | \$ 4,700 | \$ 18,330 | \$ 18,544 | \$ 19,472 | \$ 20,445 | \$ 21,468 | \$ 22,541 |
| 58040 · Audit Expense | \$ 14,985 | \$ - | \$ 13,500 | \$ 13,500 | \$ 15,735 | \$ 16,521 | \$ 17,348 | \$ 18,215 | \$ 19,126 |
| 58050 · Other Professional Services | \$ 340,768 | \$ 236,213 | \$ 86,400 | \$ 322,613 | \$ 448,500 | \$ 419,010 | \$ 406,644 | \$ 295,434 | \$ 434,912 |
| Total 58000 · Professional Fees | \$ 451,553 | \$ 295,181 | \$ 134,800 | \$ 429,981 | \$ 572,488 | \$ 549,198 | \$ 543,341 | \$ 438,966 | \$ 585,620 |

FY 24 budgeted exceedance is due primarily to more frequent board meetings than assumed in budget. Budget increased for subsequent years.

See Attachment C for breakdown.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Total Expense | \$ 460,396 | \$ 304,090 | \$ 136,602 | \$ 440,692 | \$ 581,763 | \$ 558,936 | \$ 553,567 | \$ 449,703 | \$ 596,894 |
| Net Ordinary Income | \$ 8,695 | \$ 155,364 | \$ (119,125) | \$ 36,239 | \$ (10,778) | \$ (13,061) | \$ (13,598) | \$ 44,970 | \$ 59,689 |

Other Income/Expense

Other Expense

Capital Projects

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Capital Project-Mon. Well & Str | \$ 20,000 | \$ - | \$ 13,954 | \$ 13,954 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Total Capital Projects | \$ 20,000 | \$ - | \$ 13,954 | \$ 13,954 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Contingency - Non Capital Exp | \$ 45,155 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 58,176 | \$ 55,894 | \$ 55,357 | \$ 44,970 | \$ 59,689 |
| Total Other Expense | \$ 65,155 | \$ - | \$ 13,954 | \$ 13,954 | \$ 58,176 | \$ 55,894 | \$ 55,357 | \$ 44,970 | \$ 59,689 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Net Other Income | \$ (65,155) | \$ - | \$ (13,954) | \$ (13,954) | \$ (58,176) | \$ (55,894) | \$ (55,357) | \$ (44,970) | \$ (59,689) |
| Net Income | \$ (56,460) | \$ 155,364 | \$ (133,078) | \$ 22,285 | \$ (68,954) | \$ (68,954) | \$ (68,954) | \$ - | \$ - |

**Item 5(a) Attachment B
Historical and Groundwater Extractions and Proposed Extractions for FY 24/25 Budget**

| Calendar Year | Rainfall (in) ¹ | Groundwater Extraction (acre-feet) | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|-------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| | | Casitas MWD | City of Ventura | MOWD | VRWD | Subtotal Member Agencies | Private Wells ² | Total All Wells |
| 2012 | 13.75 | 229 | 3,184 | 1,021 | 1,251 | 5,685 | 368 | 6,053 |
| 2013 | 4.15 | 171 | 2,173 | 837 | 908 | 4,089 | 368 | 4,457 |
| 2014 | 13.82 | 42 | 3,238 | 512 | 994 | 4,786 | 368 | 5,154 |
| 2015 | 4.97 | 54 | 1,298 | 466 | 847 | 2,665 | 368 | 3,033 |
| 2016 | 16.79 | 35 | 1,849 | 303 | 760 | 2,947 | 368 | 3,315 |
| 2017 | 23.16 | 164 | 3,647 | 668 | 856 | 5,335 | 368 | 5,703 |
| 2018 | 14.85 | 142 | 1,876 | 204 | 874 | 3,096 | 368 | 3,464 |
| 2019 | 31.32 | 115 | 2,588 | 610 | 776 | 4,089 | 368 | 4,457 |
| 2020 | 11.05 | 179 | 2,418 | 486 | 907 | 3,990 | 368 | 4,358 |
| 2021 | 18.44 | 201 | 1,364 | 412 | 922 | 2,899 | 368 | 3,267 |
| 2022 | 10.10 | 176 | 1,136 | 451 | 866 | 2,630 | 336 | 2,966 |
| 2023 | 44.73 | 104 | 2,939 | 441 | 730 | 4,215 | 201 | 4,416 |
| Values for FY 24/25 Fees ³ | N/A | 160 | 1,813 | 435 | 840 | 3,248 | 201 | 3,449 |

Notes:

(1) Station 020B

(2) 2012 through 2021 values are the 2017 estimated pumping determined by the Agency. 2022 and 2023 values are invoiced amounts, which are a mix of estimated and metered extractions.

(3) Three-year average for Member Agencies and assumed extractions for private wells.

Item 5(a) Attachment C
Breakdown of Other Professional Services

| Task | FY 24/25 | FY 25/26 | FY 26/27 | FY 27/28 | FY 28/29 |
|--|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Domestic Well Survey (memo) | \$ 10,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Foster Park Protocols | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,060 | \$ 2,122 | \$ 2,185 | \$ 2,251 |
| AAIDISW - Model Update | \$ 60,000 | \$ 63,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| AAIDISW - Begin Planning for Project(s) (Prelim feasibility analysis memo) | \$ 20,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| AAIDISW - Feasibility Study of Project(s) | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$125,000 |
| GWL Data Gaps ("A" through "E") | \$ 35,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Stream Gage Data Gaps (Camino Cielo, Santa Ana Blvd., South of Confluence) | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Foster Park Aquatic GDE Monitoring | \$ 27,333 | \$ 28,700 | \$ 30,135 | \$ 31,642 | \$ 33,224 |
| Confluence Aquatic GDE Study/Monitoring | \$ 46,667 | \$ 49,000 | \$ 51,450 | \$ 54,023 | \$ 56,724 |
| Other Monitoring (GW Level, Camino Cielo Stream Gauge, Visual Streamflow Riparian GDE) | \$ 85,000 | \$ 89,250 | \$ 93,713 | \$ 98,398 | \$103,318 |
| Supplemental Water Quality Sampling (domestic wells & others) | \$ 10,000 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 |
| GW Management., Coord., & Outreach | \$ 35,000 | \$ 36,750 | \$ 38,588 | \$ 40,517 | \$ 42,543 |
| GSP Annual Reports | \$ 55,000 | \$ 57,750 | \$ 60,638 | \$ 63,669 | \$ 66,853 |
| GSP Evaluation & Update (incl. working on DWR RCAs) | \$ 62,500 | \$ 62,500 | \$125,000 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Total Other Professional Services | \$ 448,500 | \$419,010 | \$406,644 | \$295,434 | \$434,912 |

Notes:

AAIDISW = Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water
GDE = Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem
RCA = Recommended Corrective Actions

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 6(a)

DATE: May 9, 2024

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Well Registration and Flowmeter Compliance Update

SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to update the Board on well registration and flowmeter compliance.

Well Registration Status

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.

Table 1 summarizes the updated registration status as of May 5, 2024. Attachment A provides a more detailed breakdown of the registration status.

Table 1. Well Registration Status Summary

| Category | April Status (# of wells) | May Status (# of wells) | Change (# of wells) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Registration Not Required | 80 | 81 | +1 |
| Registered | 77 | 86 | +9 |
| Wells Pending Further Evaluation | 31 | 21 | -10 |
| Totals | 188 | 188 | 0 |

The Executive Director has been following up with well owners concerning unregistered wells and flowmeter non-compliance. During its March 2024 meeting, the Board directed staff to notify noncompliant well owners that UVRGA will begin accruing civil penalties. Table 2 provides a status update of enforcement efforts. Group 1 is well owners began accruing a \$10/day penalty as of May 1, 2024. Group 2 is well owners who will start accruing a \$10/day penalty on June 1, 2024.

The Executive Director requested updated assessor date from Ventura County on April 16, 2024.

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Table 2. Enforcement Status

| Group | Description | Status | Count |
|-----------------------|---|--|--------------|
| 1a | <p>Began accruing penalties on May 1, 2024.</p> <p>Letter indicating \$10/day penalty to begin accruing May 1, 2024 sent April 1, 2024 via registered mail.</p> | 4/1/24 registered mail was successful but have not submitted well registration form. Includes two owners who have previously contacted the Executive Director following prior mailing attempts and said they would register the well. | 3 |
| 1b | | New property owner was identified April 16, 2024. New owner given 30-day notice to register the wells by May 16, 2024. | 2 |
| 1c | | 4/1/24 registered mail to trust unclaimed from PO Box. Sent letter on 4/23/24 to trust at its PO Box via regular mail to trust at physical address via regular and certified mail. 4/23/24 certified mail was returned to sender. Called phone number obtained from well permit application and left voicemail on 5/1/24. No return call. Sent regular and certified letters to "current property owner" and to the trustee at the physical address on 5/2/24. | 1 |
| 1d | | 4/1/24 registered mail refused by recipient. Recent 4/23/24 via regular mail, certified mail, and Fed-Ex. Fed-Ex delivery 4/24/24 confirmed. Owner called on 5/3/24 and will register the well. | 1 |
| 1e | | 4/1/24 registered mail to physical address forwarded. Resent to physical address via regular mail and certified mail to "current property owner." Certified mail delivery 4/25/24 confirmed. | 1 |
| Total Group 1: | | | 8 |
| 2a | <p>Will begin accruing penalties on June 1, 2024.</p> <p>Third letter sent April 1, 2024.</p> <p>Letter indicating \$10/day penalty to begin accruing June 1, 2024 sent dated May 1, 2024 via certified and regular mail.</p> | No response to April 1, 2024 letter. May 1, 2024 letter delivery confirmed. | 7 |
| 2b | | No response to April 1, 2024 letter. May 1, 2024 letter delivery failed due to lack of authorized recipient to sign. Five sent again via Fed-Ex and one via certified mail on 5/1/24. | 3 |
| 2c | | No response to April 1, 2024 letter. May 1, 2024 letter stuck in transit. The mailing address is not in the basin. Sent to "Current Property Owner" at the physical address in the basin on 5/1/24 via regular and certified mail. | 2 |
| 2d | | New property owner identified April 30, 2024. New owner has until June 1, 2024 to register the well. | 1 |
| Total Group 2: | | | 13 |

Flowmeter Compliance

UVRGA Ordinance No. 1 requires that all wells that are not inactive or deemed exempt be equipped with flowmeters. Exemptions are provided for any well that extract less than 2 acre-feet per year (AFY). Operators of non-exempt wells were required to install flowmeters and provide proof of flowmeter calibration within a range of plus or minus 5% by June 30, 2023. The proof of calibration for wells that extract 100 or more AFY must be less than 3 years old. Proof of calibration for wells that extract less than 100 AFY must be less than five years old.

Twenty-seven of the seventy-seven registered wells are non-exempt. Table 2 summarizes flowmeter calibration compliance status of the non-exempt wells as of May 5, 2024. All non-exempt wells are currently in compliance with the flowmeter requirements.

Table 3. Flowmeter Calibration Compliance Summary

| Acre-Feet Per Year | Well Count | Active Well In Compliance | Active Well Out of Compliance | Well Not Operational (Well on standby or pending repairs) |
|---|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| >=100 | 10 | 9 | 0 | 1 ⁽¹⁾ |
| <100 | 17 | 13 | 0 | 4 ⁽²⁾ |
| Totals | 27 | 22 | 0 | 5 |
| Notes: | | | | |
| (1) Includes one well that is pending repairs. Proof of meter calibration is required prior to putting the well back into service. | | | | |
| (2) Includes one well that is on standby and three wells that are pending repairs. Proof of meter calibration is required prior to putting wells back into service. | | | | |

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Receive an update on well registration and flowmeter compliance. The Board may provide feedback or direction to staff concerning compliance 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

None.

Action: _____

Motion: _____

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