

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JULY 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, July 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:

Arne Anselm, Secretary (arrived at 1:07 p.m., during Item E, Public Comments)
Emily Ayala, Director
Pete Kaiser, Chair
Jim Kentosh, Director
Bruce Kuebler, Vice Chair
Jenny Tribo, Director
Vivon Sedgwick, Director

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present:

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

Identified Members of the Public:

In Person: Kelley Dyer, Analise Cohn, Sarah Mulder, and Paul Jenkins

Online: Mike Flood, Mary Bergen, Burt Handy, and Caroline Fritschle

D. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Kaiser asked for any proposed changes to the agenda. No changes were proposed. Chair Kaiser called for a voice vote to approve the agenda, which received seven ayes.

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 June 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- b) Approve Financial Report for June 2024

Chair Kaiser asked if any Director wanted to pull any items off the consent calendar for discussion. No requests were made. Director Kuebler moved approval of the consent calendar items. Seconded by Director Kentosh.

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

Directors Absent: None

Public Comments: None

2. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Kaiser called for Director announcements.

Director Ayala:	Introduced Analise Cohn who is part of the FFA program at Nordhoff High School. Analise is shadowing Director Ayala.
Director Anselm:	No report
Director Kaiser:	No report
Director Kentosh:	No report
Director Kuebler:	No report
Director Sedgwick:	No report
Director Tribo:	Introduced Sarah Mulder, new water resources manager. Sarah may be designated the alternate director for the City of Ventura.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report concerning Agency matters since the last Board meeting and requested Board feedback concerning Intera's proposed company webinar using UVRGA's GSP as a case study.

The Board discussed Intera's proposed company webinar using UVRGA's GSP as a case study. The Board consensus on this matter was that it is uncomfortable without seeing the presentation first and a clear procedure for addressing questions that should be directed to UVRGA.

Director Kentosh asked questions about the SWRCB model results spreadsheet.

Director Sedgwick asked about a SWRCB presentation of its model. Executive Director Bondy said that SWRCB has presented at Ventura River Watershed Council meetings in the past. He will inquire about whether a presentation is planned.

No public comments.

4. AGENCY COUNSEL'S REPORT

Agency Counsel Keith Lemieux reported on the Supreme Court's reversal of the Chevron Doctrine and a recent decision on the Indian Wells Valley case.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a. Agency Officer Appointments

The Board discussed appointment of officers for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 20, 2025. The previous officers each stated they are willing to remain in their current positions for another term.

Director Kentosh moved approval of the current officers:

Chair: Pete Kaiser

Vice Chair: Bruce Kuebler

Secretary: Arne Anselm

Seconded by Director Ayala.

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

B. Kuebler – Y V. Sedgwick – Y J. Tribo - Y

Directors Absent: None

The Board briefly discussed changing the timing of officer appointments. This will be added to the list of future agenda items.

No public comments.

6. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. Well Registration and Flowmeter Compliance Update

Executive Director Bondy updated the Board on the well registration and flowmeter compliance. There was no change in compliance status since the June Board meeting. Thirteen wells remain unregistered. Executive Director Bondy said he has verified that all thirteen well owners have received written notice, whether by certified mail or Fed-Ex confirmation. He noted that he has also had telephone and/or email correspondence with eight of the thirteen owners. He requested Board direction concerning penalty accruals.

Director Kuebler asked if those who have not complied know how much their penalties are. Executive Director Bondy stated the most recent letters made clear that they would be accruing \$10 per day after the effective date included in the letter.

The Board and Agency Counsel Lemieux discussed enforcement options. After discussion, the Board directed staff to issue letters to the unregistered well owners indicating that the daily penalty accrual rate will be increased by the Board effective September 1, 2024 in an amount to be determined.

No public comments.

b. Summary of Meeting with the CA Department of Water Resources Concerning the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Recommended Corrective Actions

Executive Director Bondy summarized his June 4, 2024 meeting with Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff in Sacramento concerning the GSP Recommended Corrective Actions included in their GSP approval letter. The meeting was productive and most of the GSP development team's questions were addressed during the meeting.

No public comments.

c. Groundwater Levels Update

The Executive Director provided an update on Upper Ventura River Valley Basin groundwater levels. He reviewed groundwater level charts updated through May 2024.

Public Comments: Paul Jenkins commented on the groundwater level data and expressed concerns about periodic desaturation of the aquifer near Santa Ana Blvd.

d. Numerical Model Update

Executive Director Bondy provided a summary of recent model work and recommendations for future work.

Model validation work revealed that model calibration error was significantly higher during the 2018-2022 verification period as compared to the 2005-2018 model calibration period. Executive Director Bondy said the proposed scope of work included in the next agenda item is intended to investigate the potential causes for this finding.

Executive Director Bondy reported on the sensitivity of the model to the new channel configuration after the January 2023 flooding event. The impact of channel network changes on model results was evaluated by simulating the 2005-2018 calibration period with the original channel network and with the post-flood channel network. Comparison of these two simulations revealed that modeling of simulated streamflow and streamflow depletion was not sensitive to the channel changes.

Executive Director Bondy proposed a two-step process to investigate and address the model verification findings. The first step would be to review the model for potential causes of the higher calibration error during the verification period. This would include reviewing raw and processed model inputs for errors and discrepancies, updating the groundwater pumping information based on information obtained from the well registration process, and considering more recent groundwater level data collected by UVRGA. The model will be reviewed and model sensitivity

analyses will be performed to assess potential causes of the increased model error. The second step would involve updating the model calibration based on the findings from the first step.

The Board discussed stream gauge accuracy concerns and requested that the stream gauge data be reviewed as part of the assessment. Director Tribo will provide a contact at the USGS for the Foster Park stream gauge.

Director Kentosh moved approval of the staff recommendations. Seconded by Director Kuebler.

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

B. Kuebler – Y V. Sedgwick – Y J. Tribo - Y

Public Comments: Paul Jenkins thanked UVRGA for surveying the river channel system after the flooding event and commented on the importance of accurate modeling.

e. Intera, Inc. Work Order No. 10 for Investigation of Numerical Model Verification Findings.

Director Kentosh moved to authorize the Executive Director to issue Work Order No. 10 to Intera, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$45,860 and \$4,586 contingency to be authorized at the discretion of the Executive Director (\$50,446 total authorization).Seconded by Director Anselm.

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

B. Kuebler – Y V. Sedgwick – Y J. Tribo - Y

Directors Absent: None

No public comments.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee

Director Ayala and Director Sedgwick stated there was no Ad Hoc meeting and nothing to report.

No public comments.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Bylaws amendment to change timing of officer appointments.

9. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

No closed session.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for August 8 @ 1:00 p.m.

Action: _____

Motion: _____

E. Ayala ___ A. Anselm ___ P. Kaiser ___ Kentosh ___ B. Kuebler ___ V.Sedgwick ___ J. Tribo ___