

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, March 12, 2026 at City of San Buenaventura City Hall, Santa Cruz Meeting Room, 501 Poli Street, Ventura, CA 93001**

*****NOTE THE CHANGE IN MEETING LOCATION*****

ON-LINE / TELECONFERENCE ACCESS FOR REMOTE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

DIAL-IN: 1-669-900-6833

JOIN BY COMPUTER, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85035540835?pwd=obQltbv8CgDOAf3o0gZYxeaMmBZSeM.1>

Meeting ID: 850 3554 0835

Passcode: 084605

Disclaimer Concerning On-line / Teleconference Meeting Access

Audio / teleconference meeting access is not required by law but is provided as a convenience for UVRGA stakeholders and the public. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, users may experience significant difficulties hearing or seeing the meeting when attending remotely. UVRGA does not guarantee the audio or video quality of the on-line / teleconference system, and its use is at your own risk.

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

March 12, 2026

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. 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

6. GSP PERIODIC EVALUATION WORKSHOP

A presentation providing an overview of the GSP periodic evaluation process will be made. This is an opportunity for the Board, stakeholders, and general public to provide input on the GSP periodic evaluation process. The Board may provide feedback and/or direction to staff.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendments to Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance No. 5)

The Board will open a PUBLIC HEARING to discuss the proposed amendment to the Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance posted on the Agency's website.

The Board welcomes public comment and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance.

After receiving public comment and testimony, the Board will close the PUBLIC HEARING and will consider conducting a second reading of the ordinance in title only and adopting the ordinance.

8. 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 of February 12, 2026 Regular Board Meeting**
- b. Approve Financial Report for February 2026**

9. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. Approve Water Year 2024/2025 Annual Report

The Board will consider approving the Water Year 2024/2025 Annual Report for submittal to the Department of Water Resources pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

b. Indirect Depletion Modeling Update

The Board will receive an update on the technical assessment of the relationship between timing and location of groundwater pumping and indirect depletions of interconnected surface water. The Board may provide feedback to staff.

13. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

No administrative items are scheduled for this meeting.

CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

1. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (§ 54956.9) Name of Case: SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER v. STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD, et al.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

15. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Board meeting is Thursday, April 9, 2026.

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 Item No. 6

DATE: March 12, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: GSP Periodic Evaluation Workshop

SUMMARY

A presentation providing an overview of the GSP periodic evaluation process will be made. This is an opportunity for the Board, stakeholders, and general public to provide input on the GSP periodic evaluation process.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Receive a presentation providing an overview of the GSP periodic evaluation process. Provide feedback and/or direction to staff, if desired.

BACKGROUND

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are required to perform a periodic evaluation of their GSP at least once every five years. The first periodic evaluation of the UVRGA GSP is due in January 2027.

The primary purpose of the GSP periodic evaluation is to communicate to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), interested parties, and the public the progress on GSP implementation. The periodic evaluation is the GSA's written assessment concerning GSP implementation during the evaluation cycle, which, in this case, is the first 5-years of GSP implementation.

The deliverable for the GSP periodic evaluation is a periodic evaluation report. In general, the scope of the report is to provide the following information for each key GSP section:

- What new information has been collected?
- What is the status of the components of the section? Describe any changes.
- Was there a recommended corrective action associated with the section? If so, explain how it was addressed.
- How have actions taken in the section informed changes in basin management?
- Is there a need to change this section of the GSP that would lead to a GSP Amendment? If so, which section has or will be revised in the GSP Amendment?

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable

Action: _____

Motion: _____

P. Kaiser _ B. Kuebler_ E. Ayala_ V. Sedgwick_ J. Tribo _ J. Kentosh_ J. Palmer_

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 7

DATE: March 12, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance No. 5)

SUMMARY

During its January 2026 meeting, the Board of Directors discussed amending the Agency's Ordinance (currently Ordinance No. 4) to make certain changes to the flowmeter accuracy testing periods, add flexibility for extending deadlines, and provide flexibility to make exemptions on a case-by-case basis. The goal of the amendments would be to (1) reduce the burden of flowmeter accuracy testing on owners of wells that pump small quantities of groundwater and (2) reduce the need for future ordinance amendments.

The Executive Director worked with Agency Counsel to prepare proposed ordinance amendments in the form of Ordinance No. 5, which is intended to replace Ordinance No. 4 in its entirety. A redline version of the proposed ordinance is provided in Attachment A and a clean version is provided in Attachment B.

The following is a summary of the proposed changes, which were reviewed by the Board during its February 12, 2026 meeting:

- Recitals: History of ordinance amendments updated to reflect the proposed amendment.
- Section 2.1 – Well Registration: Paragraph added to provide the Executive Director the discretion to waive well registration requirements on a case-by-case basis.
- Section 3.1 Flowmeters: Flowmeter accuracy testing frequencies are changed to five years for wells pumping 25 to 100 acre-feet per year (AFY) and 10 years for wells pumping less than 25 AFY. Language was also added to provide the Board with the ability to extend these deadlines without amending the ordinance.
- Section 7 – Waivers: Section 7 was added to provide the Board with the flexibility to waive any provision of the ordinance on a case-by-case basis without amending the ordinance.

The purpose of this item is to conduct a public hearing and consider adopting the ordinance amendment.

UVRGA, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), in consultation with the Agency’s Legal Counsel, determined that the charges adopted by resolution are exempt from further CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, sections 15307 and 15308 which exempt actions taken for the protection of natural resources and the environment.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Conduct a public hearing to discuss the proposed Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance posted on the Agency’s website.
2. Conduct a second reading in title only of the ordinance.
3. Adopt the ordinance.

BACKGROUND

The Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance was adopted on July 14, 2022 (Ordinance No. 1) and was last amended on November 14, 2024 (Ordinance No. 4).

FISCAL SUMMARY

Proposed Ordinance No.5 will reduce Agency administrative costs by simplifying flowmeter accuracy requirements providing flexibility in enforcement of ordinance provisions.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance No. 5) (REDLINE)
- B. Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance No. 5) (CLEAN)

Action: _____

Motion: _____

P. Kaiser _ B. Kuebler_ E. Ayala_ V. Sedgwick_ J. Tribo _ J. Kentosh_ J. Palmer_

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

ORDINANCE NO. [54](#)

AN ORDINANCE OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. [41](#) ESTABLISHING WELL REGISTRATION, METERING,
AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency ("Agency") was formed for the express purpose of cooperatively carrying out the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA"), including, but not limited to, the funding, development, adoption and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") that achieves groundwater sustainability in the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin.

WHEREAS, the Agency is the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin (Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin 4-3.01).

WHEREAS, the Agency adopted the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin on January 6, 2022.

WHEREAS, a fundamental component of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin is the accurate measurement, reporting and monitoring of groundwater extractions and, with the exception of certain extraction facilities, SGMA provides the Agency with the express power to require the metering of all extraction facilities in the Basin.

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2022, the Agency adopted Ordinance No. 1 establishing, among other things, a requirement that, prior to extracting groundwater, a well operator install a flow meter unless such well was exempt pursuant to Water Code Section 10721(e).

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2023, the Agency adopted Ordinance No. 2 to amend Ordinance No. 1 to repeal and replace Chapter 2.0 (Registration of Wells and Levying of Charges) to be consistent with the Governor's Executive Order N-7-22.

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2023, the Agency adopted Ordinance No. 3 to amend Section 1.10 of Chapter 1 of Ordinance No. 1 to add definitions to exempt small non-domestic wells from the flowmeter requirements.

[WHEREAS, on November 14, 2024, the Agency adopted Ordinance No. 4 to repeal and replace Ordinance No. 1 in its entirety, in order to add and clarify the remedies available to violations of the Ordinance.](#)

WHEREAS, [in order to make](#) further revisions to Ordinance No. [41](#) [related to flowmeter accuracy testing requirements and the provision of flexibility for granting of exceptions to certain provisions](#)

~~are required, and thus to add and clarify remedies for the Agency related to violations of the Ordinance, including the collection of unpaid civil penalties,~~ the Board of Directors of the Agency desires to replace Ordinance No. ~~41~~ in its entirety with a new comprehensive ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Agency, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), in consultation with the Agency’s Legal Counsel, determined that the charges adopted by resolution are exempt from further CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, sections 15307 and 15308 which exempt actions taken for the protection of natural resources and the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Sustainability Agency that an Ordinance establishing well registration, metering, and reporting requirements should be established pursuant to Water Code Section 10730 as follows:

CHAPTER 1.0 Definitions

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings stated below:

- 1.1. **“Agency”** means the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency.
- 1.2. **“Agency Boundary”** shall be the Upper Ventura River Valley Groundwater Basin (Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin 4-3.01) as may be modified in accordance with Water Code Section 10722.2.
- 1.3. **“Agricultural Extraction Facility”** means a facility from which the groundwater produced is used on lands in the production of plant crops or livestock for market and uses incidental thereto.
- 1.4. **“Annual”** means the water year October 1 through September 30.
- 1.5. **“Aquifer”** means a geologic formation or structure that yields water in sufficient quantities to supply pumping wells or springs. A confined aquifer is an aquifer with an overlying less permeable or impermeable layer.
- 1.6. **“Board”** means the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency.
- 1.7. **“County”** means the County of Ventura.
- 1.8. **“Due Date”** means, unless otherwise specifically provided, is 15 days after the end of each quarter ending March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 (i.e., April 15, July 15, October 15, and January 15).
- 1.9. **“Executive Director”** means the individual appointed by the Board to administer Agency functions, or his/her designee.

1.10. **“Exempt Wells”** means all wells operated by de minimis extractors as defined in Water Code Section 10721(e), all Small Non-Domestic Wells, and those operators granted an exemption by the Board.

1.11. **“Extraction”** means the act of obtaining groundwater by pumping or other controlled means.

1.12. **“Extraction Facility”** means any device or method (e.g. water well) for extraction of groundwater within a groundwater basin or aquifer.

1.13. **“Flowmeter”** means a manufactured instrument for accurately measuring and recording the flow of water in a pipeline.

1.14. **“Groundwater”** means water beneath the surface of the earth within the zone below the water table in which the soil is completely saturated with water.

1.15. **“Groundwater Extraction Fee”** shall mean fees adopted by the Board of the Agency pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

1.16. **“Inactive Well”** An inactive well is a well that conforms to the County Water Well Ordinance requirements for an active well but is being held in an idle status in case of future need. Idle status means the well is pumped no more than 8 hours during any 12- month period. Inactive wells are not required to have a flowmeter. Pumping to maintain status as an active well under the County Water Well Ordinance shall not exceed 8 hours in a 12-month period, shall be for beneficial use, and shall be estimated and reported to the Agency. Prior to removing a well from idle status, the operator shall install a flowmeter in accordance with the requirements in Chapter 3 of the Ordinance.

1.17. **“Municipal and Industrial (M & I) Provider”** means person who provides water for domestic, industrial, commercial, or fire protection purposes within the Agency Boundary.

1.18. **“Municipal and Industrial (M & I) Operator”** An owner or operator that supplied groundwater for M & I use during the historical allocation period and did not supply a significant amount of agricultural irrigation during the historical period.

1.19. **“Municipal and Industrial (M & I) User”** means a person or other entity that used or uses water for any purpose other than agricultural irrigation.

1.20. **“Municipal and Industrial (M & I) Use”** means any use other than agricultural irrigation.

1.21. **“Non-Operating Flowmeter”** – A non-operating flowmeter includes a flowmeter that is out of calibration by plus or minus 5%, and/or a flowmeter that has not been calibrated within the flowmeter calibration schedule adopted by the Board.

1.22. **“Operator”** means a person who operates a groundwater extraction facility. In the event the Agency is unable to determine who operates a particular extraction facility, then “operator” shall

mean the person to whom the extraction facility is assessed by the County Assessor, or, if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

1.23. **“Ordinance”** means the present Ordinance, the Well Registration, Metering, and Reporting Ordinance, as adopted by the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency.

1.24. **“Owner”** means a person who owns a groundwater extraction facility. Ownership shall be determined by reference to whom the extraction facility is assessed by the County Assessor, or if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

1.25. **“Person”** includes any state or local governmental agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, individual, group of individuals, or, to the extent authorized by law, any federal agency.

1.26. **“Resolution”** means a formal statement of a decision adopted by the Board.

1.27. **“Section”** as used in this Ordinance, is a numbered paragraph of a chapter.

1.28. **“Shall”** as used in this Ordinance, is an imperative requirement.

1.29. **“Small Non-Domestic Well”** means any well serving any use other than domestic that extracts less than 2 acre-feet per year of groundwater.

1.30. **“Well Flushing”** means the act of temporarily discharging extracted groundwater through a connection located upstream of the water distribution system at the beginning of an extraction cycle. Well flushing is typically performed until the quality of the extracted water is suitable for beneficial use and/or will not damage the distribution system. In some cases, the flushing flows may be discharged upstream of the distribution system, including the flowmeter. Flushing flows discharged upstream of the flowmeter shall be estimated and reported to the Agency in accordance with the requirements accordance with the requirements in Chapter 2 of this Ordinance.

1.31. **“Well Rehabilitation”** means the act of restoring a well to its most efficient condition by various treatments, development, or reconstruction methods. In most cases, groundwater extracted during well rehabilitation is not discharged through the extraction facility piping and, consequently, is not flow metered. In these cases, the volume of water extracted shall be estimated and reported to the Agency in accordance with the requirements accordance in Chapter 2 of this Ordinance.

CHAPTER 2.0

Registration of Wells and Levying of Charges

2.1. Registration of Wells

2.1.1. Agency Water Well Notice Requirement – All applicants seeking County permit approval for any new extraction facilities constructed within the Agency Boundary shall execute a New Well Acknowledgement form with the Agency prior to submitting a well

permit application the County. The applicant shall be required to provide supplemental information to the Executive Director that is reasonably necessary for compliance with any Governor Executive Orders or statutory requirements that are in effect at the time of application.

2.1.2. Registration Requirement – All groundwater extraction facilities within the boundaries of the Agency shall be registered with the Agency within 30 days of the completion of drilling activities or within 30 days after notice is given to the owner of such facility. No extraction facility may be operated or otherwise utilized so as to extract groundwater within the Agency Boundary unless that facility is registered with the Agency, flow metered and permitted, if required, and all extractions reported to the Agency as required. The owner of an extraction facility shall register his extraction facility and provide in full, the information required to complete the form provided by the Agency that includes the following:

2.1.2.1. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the owner(s) of the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

2.1.2.2. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the well operator(s), if different than owner(s).

2.1.2.3. A description of the equipment associated with the extraction facility.

2.1.2.4. Location, parcel number and state well number of the water extraction facility.

2.1.2.5. Digital photographs showing (1) the well and discharge piping with meter location visible, (2) flowmeter face with all totalizer digits and flowmeter units visible and legible; and (3) flow meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be date stamped and the file name shall include the state well number and meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be submitted to the Agency via e-mail or by other electronic method approved by the Executive Director.

[The Executive Director, at his or her discretion, may waive the registration requirements on a case-by-case basis upon making a determination that an extraction facility has been abandoned, destroyed, or is unlikely to be used to extract more than two acre-feet per year of groundwater. The Executive Director additionally has the authority to request and require the owner of an alleged abandoned, destroyed, or unlikely to be used extraction facility to provide the necessary documentation or information to make such a determination.](#)

2.2. Change in Owner or Operator - The name of the owner of each extraction facility, the parcel number on which the well is located along with the names of all operators for each extraction facility shall be reported to the Agency within 30 days upon any change of ownership or operators, together with such other information required by the Executive Director.

- 2.3. Reporting Extractions** - Except for extractions from Exempt Wells, all extractions shall be flowmetered in accordance with the requirements specified in Chapter 3 and reported to the Agency. Extractions shall be reported to the Agency by submitting date stamped digital photographs of the well flowmeter on a quarterly basis. The digital photographs shall be taken on March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 plus or minus five business days and submitted to the Agency by the Due Date, as defined in Section 1.8 of Chapter 1. Each digital photograph shall show the entire meter face with all totalizer digits and flowmeter units visible and legible. The digital photograph file name shall include the state well number and meter serial number. The digital photograph(s) shall be submitted to the Agency via e-mail or by other electronic method approved by the Executive Director. Additional information necessary to determine extractions shall be submitted upon request of the Executive Director. Alternative extraction reporting methods may be approved by the Executive Director.

CHAPTER 3.0

Installation and Use of Flowmeters for Groundwater Extraction Facilities

3.1. Installation and Use of Flowmeters

- 3.1.1. Installation Requirement – Prior to extracting groundwater, the operator shall install a flowmeter. With the exception of connections used for well flushing and extraction facilities used by multiple operators, flowmeters shall be installed upstream of all connections to the main discharge line. Flowmetering is not required during well flushing and well rehabilitation; however, the volume of water extracted shall be estimated and reported to the Agency. Flowmeters are not required on Inactive Wells and Exempt Wells as defined in this Ordinance. Well operators are required to install flowmeters on wells and provide proof of calibration within a range of plus or minus 5% by June 30, 2023. Proof of calibration shall be less than three years old for extraction facilities extracting 100 or more acre-feet per year, ~~and less than five years old for extraction facilities extracting between 25 and less than 100 acre-feet per year, and less than 10 years old for extraction facilities extracting less than 25 acre-feet per year.~~

The Board may, at its own discretion, by resolution, extend the proof of calibration deadline discussed above.

- 3.1.2. Flowmeter Failure and Back-up Measurement Requirements - Flowmeter Failure and Back-up Measurement Requirements - Flowmeters occasionally fail, losing periods of record before the disabled or inaccurate meter is either replaced or repaired. When a flowmeter fails, the operator shall repair or replace the flowmeter within the timeframe specified in this Ordinance. Flowmeter failures and associated repairs or replacements shall be reported to the Agency together with any other information required by the Executive Director on or before the Due Date. Well operators shall be prepared to provide another acceptable method of computing

extractions during these periods of flowmeter failure to avoid the loss of record on wells that require flowmetering under this Ordinance.

- 3.1.3. **Back-up Methods** - It is the operator's responsibility to maintain the flowmeter. Any allowable or acceptable backup measurement methods may be changed as technology improves or changes.
- 3.1.4. **Flowmeter Readings** - Functional flowmeters shall be digitally photographed and reported quarterly in accordance with Section 2.3.
- 3.1.5. **Inspection of Flowmeters** - The Agency may inspect flowmeter installations for compliance with this Ordinance at any reasonable time.
- 3.2. Flowmeter Testing and Calibration** - All flowmeters shall be tested for accuracy at a frequency interval determined by the Board to meet specific measurement standards. Calibration methods and procedures approved by the Board as detailed in this Ordinance. Initial proof of calibration shall be provided prior to prior to June 30, 2023.
- 3.3. Altering Flowmeters** - Any person who alters, removes, resets, adjusts, manipulates, obstructs, or in any manner interferes or tampers with any flowmeter affixed to any groundwater extraction facility required by this Ordinance, resulting in said flowmeter to improperly or inaccurately measure and record groundwater extractions, is guilty of an intentional violation of this Ordinance and will be subject to any and all penalties as described in Chapter 7.
- 3.4. Costs of Testing and Calibration** - All costs incurred with flowmeter testing or calibration shall be the personal obligation of the well owner. Non-compliance with any provision of the flowmeter calibration requirements will subject the owner to financial penalties and/or liens as described below or in Chapter 7 of this Ordinance.

CHAPTER 4 Flowmeter Testing and Calibration Requirements

4.1 General Procedures

- 4.1.1. All groundwater extraction flowmeters shall be tested for accuracy within a range of plus or minus 5% as follows:
 - Groundwater Extraction Facilities Extracting 100 or More Acre-Feet Per Year: No less than once every three years.
 - Groundwater Extraction Facilities Extracting Less Than 100 Acre-Feet Per Year: No less than once every five years.

- 4.1.2. Written certification of water meter accuracy by a qualified flowmeter testing company or person approved pursuant to section 4.7 shall be submitted within 30-days following any accuracy test or
- 4.1.3. If there is an indication that a flowmeter has been tampered with, the operator shall promptly report this to the Agency and the meter shall be retested and proof of flowmeter accuracy submitted to the Agency within 30 days of the discovery of the tampered meter.
- 4.1.4. If a flowmeter on an active well has been removed or destroyed for any reason by any person, whether by the operator, owner, or another person or entity - including, but not limited to, replacement, upgrade, or theft - the operator must notify the Agency of this event within 14 days. In such event, the removed or destroyed flowmeter must be replaced within 30 days, and the new flowmeter tested and proof of flowmeter accuracy submitted to the Agency within 30 days after replacement.
- 4.1.5. The Agency Executive Director, or designee, may, on a showing of good cause, grant additional time to comply with these provisions.

4.2. Approved Methods of Testing and Testing Requirements

- 4.2.1. Method(s) of accuracy testing and calibration shall be determined by the Agency Executive Director, or designee, and may be changed at any time to accommodate technological improvements or better methods.
- 4.2.2. Some flowmeter tests may require a pipe tap or access fitting on either the upstream or downstream side of the well flowmeter, or both. If such portals are not available, the well operator or owner shall provide them at his or her own expense.
- 4.2.3. In cases where more than one flowmeter is utilized to measure groundwater extractions, every flowmeter in that well and/or plumbing configuration must be tested and calibrated to required tolerances during the same visit.

4.3 Testing Option Via Southern California Edison (SCE)

- 4.3.1. If the well pump motor is tested for electrical demand efficiency by Southern California Edison (SCE), a copy of the SCE Efficiency Report may be submitted to the Agency in lieu of the required flowmeter calibration report; however, an adequate comparison of the SCE-determined flow measurement against the customer's existing well flowmeter must be provided within the submitted report.
- 4.3.2. If the SCE test results indicate that the flowmeter exceeds the plus or minus 5% accuracy range, the flowmeter must be repaired or replaced and retested per section "4.1.1" above at the owner's expense.

- 4.3.3 Special Note: Failure to obtain passing test results within the Agency-specified time frame due to SCE's workload or backlog schedule is not justification for a time extension request. However, if a letter from SCE confirming a scheduled test date after the Agency specified time frame is submitted to the Agency prior to the required testing time frame, the Agency Executive Director, or designee, may authorize a test date time extension.

4.4 New Flowmeter Installations

- 4.4.1. When any operator or owner installs a new water flowmeter, including a replacement water flowmeter, on the discharge piping of a well, proof of flowmeter accuracy shall be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of the installation date. In addition, digital photographs shall be submitted showing (1) the well and discharge piping with meter location visible, (2) flowmeter face with all totalizer digits and flowmeter units visible and legible; and (3) flow meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be date stamped and the file name shall include the state well number and meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be submitted to the Agency via e-mail or by other electronic method approved by the Executive Director.

4.5 Required Documentation to Certify Calibration Accuracy Standards

- 4.5.1. Documentation to indicate that existing flowmeters meet accuracy or calibration standards (without flowmeter replacement, repair, or refurbishment) shall be provided to the Agency by submitting a copy of the successful test/calibration results that are provided to the flowmeter owner/operator by either an agency-approved flowmeter tester or SCE, as noted in Section 4.3, above.
- 4.5.2. Documentation that indicates a flowmeter is new and/or has been repaired/refurbished to meet accuracy or calibration standards will be acceptable to the Agency provided the flowmeter was installed per the flowmeter manufacturer's specifications. Acceptable proof shall include name of meter manufacturer; meter serial and model numbers; unit of measure and unit multiplier for the meter; serial number, and that installation meets the manufacturer's specifications; an invoice and/or work order indicating that the flowmeter was installed or repaired/refurbished on a certain date.
- 4.5.3. If the new or refurbished flowmeter was not installed per the flowmeter manufacturer's specifications, the well owner or operator shall obtain a flowmeter test for accuracy, and if necessary, re-calibrate the new or refurbished flowmeter to reflect actual in-place conditions. The passing test results shall be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of new or refurbished flowmeter installation.
- 4.5.4. Required documentation to certify calibration accuracy standards shall include digital photographs showing (1) the well and discharge piping with meter location visible, (2) flowmeter face with all totalizer digits and flowmeter units visible and

legible; and (3) flow meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be date stamped and the file name shall include the state well number and meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be submitted to the Agency via e-mail or by other electronic method approved by the Executive Director.

4.6. Flowmeter Maintenance Between Required Calibration Testing Intervals

4.6.1. Written notification shall be provided to the Agency at least two (2) weeks prior to any planned maintenance requiring removal and reinstallation of the flowmeter.

4.6.2. If the maintenance does alter the piping diameters or configuration, the flowmeter shall be retested, and if necessary, recalibrated, as per any and all applicable Ordinance requirements.

4.7. Approved Flowmeter Testers - Approved testers are those approved by the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, as designated at their website: <https://fcgma.org/public-documents/forms>, and as amended from time to time.

4.8. Meter Repair or Replacement - Broken or inaccurate flowmeters must be promptly reported to the Agency and repaired or replaced within 30 days of failure, or from the date when non-accurate readings are first noted. Special circumstances may be afforded additional leeway or time to comply with provisions at the discretion of the Executive Director. Proof of flowmeter accuracy of the repaired or replacement meter along with supporting documentation shall be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of the installation date.

4.9 Backup Measurement Methods - When necessary, temporary in-place flowmeters shall be installed to provide back-up water flow measurement. The use of temporary flowmeters shall not exceed 60 days.

4.10 Inspection of Flowmetering Equipment - Agency staff or their designated agents may, at their discretion, inspect flowmetering equipment installations for compliance with this Ordinance at any reasonable time. A minimum of 24-hours' notice will be provided to the well owner or operator prior to any well visit or inspection.

**CHAPTER 5
Penalties**

5.1 Any operator or other person who violates any provision of this Ordinance is subject to the civil penalties set forth in state law and this Ordinance.

5.2. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance may be liable for a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) plus an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) for each additional day on which the violation continues if the person fails to correct the violation within 30 days of the date that a Notice of Violation was sent by Certified Mail to the violator's last known address. This is in addition to any other penalties that may be

prescribed by law. The amount of the civil penalties for violations of this Ordinance shall be established by action of the Board of Directors.

- 5.3** The amount of any unpaid civil penalty, plus any other costs as provided in this chapter, may be declared a lien on real property where the Groundwater Extraction Facility is located. Notice shall be given to the responsible party prior to the recordation of the lien, and shall be mailed by Certified Mail to the last known address. The lien shall specify the amount of the lien, the date of the code violations, the date of the any staff or administrative decision, the street address, legal description, and assessor's parcel number of the parcel on which the lien is imposed, and the name of the owner of the parcel according to the last equalized assessment roll.

CHAPTER 6

Process for Enforcement and Appeal

- 6.1** Pursuant to the authority granted by this Ordinance and state law, a Notice of Violation shall be sent by Certified Mail to the last known address of any operator and/or owner who violates any provision of this Ordinance. Such violations include, but are not limited to, (1) failure to register a well, (2) failure to install a flowmeter, (3) failure to provide documentation of flowmeter accuracy, and (4) failure to report groundwater extractions on a quarterly basis.
- 6.2** A person to whom a Notice of Violation has been sent pursuant to Section 5.3 of Chapter 5.0 shall be liable for a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) plus an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) for each additional day on which the violation continues if the person fails to correct the violation within 30 days of the date that the Notice of Violation was sent by Certified Mail to the last known address.
- 6.3** Any person to whom a Notice of Violation was sent may appeal to the Board within 30 days of the date that the Notice of Violation was sent by filing with the Executive Director a written request that the Board review the decision of the Executive Director. The Board shall hold a hearing on the appeal within 120 days after all relevant information has been provided by the appellant to the satisfaction of the Executive Director.
- 6.4** Upon the failure of any person to comply with any provision of this Ordinance within 30 days after having been sent a Notice of Violation by Certified Mail to the last known address and no appeal is filed with the Executive Director as set forth in Section 6.3 of this Chapter, or after the conclusion of such an appeal, the Agency may petition the Superior Court for a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, and/or permanent injunction, or such other equitable relief as may be appropriate. The right to petition for injunctive relief is an additional right to those rights which may be provided elsewhere in this Ordinance or otherwise allowed by law.
- 6.5** The Agency may file an action in the Superior Court of the County to recover any sums due the Agency, including, but not limited to, unpaid civil penalties. Any judgment

obtained in the Superior Court of the County by the Agency may be recorded as a judgment lien on the real estate where a Groundwater Extraction Facility is located.

CHAPTER 7

Waivers

7.1. The Board may, at its own discretion, by resolution, waive any section, part, clause or phrase contained in this Ordinance as to a specific well, extraction facility, operator, or owner.

CHAPTER 8

Severability

87.1. If any section, part, clause or phrase in this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining portion of this Ordinance shall not be affected but shall remain in full force and effect.

Effective Date of Ordinance. This Ordinance will take effect on the thirty-first day after adoption.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Ordinance No. 4 was duly adopted and passed by the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency as a public hearing held on the ____ day of _____, 20264, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

Pete Kaiser~~Jennifer Tribo~~, Board Chair

ATTEST:

Arne Anselm~~Jim Kentosh~~, Board Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Keith Lemieux, General Counsel
Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

ORDINANCE NO. 5

AN ORDINANCE OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 4 ESTABLISHING WELL REGISTRATION, METERING,
AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency ("Agency") was formed for the express purpose of cooperatively carrying out the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA"), including, but not limited to, the funding, development, adoption and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") that achieves groundwater sustainability in the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin.

WHEREAS, the Agency is the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin (Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin 4-3.01).

WHEREAS, the Agency adopted the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin on January 6, 2022.

WHEREAS, a fundamental component of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin is the accurate measurement, reporting and monitoring of groundwater extractions and, with the exception of certain extraction facilities, SGMA provides the Agency with the express power to require the metering of all extraction facilities in the Basin.

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2022, the Agency adopted Ordinance No. 1 establishing, among other things, a requirement that, prior to extracting groundwater, a well operator install a flow meter unless such well was exempt pursuant to Water Code Section 10721(e).

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2023, the Agency adopted Ordinance No. 2 to amend Ordinance No. 1 to repeal and replace Chapter 2.0 (Registration of Wells and Levying of Charges) to be consistent with the Governor's Executive Order N-7-22.

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2023, the Agency adopted Ordinance No. 3 to amend Section 1.10 of Chapter 1 of Ordinance No. 1 to add definitions to exempt small non-domestic wells from the flowmeter requirements.

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2024, the Agency adopted Ordinance No. 4 to repeal and replace Ordinance No. 1 in its entirety, in order to add and clarify the remedies available to violations of the Ordinance.

WHEREAS, further revisions to Ordinance No. 4 related to flowmeter accuracy testing requirements and the provision of flexibility for granting of exceptions to certain provisions are

required, and thus , the Board of Directors of the Agency desires to replace Ordinance No. 4 in its entirety with a new comprehensive ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Agency, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), in consultation with the Agency’s Legal Counsel, determined that the charges adopted by resolution are exempt from further CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, sections 15307 and 15308 which exempt actions taken for the protection of natural resources and the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Sustainability Agency that an Ordinance establishing well registration, metering, and reporting requirements should be established pursuant to Water Code Section 10730 as follows:

CHAPTER 1.0 Definitions

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings stated below:

- 1.1. **“Agency”** means the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency.
- 1.2. **“Agency Boundary”** shall be the Upper Ventura River Valley Groundwater Basin (Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin 4-3.01) as may be modified in accordance with Water Code Section 10722.2.
- 1.3. **“Agricultural Extraction Facility”** means a facility from which the groundwater produced is used on lands in the production of plant crops or livestock for market and uses incidental thereto.
- 1.4. **“Annual”** means the water year October 1 through September 30.
- 1.5. **“Aquifer”** means a geologic formation or structure that yields water in sufficient quantities to supply pumping wells or springs. A confined aquifer is an aquifer with an overlying less permeable or impermeable layer.
- 1.6. **“Board”** means the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency.
- 1.7. **“County”** means the County of Ventura.
- 1.8. **“Due Date”** means, unless otherwise specifically provided, is 15 days after the end of each quarter ending March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 (i.e., April 15, July 15, October 15, and January 15).
- 1.9. **“Executive Director”** means the individual appointed by the Board to administer Agency functions, or his/her designee.

1.10. **“Exempt Wells”** means all wells operated by de minimis extractors as defined in Water Code Section 10721(e), all Small Non-Domestic Wells, and those operators granted an exemption by the Board.

1.11. **“Extraction”** means the act of obtaining groundwater by pumping or other controlled means.

1.12. **“Extraction Facility”** means any device or method (e.g. water well) for extraction of groundwater within a groundwater basin or aquifer.

1.13. **“Flowmeter”** means a manufactured instrument for accurately measuring and recording the flow of water in a pipeline.

1.14. **“Groundwater”** means water beneath the surface of the earth within the zone below the water table in which the soil is completely saturated with water.

1.15. **“Groundwater Extraction Fee”** shall mean fees adopted by the Board of the Agency pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

1.16. **“Inactive Well”** An inactive well is a well that conforms to the County Water Well Ordinance requirements for an active well but is being held in an idle status in case of future need. Idle status means the well is pumped no more than 8 hours during any 12- month period. Inactive wells are not required to have a flowmeter. Pumping to maintain status as an active well under the County Water Well Ordinance shall not exceed 8 hours in a 12-month period, shall be for beneficial use, and shall be estimated and reported to the Agency. Prior to removing a well from idle status, the operator shall install a flowmeter in accordance with the requirements in Chapter 3 of the Ordinance.

1.17. **“Municipal and Industrial (M & I) Provider”** means person who provides water for domestic, industrial, commercial, or fire protection purposes within the Agency Boundary.

1.18. **“Municipal and Industrial (M & I) Operator”** An owner or operator that supplied groundwater for M & I use during the historical allocation period and did not supply a significant amount of agricultural irrigation during the historical period.

1.19. **“Municipal and Industrial (M & I) User”** means a person or other entity that used or uses water for any purpose other than agricultural irrigation.

1.20. **“Municipal and Industrial (M & I) Use”** means any use other than agricultural irrigation.

1.21. **“Non-Operating Flowmeter”** – A non-operating flowmeter includes a flowmeter that is out of calibration by plus or minus 5%, and/or a flowmeter that has not been calibrated within the flowmeter calibration schedule adopted by the Board.

1.22. **“Operator”** means a person who operates a groundwater extraction facility. In the event the Agency is unable to determine who operates a particular extraction facility, then “operator” shall

mean the person to whom the extraction facility is assessed by the County Assessor, or, if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

1.23. **“Ordinance”** means the present Ordinance, the Well Registration, Metering, and Reporting Ordinance, as adopted by the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency.

1.24. **“Owner”** means a person who owns a groundwater extraction facility. Ownership shall be determined by reference to whom the extraction facility is assessed by the County Assessor, or if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

1.25. **“Person”** includes any state or local governmental agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, individual, group of individuals, or, to the extent authorized by law, any federal agency.

1.26. **“Resolution”** means a formal statement of a decision adopted by the Board.

1.27. **“Section”** as used in this Ordinance, is a numbered paragraph of a chapter.

1.28. **“Shall”** as used in this Ordinance, is an imperative requirement.

1.29. **“Small Non-Domestic Well”** means any well serving any use other than domestic that extracts less than 2 acre-feet per year of groundwater.

1.30. **“Well Flushing”** means the act of temporarily discharging extracted groundwater through a connection located upstream of the water distribution system at the beginning of an extraction cycle. Well flushing is typically performed until the quality of the extracted water is suitable for beneficial use and/or will not damage the distribution system. In some cases, the flushing flows may be discharged upstream of the distribution system, including the flowmeter. Flushing flows discharged upstream of the flowmeter shall be estimated and reported to the Agency in accordance with the requirements accordance with the requirements in Chapter 2 of this Ordinance.

1.31. **“Well Rehabilitation”** means the act of restoring a well to its most efficient condition by various treatments, development, or reconstruction methods. In most cases, groundwater extracted during well rehabilitation is not discharged through the extraction facility piping and, consequently, is not flow metered. In these cases, the volume of water extracted shall be estimated and reported to the Agency in accordance with the requirements accordance in Chapter 2 of this Ordinance.

CHAPTER 2.0

Registration of Wells and Levying of Charges

2.1. Registration of Wells

2.1.1. Agency Water Well Notice Requirement – All applicants seeking County permit approval for any new extraction facilities constructed within the Agency Boundary shall execute a New Well Acknowledgement form with the Agency prior to submitting a well

permit application the County. The applicant shall be required to provide supplemental information to the Executive Director that is reasonably necessary for compliance with any Governor Executive Orders or statutory requirements that are in effect at the time of application.

2.1.2. Registration Requirement – All groundwater extraction facilities within the boundaries of the Agency shall be registered with the Agency within 30 days of the completion of drilling activities or within 30 days after notice is given to the owner of such facility. No extraction facility may be operated or otherwise utilized so as to extract groundwater within the Agency Boundary unless that facility is registered with the Agency, flow metered and permitted, if required, and all extractions reported to the Agency as required. The owner of an extraction facility shall register his extraction facility and provide in full, the information required to complete the form provided by the Agency that includes the following:

2.1.2.1. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the owner(s) of the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

2.1.2.2. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the well operator(s), if different than owner(s).

2.1.2.3. A description of the equipment associated with the extraction facility.

2.1.2.4. Location, parcel number and state well number of the water extraction facility.

2.1.2.5. Digital photographs showing (1) the well and discharge piping with meter location visible, (2) flowmeter face with all totalizer digits and flowmeter units visible and legible; and (3) flow meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be date stamped and the file name shall include the state well number and meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be submitted to the Agency via e-mail or by other electronic method approved by the Executive Director.

The Executive Director, at his or her discretion, may waive the registration requirements on a case-by-case basis upon making a determination that an extraction facility has been abandoned, destroyed, or is unlikely to be used to extract more than two acre-feet per year of groundwater. The Executive Director additionally has the authority to request and require the owner of an alleged abandoned, destroyed, or unlikely to be used extraction facility to provide the necessary documentation or information to make such a determination.

2.2. Change in Owner or Operator - The name of the owner of each extraction facility, the parcel number on which the well is located along with the names of all operators for each extraction facility shall be reported to the Agency within 30 days upon any change of ownership or operators, together with such other information required by the Executive Director.

- 2.3. Reporting Extractions** - Except for extractions from Exempt Wells, all extractions shall be flowmetered in accordance with the requirements specified in Chapter 3 and reported to the Agency. Extractions shall be reported to the Agency by submitting date stamped digital photographs of the well flowmeter on a quarterly basis. The digital photographs shall be taken on March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 plus or minus five business days and submitted to the Agency by the Due Date, as defined in Section 1.8 of Chapter 1. Each digital photograph shall show the entire meter face with all totalizer digits and flowmeter units visible and legible. The digital photograph file name shall include the state well number and meter serial number. The digital photograph(s) shall be submitted to the Agency via e-mail or by other electronic method approved by the Executive Director. Additional information necessary to determine extractions shall be submitted upon request of the Executive Director. Alternative extraction reporting methods may be approved by the Executive Director.

CHAPTER 3.0

Installation and Use of Flowmeters for Groundwater Extraction Facilities

3.1. Installation and Use of Flowmeters

- 3.1.1. Installation Requirement – Prior to extracting groundwater, the operator shall install a flowmeter. With the exception of connections used for well flushing and extraction facilities used by multiple operators, flowmeters shall be installed upstream of all connections to the main discharge line. Flowmetering is not required during well flushing and well rehabilitation; however, the volume of water extracted shall be estimated and reported to the Agency. Flowmeters are not required on Inactive Wells and Exempt Wells as defined in this Ordinance. Well operators are required to install flowmeters on wells and provide proof of calibration within a range of plus or minus 5% by June 30, 2023. Proof of calibration shall be less than three years old for extraction facilities extracting 100 or more acre-feet per year, less than five years old for extraction facilities extracting between 25 and 100 acre-feet per year, and less than 10 years old for extraction facilities extracting less than 25 acre-feet per year.

The Board may, at its own discretion, by resolution, extend the proof of calibration deadline discussed above.

- 3.1.2. Flowmeter Failure and Back-up Measurement Requirements - Flowmeter Failure and Back-up Measurement Requirements - Flowmeters occasionally fail, losing periods of record before the disabled or inaccurate meter is either replaced or repaired. When a flowmeter fails, the operator shall repair or replace the flowmeter within the timeframe specified in this Ordinance. Flowmeter failures and associated repairs or replacements shall be reported to the Agency together with any other information required by the Executive Director on or before the Due Date. Well operators shall be prepared to provide another acceptable method of computing

extractions during these periods of flowmeter failure to avoid the loss of record on wells that require flowmetering under this Ordinance.

- 3.1.3. Back-up Methods - It is the operator's responsibility to maintain the flowmeter. Any allowable or acceptable backup measurement methods may be changed as technology improves or changes.
- 3.1.4. Flowmeter Readings - Functional flowmeters shall be digitally photographed and reported quarterly in accordance with Section 2.3.
- 3.1.5. Inspection of Flowmeters - The Agency may inspect flowmeter installations for compliance with this Ordinance at any reasonable time.
- 3.2. **Flowmeter Testing and Calibration** - All flowmeters shall be tested for accuracy at a frequency interval determined by the Board to meet specific measurement standards. Calibration methods and procedures approved by the Board as detailed in this Ordinance. Initial proof of calibration shall be provided prior to prior to June 30, 2023.
- 3.3. **Altering Flowmeters** - Any person who alters, removes, resets, adjusts, manipulates, obstructs, or in any manner interferes or tampers with any flowmeter affixed to any groundwater extraction facility required by this Ordinance, resulting in said flowmeter to improperly or inaccurately measure and record groundwater extractions, is guilty of an intentional violation of this Ordinance and will be subject to any and all penalties as described in Chapter 7.
- 3.4. **Costs of Testing and Calibration** - All costs incurred with flowmeter testing or calibration shall be the personal obligation of the well owner. Non-compliance with any provision of the flowmeter calibration requirements will subject the owner to financial penalties and/or liens as described below or in Chapter 7 of this Ordinance.

CHAPTER 4 Flowmeter Testing and Calibration Requirements

4.1 General Procedures

- 4.1.1. All groundwater extraction flowmeters shall be tested for accuracy within a range of plus or minus 5% as follows:
 - Groundwater Extraction Facilities Extracting 100 or More Acre-Feet Per Year: No less than once every three years.
 - Groundwater Extraction Facilities Extracting Less Than 100 Acre-Feet Per Year: No less than once every five years.

- 4.1.2. Written certification of water meter accuracy by a qualified flowmeter testing company or person approved pursuant to section 4.7 shall be submitted within 30-days following any accuracy test or
- 4.1.3. If there is an indication that a flowmeter has been tampered with, the operator shall promptly report this to the Agency and the meter shall be retested and proof of flowmeter accuracy submitted to the Agency within 30 days of the discovery of the tampered meter.
- 4.1.4. If a flowmeter on an active well has been removed or destroyed for any reason by any person, whether by the operator, owner, or another person or entity - including, but not limited to, replacement, upgrade, or theft - the operator must notify the Agency of this event within 14 days. In such event, the removed or destroyed flowmeter must be replaced within 30 days, and the new flowmeter tested and proof of flowmeter accuracy submitted to the Agency within 30 days after replacement.
- 4.1.5. The Agency Executive Director, or designee, may, on a showing of good cause, grant additional time to comply with these provisions.

4.2. Approved Methods of Testing and Testing Requirements

- 4.2.1. Method(s) of accuracy testing and calibration shall be determined by the Agency Executive Director, or designee, and may be changed at any time to accommodate technological improvements or better methods.
- 4.2.2. Some flowmeter tests may require a pipe tap or access fitting on either the upstream or downstream side of the well flowmeter, or both. If such portals are not available, the well operator or owner shall provide them at his or her own expense.
- 4.2.3. In cases where more than one flowmeter is utilized to measure groundwater extractions, every flowmeter in that well and/or plumbing configuration must be tested and calibrated to required tolerances during the same visit.

4.3 Testing Option Via Southern California Edison (SCE)

- 4.3.1. If the well pump motor is tested for electrical demand efficiency by Southern California Edison (SCE), a copy of the SCE Efficiency Report may be submitted to the Agency in lieu of the required flowmeter calibration report; however, an adequate comparison of the SCE-determined flow measurement against the customer's existing well flowmeter must be provided within the submitted report.
- 4.3.2. If the SCE test results indicate that the flowmeter exceeds the plus or minus 5% accuracy range, the flowmeter must be repaired or replaced and retested per section "4.1.1" above at the owner's expense.

- 4.3.3 Special Note: Failure to obtain passing test results within the Agency-specified time frame due to SCE's workload or backlog schedule is not justification for a time extension request. However, if a letter from SCE confirming a scheduled test date after the Agency specified time frame is submitted to the Agency prior to the required testing time frame, the Agency Executive Director, or designee, may authorize a test date time extension.

4.4 New Flowmeter Installations

- 4.4.1. When any operator or owner installs a new water flowmeter, including a replacement water flowmeter, on the discharge piping of a well, proof of flowmeter accuracy shall be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of the installation date. In addition, digital photographs shall be submitted showing (1) the well and discharge piping with meter location visible, (2) flowmeter face with all totalizer digits and flowmeter units visible and legible; and (3) flow meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be date stamped and the file name shall include the state well number and meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be submitted to the Agency via e-mail or by other electronic method approved by the Executive Director.

4.5 Required Documentation to Certify Calibration Accuracy Standards

- 4.5.1. Documentation to indicate that existing flowmeters meet accuracy or calibration standards (without flowmeter replacement, repair, or refurbishment) shall be provided to the Agency by submitting a copy of the successful test/calibration results that are provided to the flowmeter owner/operator by either an agency-approved flowmeter tester or SCE, as noted in Section 4.3, above.
- 4.5.2 Documentation that indicates a flowmeter is new and/or has been repaired/refurbished to meet accuracy or calibration standards will be acceptable to the Agency provided the flowmeter was installed per the flowmeter manufacturer's specifications. Acceptable proof shall include name of meter manufacturer; meter serial and model numbers; unit of measure and unit multiplier for the meter; serial number, and that installation meets the manufacturer's specifications; an invoice and/or work order indicating that the flowmeter was installed or repaired/refurbished on a certain date.
- 4.5.3. If the new or refurbished flowmeter was not installed per the flowmeter manufacturer's specifications, the well owner or operator shall obtain a flowmeter test for accuracy, and if necessary, re-calibrate the new or refurbished flowmeter to reflect actual in-place conditions. The passing test results shall be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of new or refurbished flowmeter installation.
- 4.5.4 Required documentation to certify calibration accuracy standards shall include digital photographs showing (1) the well and discharge piping with meter location visible, (2) flowmeter face with all totalizer digits and flowmeter units visible and

legible; and (3) flow meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be date stamped and the file name shall include the state well number and meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be submitted to the Agency via e-mail or by other electronic method approved by the Executive Director.

4.6. Flowmeter Maintenance Between Required Calibration Testing Intervals

4.6.1. Written notification shall be provided to the Agency at least two (2) weeks prior to any planned maintenance requiring removal and reinstallation of the flowmeter.

4.6.2. If the maintenance does alter the piping diameters or configuration, the flowmeter shall be retested, and if necessary, recalibrated, as per any and all applicable Ordinance requirements.

4.7. Approved Flowmeter Testers - Approved testers are those approved by the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, as designated at their website: <https://fcgma.org/public-documents/forms>, and as amended from time to time.

4.8. Meter Repair or Replacement - Broken or inaccurate flowmeters must be promptly reported to the Agency and repaired or replaced within 30 days of failure, or from the date when non-accurate readings are first noted. Special circumstances may be afforded additional leeway or time to comply with provisions at the discretion of the Executive Director. Proof of flowmeter accuracy of the repaired or replacement meter along with supporting documentation shall be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of the installation date.

4.9 Backup Measurement Methods - When necessary, temporary in-place flowmeters shall be installed to provide back-up water flow measurement. The use of temporary flowmeters shall not exceed 60 days.

4.10 Inspection of Flowmetering Equipment - Agency staff or their designated agents may, at their discretion, inspect flowmetering equipment installations for compliance with this Ordinance at any reasonable time. A minimum of 24-hours' notice will be provided to the well owner or operator prior to any well visit or inspection.

**CHAPTER 5
Penalties**

5.1 Any operator or other person who violates any provision of this Ordinance is subject to the civil penalties set forth in state law and this Ordinance.

5.2. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance may be liable for a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) plus an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) for each additional day on which the violation continues if the person fails to correct the violation within 30 days of the date that a Notice of Violation was sent by Certified Mail to the violator's last known address. This is in addition to any other penalties that may be

prescribed by law. The amount of the civil penalties for violations of this Ordinance shall be established by action of the Board of Directors.

- 5.3** The amount of any unpaid civil penalty, plus any other costs as provided in this chapter, may be declared a lien on real property where the Groundwater Extraction Facility is located. Notice shall be given to the responsible party prior to the recordation of the lien, and shall be mailed by Certified Mail to the last known address. The lien shall specify the amount of the lien, the date of the code violations, the date of the any staff or administrative decision, the street address, legal description, and assessor's parcel number of the parcel on which the lien is imposed, and the name of the owner of the parcel according to the last equalized assessment roll.

CHAPTER 6

Process for Enforcement and Appeal

- 6.1** Pursuant to the authority granted by this Ordinance and state law, a Notice of Violation shall be sent by Certified Mail to the last known address of any operator and/or owner who violates any provision of this Ordinance. Such violations include, but are not limited to, (1) failure to register a well, (2) failure to install a flowmeter, (3) failure to provide documentation of flowmeter accuracy, and (4) failure to report groundwater extractions on a quarterly basis.
- 6.2** A person to whom a Notice of Violation has been sent pursuant to Section 5.3 of Chapter 5.0 shall be liable for a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) plus an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) for each additional day on which the violation continues if the person fails to correct the violation within 30 days of the date that the Notice of Violation was sent by Certified Mail to the last known address.
- 6.3** Any person to whom a Notice of Violation was sent may appeal to the Board within 30 days of the date that the Notice of Violation was sent by filing with the Executive Director a written request that the Board review the decision of the Executive Director. The Board shall hold a hearing on the appeal within 120 days after all relevant information has been provided by the appellant to the satisfaction of the Executive Director.
- 6.4** Upon the failure of any person to comply with any provision of this Ordinance within 30 days after having been sent a Notice of Violation by Certified Mail to the last known address and no appeal is filed with the Executive Director as set forth in Section 6.3 of this Chapter, or after the conclusion of such an appeal, the Agency may petition the Superior Court for a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, and/or permanent injunction, or such other equitable relief as may be appropriate. The right to petition for injunctive relief is an additional right to those rights which may be provided elsewhere in this Ordinance or otherwise allowed by law.
- 6.5** The Agency may file an action in the Superior Court of the County to recover any sums due the Agency, including, but not limited to, unpaid civil penalties. Any judgment

obtained in the Superior Court of the County by the Agency may be recorded as a judgment lien on the real estate where a Groundwater Extraction Facility is located.

**CHAPTER 7
Waivers**

7.1. The Board may, at its own discretion, by resolution, waive any section, part, clause or phrase contained in this Ordinance as to a specific well, extraction facility, operator, or owner.

**CHAPTER 8
Severability**

8.1. If any section, part, clause or phrase in this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining portion of this Ordinance shall not be affected but shall remain in full force and effect.

Effective Date of Ordinance. This Ordinance will take effect on the thirty-first day after adoption.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Ordinance No. 4 was duly adopted and passed by the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency as a public hearing held on the ____ day of _____, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

Jennifer Tribo, Board Chair

ATTEST:

Jim Kentosh, Board Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Keith Lemieux, General Counsel
Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency was held at the City of San Buenaventura City Hall, Santa Cruz Meeting Room, 501 Poli Street, Ventura, CA 93001, February 12, 2026. Chair Tribo called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. ROLL CALL

Executive Director Bondy called the roll.

Directors Present:

Jenny Tribo, Chair
Bruce Kuebler, Vice Chair
Jim Kentosh, Secretary
Mike Flood, Alternate Director
Jeff Palmer, Director
Vivon Sedgwick, Director
Emily Ayala, Director

Non-Voting Directors / Alternate Directors Present:

Justin Martinez, Alternate Director

Staff Present:

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Director Palmer moved agenda approval. Seconded by Director Kuebler.

Vote: M. Flood - Y J. Tribo - Y B. Kuebler - Y J. Palmer - Y
 J. Kentosh - Y V. Sedgwick - Y E. Ayala – Y

Directors Absent: None

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

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

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) Approve Minutes of January 8, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- b) Approve Financial Report for January 2026
- c) Approve Fiscal Year 2025-2026 2nd Quarter Budget Report

Chair Tribo 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 Ayala.

Vote: M. Flood - Y J. Tribo - Y B. Kuebler - Y J. Palmer - Y
 J. Kentosh - Y V. Sedgwick - Y E. Ayala – Y

Directors Absent: None

7. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Tribo called for Director announcements. Director Kuebler reported that he attended a recent adjudication court hearing.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report concerning updates on Agency activities since the last meeting.

Director Palmer provided additional background information concerning the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project as it relates to the Live Oak Acres Levee improvement project, which will impact two groundwater monitoring wells used by UVRGA. The Live Oak Acres Levee improvement project is part of a federal grant to develop a management plan, which will take approximately two years. Following that, federal funding will be pursued. Construction of the levee improvements is many years away.

Director Kuebler asked if the Department of Water Resources has updated the climate change data they published for Groundwater Sustainability Plan development. Executive Director Bondy replied that he is not aware of any updates.

Directors Kuebler and Sedgwick mentioned that they attended the Feb. 4th Ventura River Watershed Resilience Plan meeting that dealt with adaptation strategies. Director Sedgwick commented that the tribal engagement has been meaningful and that she provided updated tribal contact information to Executive Director Bondy for the GSP periodic evaluation. Executive

Director Bondy thanked Director Sedgwick for the contact information and reported that the tribal council chair has joined the UVRGA interested parties list.

Director Flood asked if the February 26 workshop requires a Board quorum. Executive Director Bondy said yes. Director Flood said Casitas MWD may not be available on that day.

Director Sedgwick said she will not be attending the March regular board meeting.

Director Tribo inquired about the JPA amendment status. Executive Director Bondy said he has not received any updates.

No Public Comments.

9. AGENCY COUNSEL'S REPORT

Agency Counsel Lemieux provided updates on AB 1466 and AB 1413.

Director Ayala asked about the definition of a small pumper. Agency Counsel Lemieux said he believes the legislation proposes a cutoff of 5 acre-feet per year of groundwater extraction.

Agency Counsel Lemieux notified the Board that he received a phone call from Casitas Water Municipal District's legal counsel concerning an item on the meeting agenda and he was able to provide clarifications.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

No administrative items this meeting.

11. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendments to Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance No. 5)

Chair Tribo opened the public hearing at 1:20 p.m.

Executive Director Bondy summarized proposed Ordinance No. 5, which would repeal and replace the current Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance No. 4). The proposed changes are in line with the Board's discussion during its February meeting about modifying the frequency of flowmeter accuracy testing and adding flexibility to the ordinance to make exceptions. The draft ordinance was developed in consultation with Agency Counsel.

Executive Director Bondy summarized the proposed changes:

- Recitals: History of ordinance amendments updated to reflect the proposed amendment.
- Section 2.1 – Well Registration: Paragraph added to provide the Executive Director the discretion to wave well registration requirements on a case-by-case basis.

Item 8(a)

- Section 3.1 Flowmeters: Flowmeter accuracy testing frequencies are changed to five years for wells pumping 25 to 100 acre-feet per year (AFY) and 10 years for wells pumping less than 25 AFY. Language was also added to provide the Board with the ability to extend these deadlines without amending the ordinance.
- Section 7 – Waivers: Section 7 was added to provide the Board with the flexibility to waive any provision of the ordinance on a case-by-case basis without amending the ordinance.

Executive Director Bondy explained that the purpose of this item is to conduct a public hearing and a first reading of the ordinance amendment in title only.

Chair Tribo called for public comments. No public comments were offered.

Chair Tribo closed the public hearing at 1:24 p.m.

Director Kuebler moved to read the Ordinance in title only “Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance No. 5)” and schedule a public hearing to consider adoption at the next UVRGA regular Board meeting. Seconded by Director Flood.

Vote: M. Flood - Y J. Tribo - Y B. Kuebler - Y J. Palmer - Y
J. Kentosh - Y V. Sedgwick - Y E. Ayala – Y

Directors Absent: None

b. GSP Periodic Evaluation Update

Executive Director Bondy provided an update on the GSP periodic evaluation, including a summary of technical work completed and in progress, stakeholder outreach efforts, and next steps.

Director Kuebler asked about the scope of the model update and whether it is duplicative to the model calibration update work that was previously presented. Executive Director Bondy explained that the update referred to in the staff report is to add two years to the model, which is a separate from the model calibration update work.

Director Ayala asked if any feedback was received on the newsletter. Executive Director Bondy said he received a comment about the hydrology update on page two of the newsletter and that the commenter is hoping to see more updates like those that Ventura River Water District stopped making a few years ago.

No public comments.

c. Field Monitoring Programs Update

Executive Director Bondy and Kiernan Brtalik of Rincon provided presentations summarizing the water year 2024/2025 field monitoring programs results and three year review of the aquatic GDE monitoring program. The presentation slides were posted on the UVRGA website at <https://uvrgroundwater.org/public-meetings/>.

Director Kuebler asked how often Executive Director Bondy sees groundwater level data. Executive Director Bondy said the data are currently downloaded every six months.

Director Kuebler suggested showing bedrock depth on the groundwater level charts for reference.

Director Kuebler asked about the baseflow recession slope. Executive Director Bondy explained that the baseflow recession curve is controlled by several factors, including streamflow into the basin river; how full the basin gets in springtime; and groundwater extraction volumes. He said those conditions are different each year, so there is not a single curve that would be applicable each year.

Director Palmer asked how the biological data will be used. Executive Director Bondy explained that the data will be used to evaluate the relationship between groundwater conditions and impacts on groundwater dependent ecosystem status. Director Palmer expressed concerns about the difficulty of separating groundwater and non-groundwater factors. Director Ayala agreed with Director Palmer,

Director Palmer asked about the location of the Upper and Lower Foster Park stream gages in relation to Coyote Creek. Executive Director Bondy pointed out the location of the Coyote Creek on a map and noted that the creek is usually dry.

Director Flood asked about the frequency of these reports. Executive Director Bondy said the reports and this presentation are made annually.

Director Kuebler asked about the status of the City of Ventura stream gages. Chair Tribo said the gages were lost in the 2023 flood. They have replaced one gage and will be relying on the USGS gage instead of replacing the other gage. They are working with USGS to implement more frequent flow measurements to improve gage accuracy.

No public comments.

Director Tribo called for a 5 minute break at 2:45 p.m.

d. Indirect Depletion Modeling Approach

Director Tribo called the meeting back to order at 2:50 p.m.

Executive Director Bondy provided a summary of the “Actions to Address Indirect Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water (ISW)” GSP management action. He then presented a proposed three step approach to using the UVRGA numerical model to assess the relationship between timing and location of groundwater pumping and indirect depletion of interconnected surface water.

Step No. 1 consists of reviewing updated depletion estimates to identify specific indirect depletion event(s) for detailed analysis. This would be scheduled for the March meeting. Executive Director Bondy reviewed Attachment A to the staff report, a chart indirect depletion estimates from the adopted GSP, which are in the process of being updated.

Step No. 2 would consist of detailed modeling analysis of selected depletion event(s) to quantify the impact of location and timing of groundwater pumping on indirect depletion. Four groups of wells located upstream of the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area would be identified for the analysis: (1) Meiners Oaks Water District (MOWD) wells, (2) Ventura River Water District (VRWD) wells, (3) MOWD and VRWD wells and (4) Casitas MWD's Mira Monte well plus all non-de minimis private wells located upstream of the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area.

The model would be run multiple times for each group of wells for each selected depletion event. Each model run will progressively eliminate one month of pumping from the well group starting with the last month of the depletion event and going backward in time until no change in depletion quantity is observed.

The output from the model runs would be processed to quantify the effect pumping from the different well groups with different lead times on indirect depletion in the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area.

Step No. 3 would include a proposal for further analysis, if needed.

Director Kuebler question the approach of looking backward. He wants to look forward in a predictive sense and is interested in developing a recession curve.

Director Kentosh expressed concerns about the impact of starting conditions.

Directors Kuebler and Kentosh want to know what fraction of pumping eliminated arrives at Foster Park when it is needed for fish.

Executive Director Bondy explained that the modeling of multiple depletion events could be used to address different starting conditions. He further explained that intent of this analysis is to provide model data from a backward looking analysis than can be used to help develop a forward looking approach to managing ISW depletions. The analysis will quantify, under the conditions modeled, the fraction of unpumped water that arrives at Foster Park.

Director Kentosh expressed concerns about the approach of turning off pumping cumulatively and expressed an interest in understanding the impact of turning off pumping at different times. Executive Director Bondy said the modeling work is all scripted and that it would be easy to run the model with individual months turned off.

Director Palmer asked about how the City of Ventura extraction protocols were accounted for. Executive Director Bondy said the GSP modeling approximated the protocols. The updated modeling will use the updated protocols provided by the City of Ventura.

Director Palmer asked what would happen if there was no groundwater pumping at all. Executive Director Bondy pointed out the results of the model scenario with no groundwater pumping on the chart.

Director Palmer asked how the model accounts for water use along San Antonio Creek. Executive Director Bondy explained that inflows from San Antonio Creek are an input to the model and that UVRGA has no jurisdiction on water use outside of the Upper Ventura River Basin.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following future items were identified during the meeting:

- Indirect depletion modeling update
- Annual report
- Second reading of ordinance amendment

CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

The Board went into closed session at 3:37 p.m. Conference with Legal Counsel; Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)).

The Board resumed open session at 3:49 p.m.

Agency Counsel stated that there was no reportable action taken during the closed session.

13. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. Civil Penalty Accrual Rate for Remaining Unregistered Wells.

The board discussed increasing the civil penalty accrual rate for two remaining unregistered water wells. After discussion, the board decided to maintain the current civil penalty accrual rate.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

The next scheduled Board meeting is Thursday, March 12, 2026.

Action: _____

Motion: _____

P. Kaiser _ B. Kuebler_ J. Tribo_ J. Palmer _ E. Ayala _ V. Sedgwick_ J. Kentosh_

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 8(b)

DATE: March 3, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Carrie Troup C.P.A., Treasurer
SUBJECT: Approve Financial Report for February 2026

January 2025 UVRGA Balance \$ 177,494.19

February 2026 Activity

Revenues/ Credits:

Extraction Fees	\$ 16,599.80
Total Revenues/Credits	<u>\$ 16,599.80</u>

Checks, Electronic payments, Transfers:

2699	CSDA	Annual Renewal	\$ 1,398.00
2700	Bondy Groundwater Consulting, Inc.	January Services	\$ 13,130.71
2701	Carrie Troup, CPA	January Services	\$ 3,027.19
2702	Pacific Policy Group	Jan-June Service	\$ 2,500.00
2703	Rincon Consultants, Inc.	January Services	\$ 378.00
2704	Rincon Consultants, Inc.	January Services	\$ 4,674.72
2705	Aleshire & Wynder, LLP	January Services	\$ 950.40
2706	Aleshire & Wynder, LLP	January Services	\$ 3,639.00
2707	Aleshire & Wynder, LLP	December Services	\$ 118.80
2708	Aleshire & Wynder, LLP	December Services	\$ 3,059.10
EFT	FedEx	Shipping	\$ 39.50
EFT	Bank of the Sierra	Stop payment fee ¹	\$ 15.00
Total Expenditures Paid & To Be Paid			<u>\$ 32,930.42</u>

February 2026 UVRGA Total Funds Ending Balance¹

Ventura County Treasury Investment Pool (VCTIP)	\$ 676,879.42
Bank of Sierra	\$ 161,163.57
Total Cash Balance	<u>\$ 838,042.99</u>

Notes:

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.

VCTIP balance reflects most recent Fair Market Value adjustment released by the County of Ventura

(1) Check no. 2663 not received by vendor. Ledger balance will be adjusted by \$1,398.00 next report.

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

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

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 10

DATE: March 12, 2026

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:

- a. As a reminder, Form 700 filings are due April 1. Directors and alternate directors file with FPPC (<https://form700.fppc.ca.gov/>), legal counsel files with Ventura County (<https://cobpublic.venturacounty.gov/eDisclosure/>), and the executive director and treasurer file with both agencies.

2. Financial:

- a. Groundwater Extraction Fees: Extraction fee invoices were sent to private well owners for the July - December semiannual period. Payments were due on February 15. Three invoices are past due totaling \$1,428. Reminders were sent on February 24.

3. GSP Implementation:

- a. GSP Periodic Evaluation: A workshop was scheduled for this meeting. Work on the periodic evaluation has been limited as annual report completion has been the priority.

b. Well Registration and Flowmeter Compliance:

- i. Two wells remain unregistered and continue to accrue civil penalties at \$100/day. As of February 28, 2026 each well owner has accrued \$40,300 in civil penalties.

c. Monitoring Networks:

- i. No field activity due to elevated streamflow conditions.
- ii. Staff received notice that one of the wells in the groundwater level monitoring network will be destroyed by the owner. The impact on the monitoring network will be evaluated as part of the GSP Periodic Evaluation.

4. Outreach and Coordination:

- a. Ventura River Watershed Council (VRWC) / Ventura River Watershed Resilience Program (VRWRP): The Executive Director continues to monitor the development of the VRWRP. The draft VRWRP document was released for advisory counsel review on March 4, and comments are due March 10, which is a very short turnaround. As of preparation of this staff report, staff has not had a chance to review the VRWRP document. The final VRWRP document is scheduled for presentation to VRWC on March 19.
- b. Small GSA Coalition: The coalition met on March 5, 2026 to continue 2026 planning.
- c. Adjudication: The Executive Director did not spend any time reviewing adjudication matters in February.

5. 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

Action: _____

Motion: _____

P. Kaiser _ B. Kuebler_ E. Ayala_ V. Sedgwick_ J. Tribo _ J. Kentosh_ J. Palmer_

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 12(a)

DATE: March 12, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Approve Water Year 2024/2025 Annual Report

SUMMARY

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are required to submit annual reports to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by April 1 of each year. The subject annual report includes data collected during water year 2024/2025 (October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025).

The annual report was prepared by Intera, Inc. in collaboration with the Executive Director to meet the regulatory reporting requirements (please see Background and Attachment A for more information). The draft annual report is available for review at: https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/UVR-AR-Draft-3-5-2026_ALL.pdf

Water Year 2024/2025 was drier than average, with 9.22 inches of rainfall, as compared with the base period average of 21.28 inches. The wet season began dry and remained so until February and March when 5.50 and 2.22 inches of the rainfall were received, respectively.

Water Year 2024/2025 followed two consecutive wet years, Water Years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024, which received 47.41 and 30.37 inches of precipitation, respectively. Given the antecedent wet conditions, Water Year 2024/2025 began with higher than normal streamflow, but the limited rainfall caused declining flows from late March the remainder of the water year. In response to declining streamflow, groundwater levels were generally lower than the prior year and groundwater in storage decreased by 6,175 acre-feet.

Groundwater extractions and riparian vegetation transpiration of groundwater totaled 5,917 acre-feet, which was slightly lower than the last year (6,094 acre-feet). Estimated total water use in the Basin for Water Year 2025 was 2,771 acre-feet, slightly lower last year (3,277 acre-feet).

Groundwater quality remained stable compared to the historical data.

No major issues were identified during preparation of the annual report. All but one minimum threshold was met during the reporting period. The groundwater level minimum threshold for well 05N23W33B03S was exceeded in a single measurement during the water year. Further evaluation of this minimum threshold exceedance will be performed once Meiners Oaks Water District resumes monitoring groundwater levels in this well using a transducer.

The Executive Director will be happy to answer any questions about the report during the Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approve the Annual Report for Water Year 2024/2025 for submittal to DWR.

BACKGROUND

After adopting a GSP, GSAs are required to submit annual reports to the DWR pursuant to §356.2 of the GSP Emergency Regulations each year by April 1. The annual report requirements are detailed in the excerpt of the GSP Emergency Regulations included in Attachment A and as summarized below:

- Executive summary
- Basin location map
- Description and graphical representation of the following data from the applicable water year:
 - Groundwater elevation data (contour maps and hydrographs)
 - Groundwater extractions from the Basin
 - Surface water supplies to the Basin
 - Total water use in the Basin
 - Change in Basin groundwater storage
- Description of progress toward implementing the Plan:
 - Status relative to sustainable management criteria
 - Implementation of projects or management actions

FISCAL SUMMARY

None.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. GSP Emergency Regulations Excerpt

Action: _____

Motion: _____

P. Kaiser _ B. Kuebler_ E. Ayala_ V. Sedgwick_ J. Tribo _ J. Kentosh_ J. Palmer_

ARTICLE 7. Annual Reports and Periodic Evaluations by the Agency

§ 356. Introduction to Annual Reports and Periodic Evaluations by the Agency

This Article describes the procedural and substantive requirements for the annual reports and periodic evaluation of Plans prepared by an Agency.

Note: Authority cited: Section 10733.2, Water Code.

Reference: Section 10733.2, Water Code.

§ 356.2. Annual Reports

Each Agency shall submit an annual report to the Department by April 1 of each year following the adoption of the Plan. The annual report shall include the following components for the preceding water year:

(a) General information, including an executive summary and a location map depicting the basin covered by the report.

(b) A detailed description and graphical representation of the following conditions of the basin managed in the Plan:

(1) Groundwater elevation data from monitoring wells identified in the monitoring network shall be analyzed and displayed as follows:

(A) Groundwater elevation contour maps for each principal aquifer in the basin illustrating, at a minimum, the seasonal high and seasonal low groundwater conditions.

(B) Hydrographs of groundwater elevations and water year type using historical data to the greatest extent available, including from January 1, 2015, to current reporting year.

(2) Groundwater extraction for the preceding water year. Data shall be collected using the best available measurement methods and shall be presented in a table that summarizes groundwater extractions by water use sector, and identifies the method of measurement (direct or estimate) and accuracy of measurements, and a map that illustrates the general location and volume of groundwater extractions.

(3) Surface water supply used or available for use, for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use shall be reported based on quantitative data that describes the annual volume and sources for the preceding water year.

(4) Total water use shall be collected using the best available measurement methods and shall be reported in a table that summarizes total water use by water use sector, water source type, and identifies the method of measurement (direct or estimate) and accuracy of measurements. Existing water use data from the most recent Urban Water Management Plans or Agricultural Water Management Plans within the basin may be used, as long as the data are reported by water year.

(5) Change in groundwater in storage shall include the following:

(A) Change in groundwater in storage maps for each principal aquifer in the basin.

(B) A graph depicting water year type, groundwater use, the annual change in groundwater in storage, and the cumulative change in groundwater in storage for the basin based on historical data to the greatest extent available, including from January 1, 2015, to the current reporting year.

(c) A description of progress towards implementing the Plan, including achieving interim milestones, and implementation of projects or management actions since the previous annual report.

Note: Authority cited: Section 10733.2, Water Code.

Reference: Sections 10727.2, 10728, and 10733.2, Water Code.

§ 356.4. Periodic Evaluation by Agency

Each Agency shall evaluate its Plan at least every five years and whenever the Plan is amended, and provide a written assessment to the Department. The assessment shall describe whether the Plan implementation, including implementation of projects and management actions, are meeting the sustainability goal in the basin, and shall include the following:

(a) A description of current groundwater conditions for each applicable sustainability indicator relative to measurable objectives, interim milestones and minimum thresholds.

(b) A description of the implementation of any projects or management actions, and the effect on groundwater conditions resulting from those projects or management actions.

(c) Elements of the Plan, including the basin setting, management areas, or the identification of undesirable results and the setting of minimum thresholds and measurable objectives, shall be reconsidered and revisions proposed, if necessary.

(d) An evaluation of the basin setting in light of significant new information or changes in water use, and an explanation of any significant changes. If the Agency's evaluation shows that the basin is experiencing overdraft conditions, the Agency shall include an assessment of measures to mitigate that overdraft.

(e) A description of the monitoring network within the basin, including whether data gaps exist, or any areas within the basin are represented by data that does not satisfy the requirements of Sections 352.4 and 354.34(c). The description shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of monitoring network function with an analysis of data collected to date, identification of data gaps, and the actions necessary to improve the monitoring network, consistent with the requirements of Section 354.38.

(2) If the Agency identifies data gaps, the Plan shall describe a program for the acquisition of additional data sources, including an estimate of the timing of that acquisition, and for incorporation of newly obtained information into the Plan.

(3) The Plan shall prioritize the installation of new data collection facilities and analysis of new data based on the needs of the basin.

(f) A description of significant new information that has been made available since Plan adoption or amendment, or the last five-year assessment. The description shall also include whether new information warrants changes to any aspect of the Plan, including the

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 12(b)

DATE: March 12, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Indirect Depletion Modeling Update

SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to confirm the proposed approach to using the UVRGA numerical model to assess the relationship between timing and location of groundwater pumping and indirect depletion of interconnected surface water (ISW).

Review of Modeling Approach

During the February 12, 2026 Board meeting a three-step process was presented to develop a quantitative understanding of the relationships between the quantity, timing, and location of groundwater pumping and indirect depletion of interconnected surface water.

Step No. 1 consists of reviewing updated depletion estimates to identify specific indirect depletion event(s) for detailed analysis. This would be scheduled for the March Board meeting.

Step No. 2 would consist of detailed modeling analysis of selected depletion event(s) to quantify the impact of location and timing of groundwater pumping on indirect depletion. Four groups of wells located upstream of the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area would be identified for the analysis: (1) Meiners Oaks Water District (MOWD) wells, (2) Ventura River Water District (VRWD) wells, (3) MOWD and VRWD wells and (4) Casitas MWD's Mira Monte well plus all non-de minimis private wells located upstream of the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area.

The model would be run multiple times for each group of wells for each selected depletion event. Each model run will progressively eliminate one month of pumping from the well group starting with the last month of the depletion event and going backward in time until no change in depletion quantity is observed. Based on the February Board meeting discussion, it is proposed that the model would also be run multiple times removing individual months of pumping.

The output from the model runs would be processed to quantify the effect pumping from the different well groups at different lead times on indirect depletion in the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area.

Step No. 3 would include a proposal for further analysis, if needed.

Review of Updated ISW Depletion Estimates

Attachment A is a reprint of the GSP ISW depletion estimates from the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Attachment B presents the updated ISW depletion estimates using the updated UVRGA numerical model. Depletion events in which a GSP minimum threshold exceedance is predicted are numbered on the GSP figure (Attachment A). The eight events indicated in the GSP results (Attachment A) are identified in the updated results using the same numbering (Attachment B). The updated model predicts two additional events (i.e., event nos. 9 and 10). Table 1 below compares the attributes of the events for both model versions.

Table 1.
Comparison of ISW Deletion Minimum Threshold Exceedance Events
GSP versus Updated Model (Draft)

Event No.	GSP Duration (days)	Updated Duration (days)	GSP Peak Depletion Rate (cfs)	Updated Peak Depletion Rate (cfs)	GSP Depletion Volume (acre-feet)	Updated Depletion Volume (acre-feet)	Comments
1	8	13	0.19	0.29	1.55	4.1	
2	86	7	1.77	0.55	290	5.6	
3	342	202	2.00	1.53	1,015	441	
4	6	N/A	0.37	N/A	2.29	N/A	MT is not exceeded in updated simulation
5	1	42	0.02	0.70	0.04	29	
6	643	406	1.99	1.47	1,773	769	
7	371	336	2.00	1.84	891	373	
8	232	148	1.98	1.39	737	225	
9	N/A	6	N/A	0.88	N/A	7	
10	N/A	1	N/A	0.25	N/A	0.5	
Totals	1,689	1,161	2.00	1.84	4,710	1,854	Totals for 50 years simulation
Total Events 3; 6-8	1,588	1,092	2.00	1.84	4,416	1,808	

Notes:

+Bold font indicates larger result.

+Gray shading indicates minimum threshold exceedance is no longer predicted.

+Red shading indicates minimum threshold exceedance is likely within model uncertainty and may not actually occur.

+Blue shading indicates that real world implementation of Interim Order Protocols would likely avoid minimum threshold exceedance.

+Purple shading indicates both red and blue shading applies.

As shown in Table 1, the updated model predicts smaller duration and magnitude minimum thresholds exceedances for 6 of the 8 minimum threshold exceedance events predicted in the GSP (i.e., Event Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8). This is due to the incorporation the updated protocols for operation of the City of Ventura’s Foster Park extraction facilities (a.k.a. Interim Order Protocols) and improved model calibration.

Event Nos. 1 and 5 are predicted to be longer duration and higher magnitude using the updated model. However, Event No. 1 is likely smaller than the model uncertainty and, therefore, might not actually manifest under real world conditions. Inspection of Event No. 5 reveals that the minimum threshold exceedance would likely be avoided given real world implementation of Interim Order Protocols.

Event Nos. 9 and 10 were not predicted by the GSP modeling; however, these events are likely smaller than the model uncertainty and, therefore, might not actually manifest under real world conditions. Additionally, inspection of Event Nos. 9 and 10 reveals that the minimum threshold exceedances would likely be avoided given real world implementation of Interim Order Protocols.

Based on the foregoing, Event Nos. 3, 6, 7, and 8 are left as possible candidates for the detailed modeling analysis. Given the close timing of Event Nos. 6 through 8, they can be treated as single event for analysis purposes. Therefore, it is recommended that the detailed modeling analysis be performed twice using (1) Event No. 3 and (2) combined Event Nos. 6 through 8.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Receive an update on the technical assessment of the relationship between timing and location of groundwater pumping and indirect depletions of interconnected surface water. Consider providing feedback to staff.

BACKGROUND

The GSP includes a management action called “Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water (ISW),” which consists of a sequence of actions that are designed to lead to implementation of a project or management action that addresses significant and unreasonable indirect depletions of ISW. In general, the path includes (1) addressing the groundwater level data gaps that impact quantification of indirect depletions of ISW, (2) updating to the numerical flow model to provide better quantify indirect depletion, and (3) using the updated model to prepare updated estimates of indirect depletions (4) developing appropriately sized projects or management actions to address indirect depletions. Action No. 4 would include additional modeling to explore the relationship between the quantity and timing of groundwater extractions and indirect depletions to inform potential management approaches.

Actions Nos. 1 and 2 have been completed and Action No. 3 (updating indirect depletion estimates) is in progress. Action No. 4 (developing projects or management actions) will begin with additional modeling to develop a quantitative understanding of the relationships between the quantity, timing, and location of groundwater pumping and indirect depletion of interconnected surface water.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Intra is already authorized to perform this work.

ATTACHMENTS

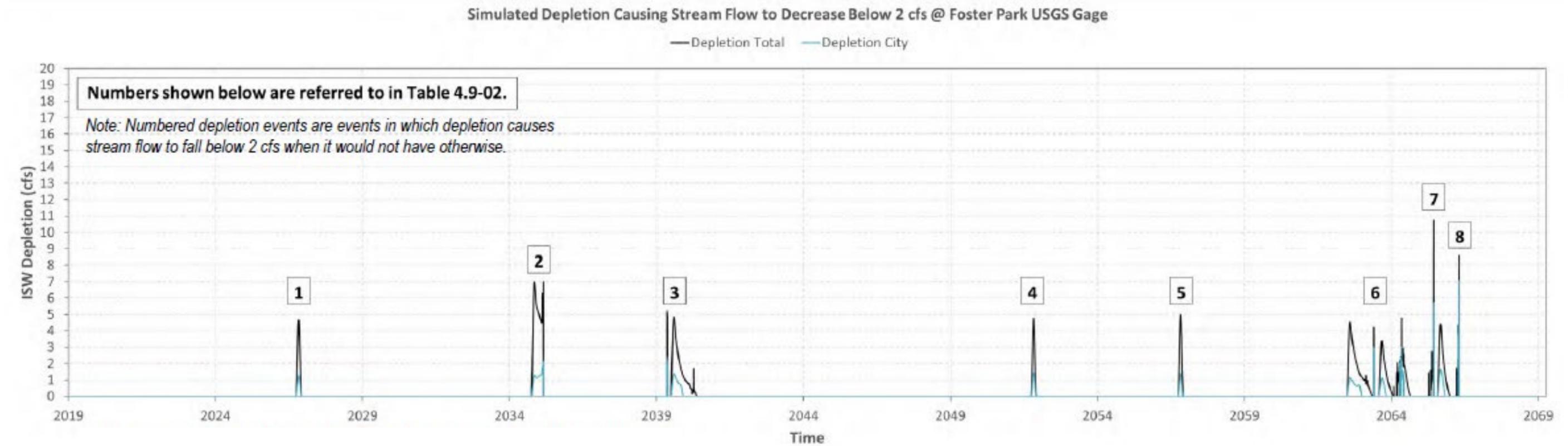
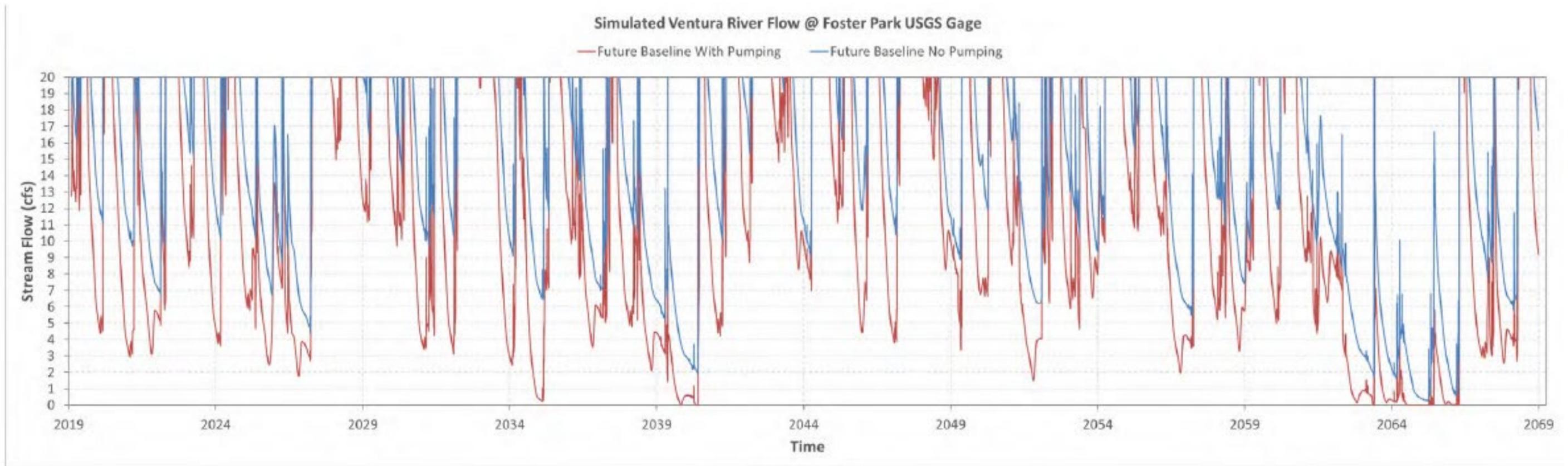
- A. GSP ISW Deletion Minimum Threshold Exceedance Events Summary Figure
- B. Updated GSP ISW Deletion Minimum Threshold Exceedance Events Summary Figure
- C. Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Detailed Graphs

Action: _____

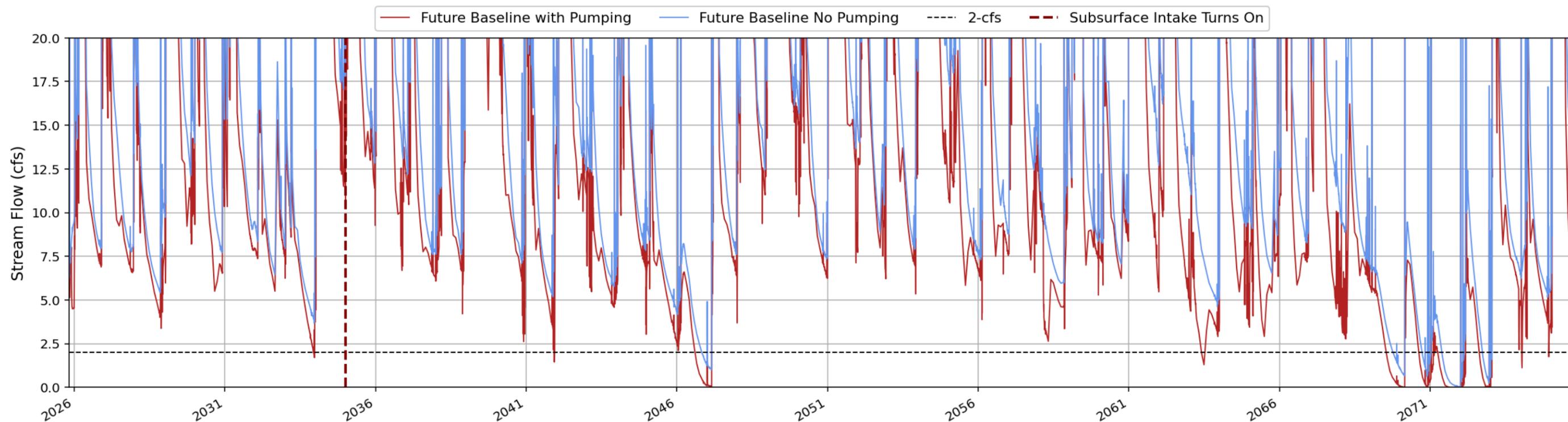
Motion: _____

P. Kaiser_ B. Kuebler_ J.Palmer_ E. Ayala_ V. Sedgwick_ J. Tribo_ J. Kentosh_

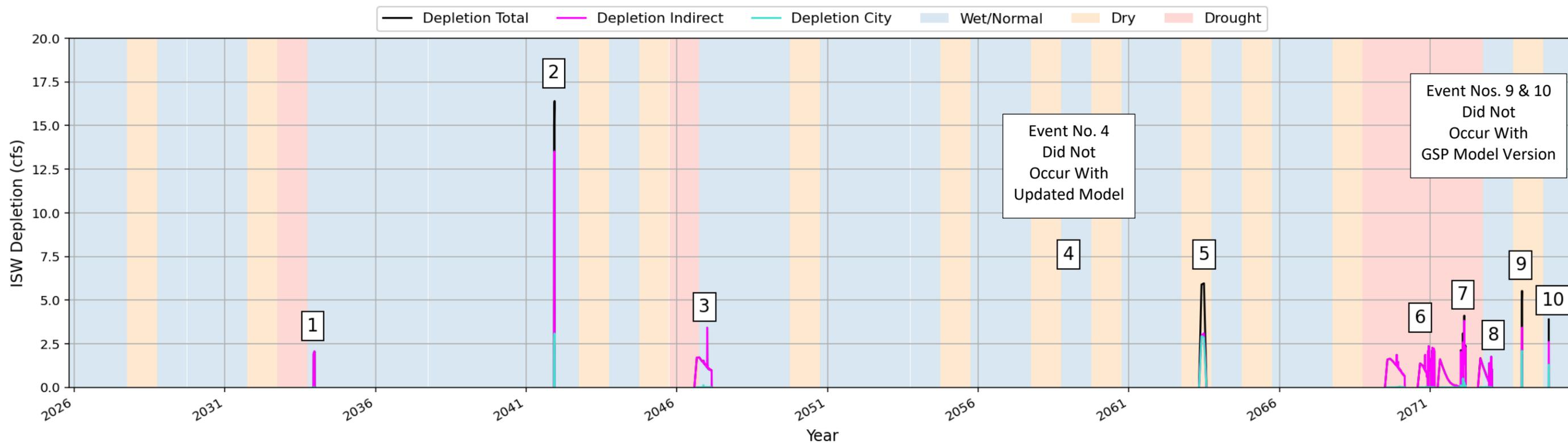
Attachment A – GSP ISW Depletion Minimum Threshold Exceedance Events Summary Figure



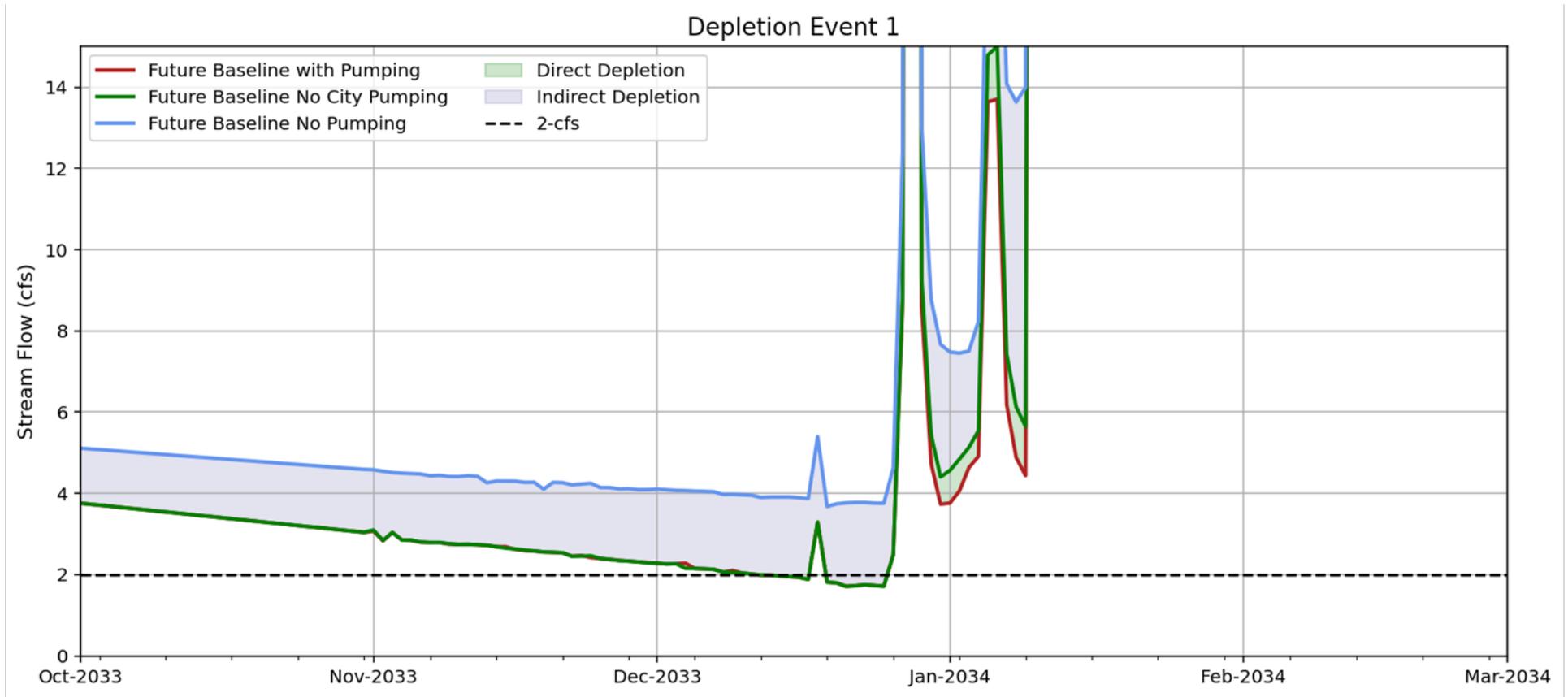
Simulated Ventura River Flow @ Foster Park USGS Gage



Simulated Depletion Causing Stream Flow to Decrease Below 2 cfs @ Foster Park USGS Gage



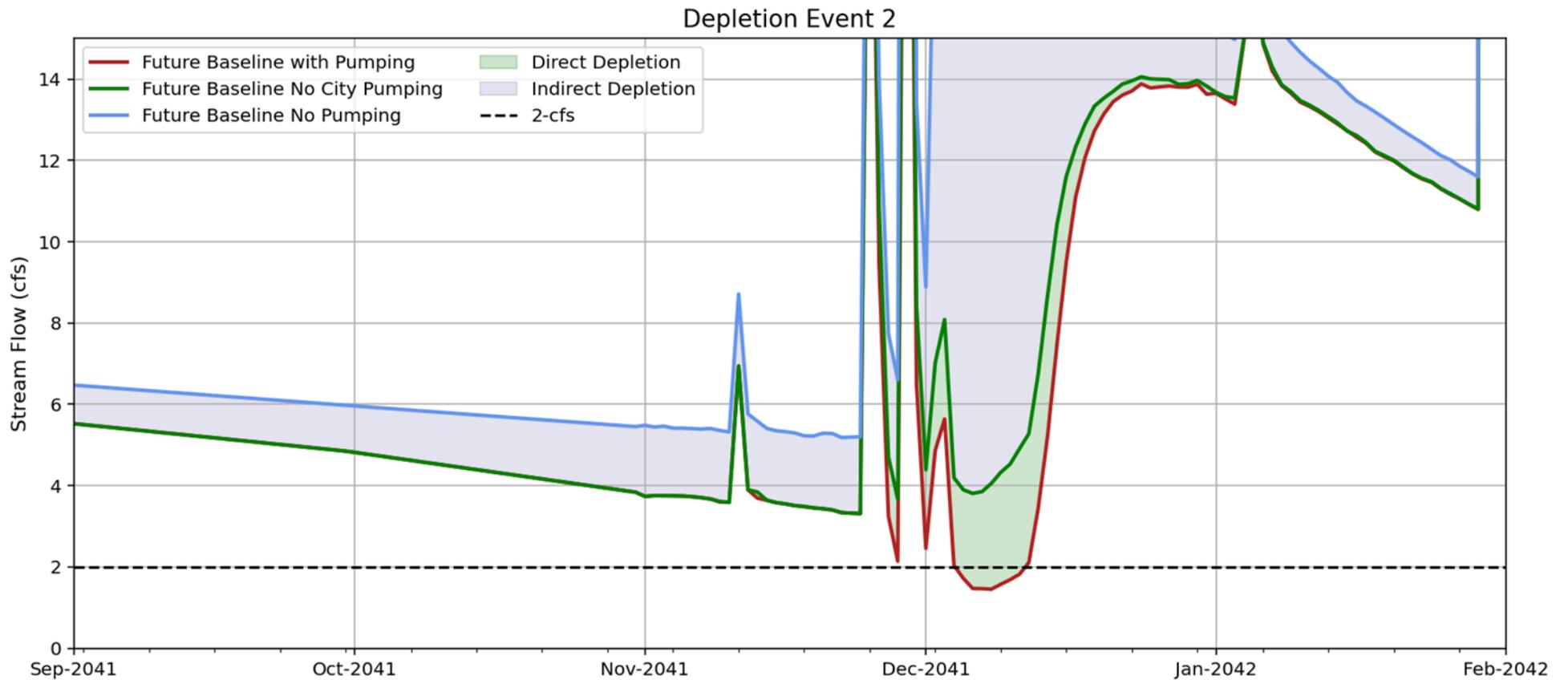
Attachment C – Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Detailed Graphs - DRAFT



Comparison of Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Characteristics

Model	Duration (days)	Peak Depletion Rate (cfs)	Depletion Volume (acre-ft)
Updated	13	0.29	4.1
GSP	8	0.19	1.55

Attachment C – Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Detailed Graphs - DRAFT

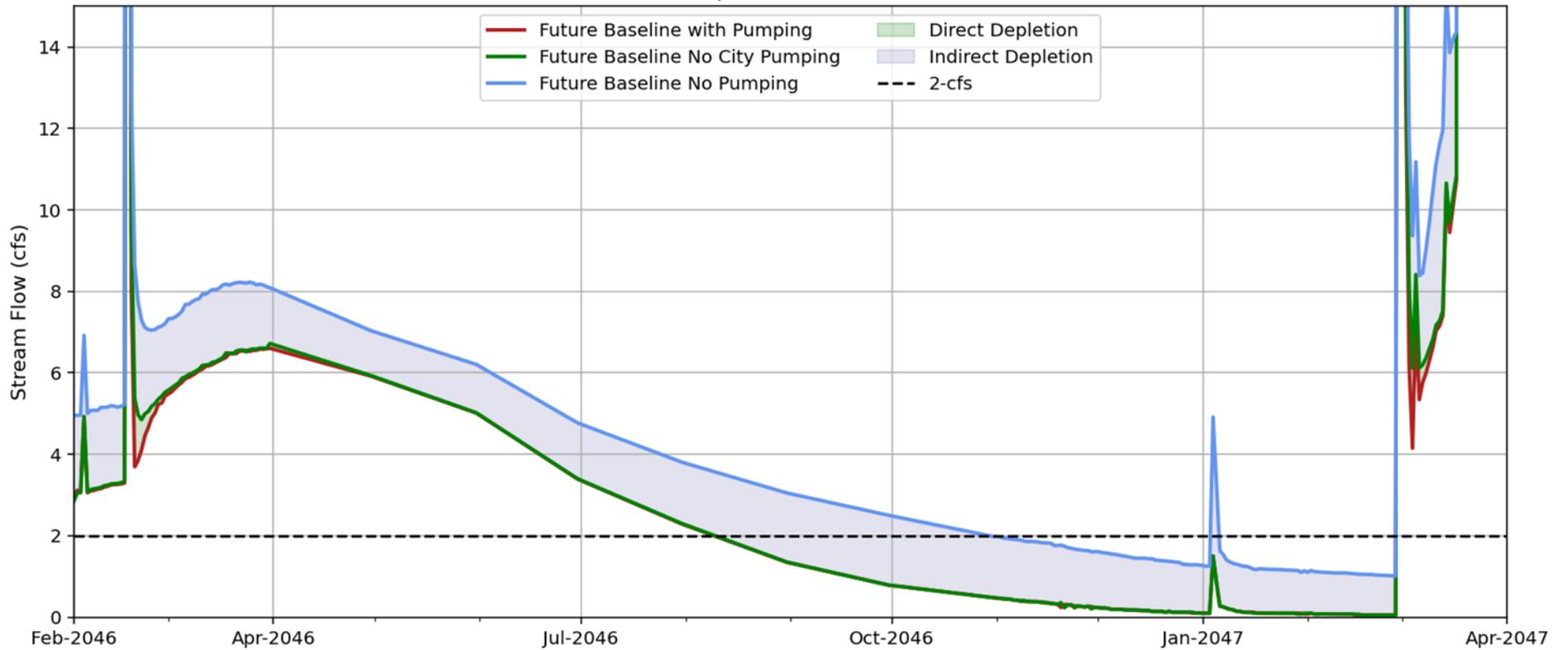


Comparison of Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Characteristics

Model	Duration (days)	Peak Depletion Rate (cfs)	Depletion Volume (acre-ft)
Updated	7	0.55	5.6
GSP	86	1.77	290

Attachment C – Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Detailed Graphs - DRAFT

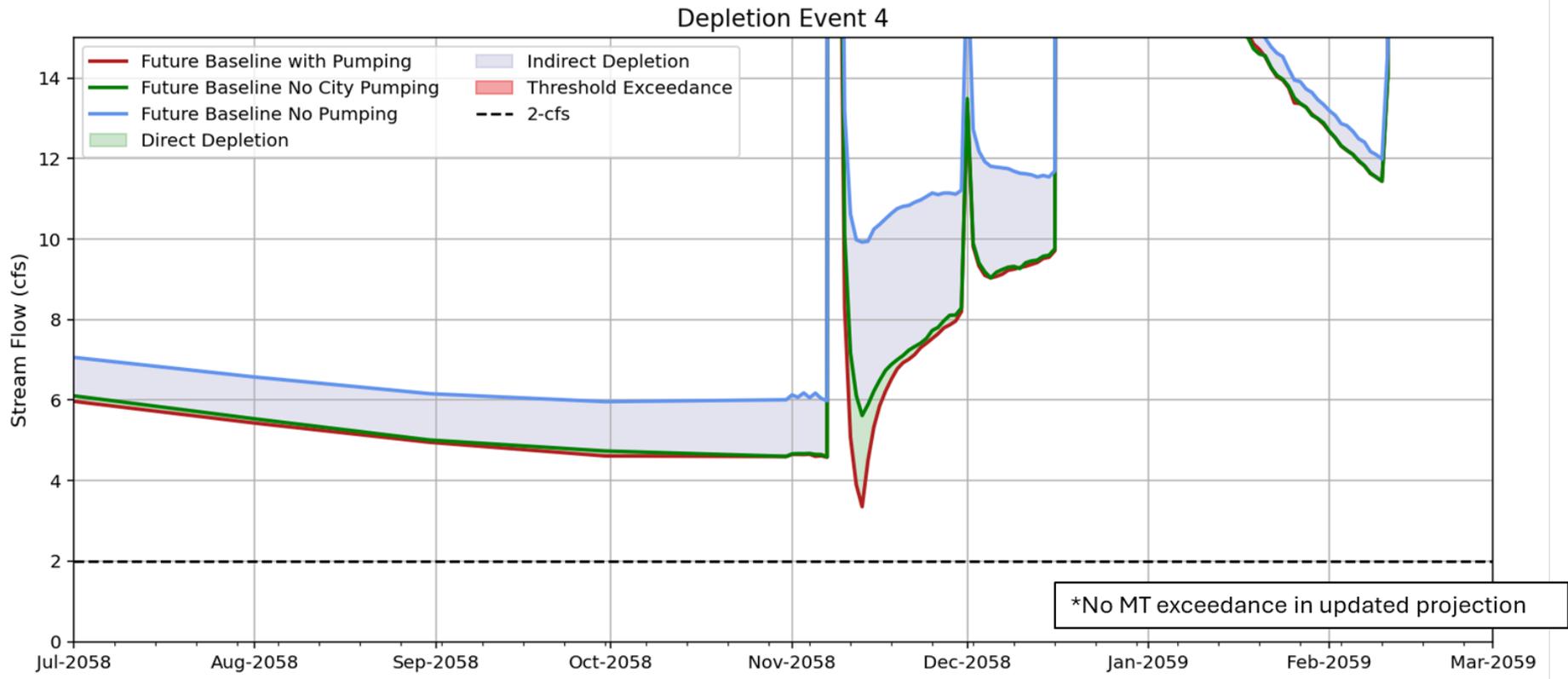
Depletion Event 3



Comparison of Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Characteristics

Model	Duration (days)	Peak Depletion Rate (cfs)	Depletion Volume (acre-ft)
Updated	202	1.53	441
GSP	342	2.00	1015

Attachment C – Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Detailed Graphs - DRAFT

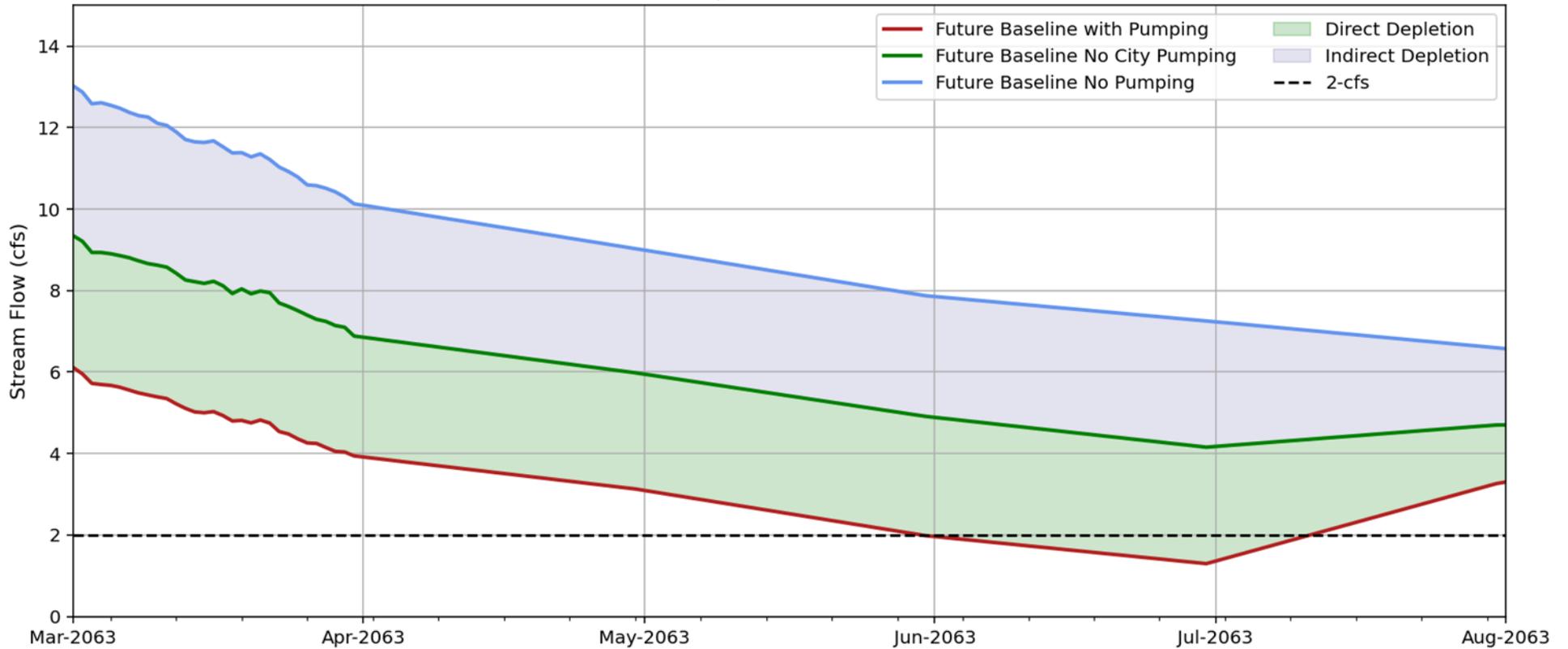


Comparison of Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Characteristics

Model	Duration (days)	Peak Depletion Rate (cfs)	Depletion Volume (acre-ft)
Updated	NA	NA	NA
GSP	6	0.37	2.29

Attachment C – Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Detailed Graphs - DRAFT

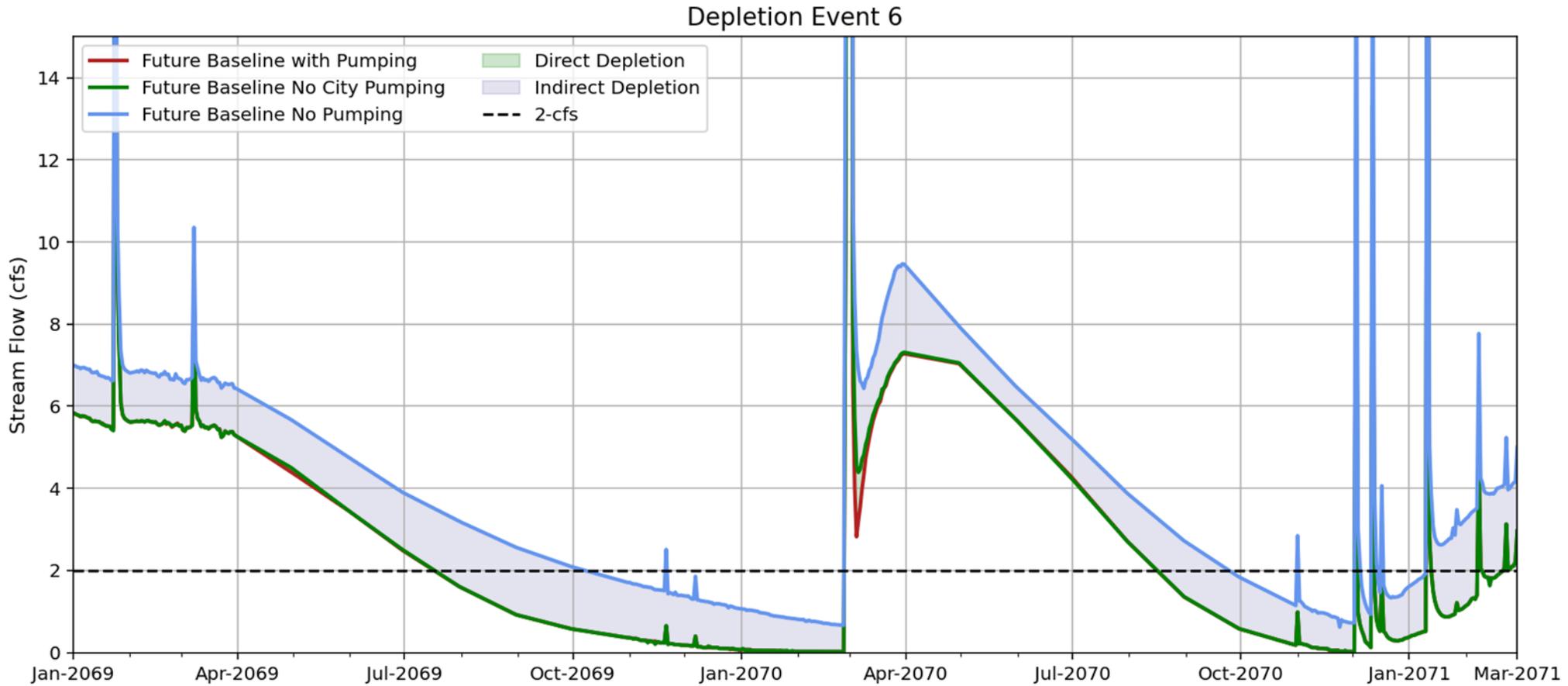
Depletion Event 5



Comparison of Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Characteristics

Model	Duration (days)	Peak Depletion Rate (cfs)	Depletion Volume (acre-ft)
Updated	42	0.70	29
GSP	1	0.02	0.04

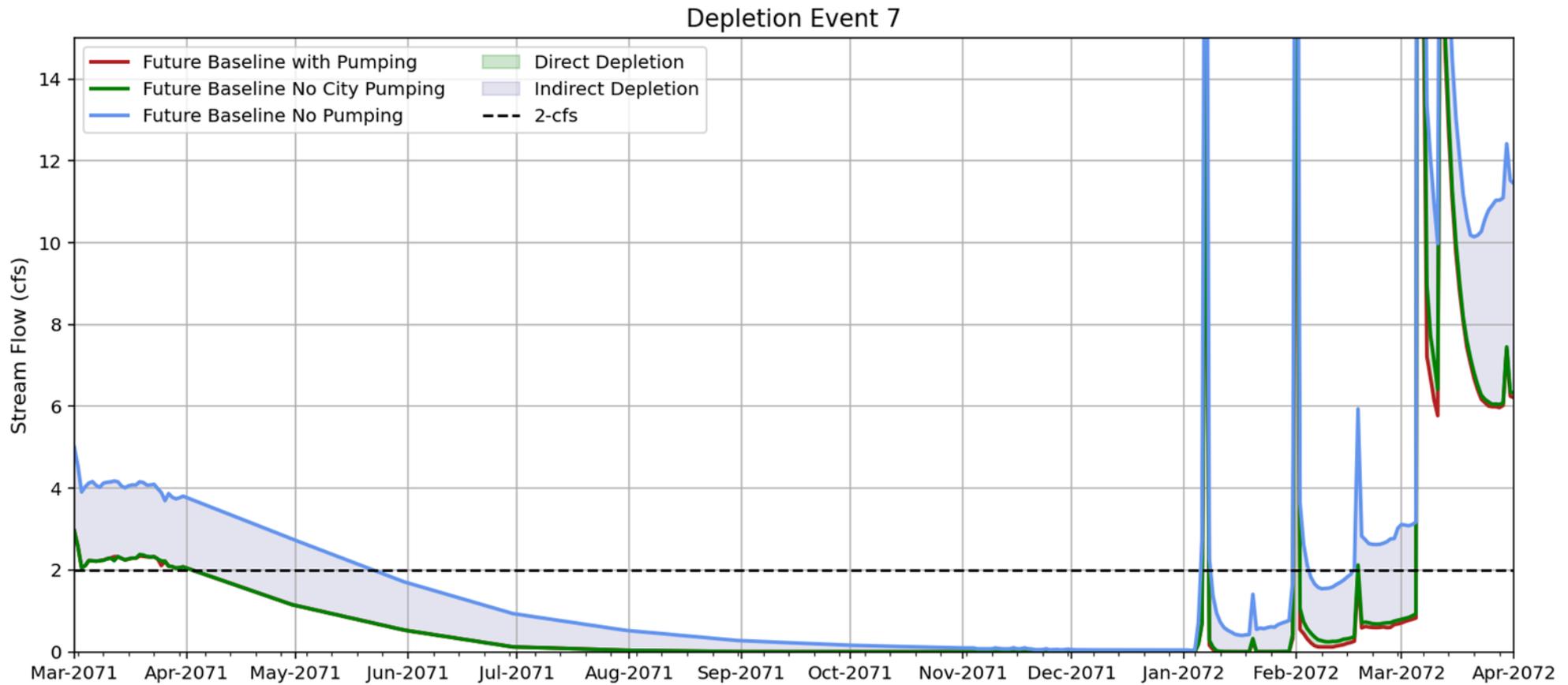
Attachment C – Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Detailed Graphs - DRAFT



Comparison of Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Characteristics

Model	Duration (days)	Peak Depletion Rate (cfs)	Depletion Volume (acre-ft)
Updated	406	1.47	769
GSP	643	1.99	1773

Attachment C – Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Detailed Graphs - DRAFT

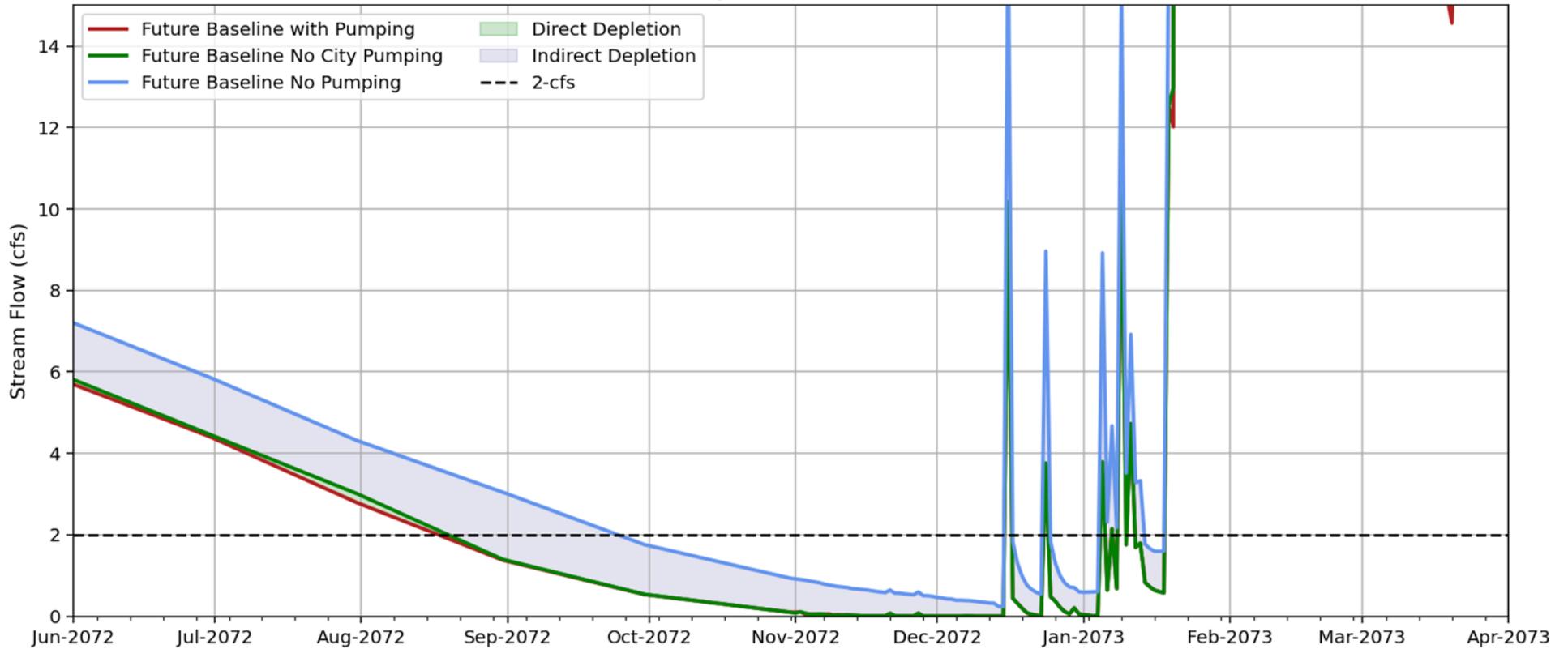


Comparison of Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Characteristics

Model	Duration (days)	Peak Depletion Rate (cfs)	Depletion Volume (acre-ft)
Updated	336	1.84	373
GSP	371	2.00	891

Attachment C – Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Detailed Graphs - DRAFT

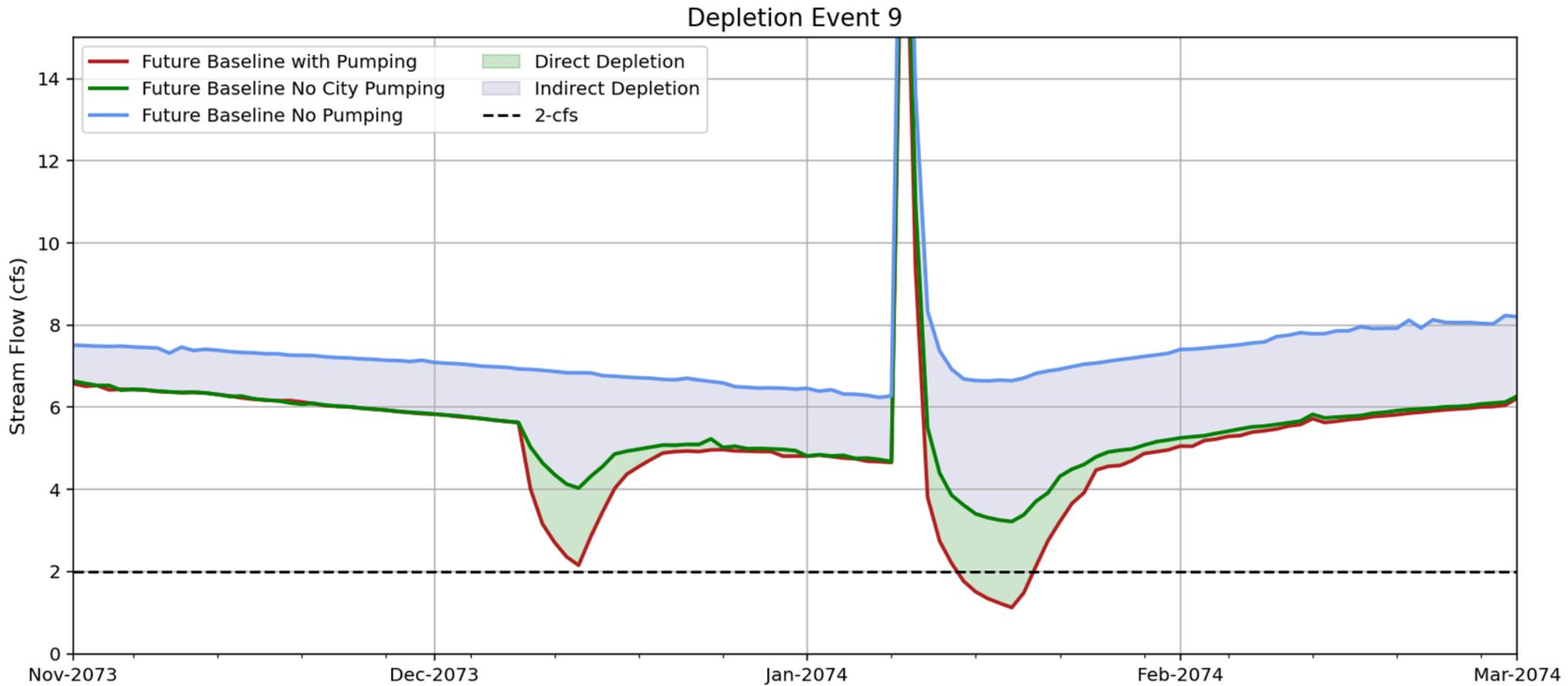
Depletion Event 8



Comparison of Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Characteristics

Model	Duration (days)	Peak Depletion Rate (cfs)	Depletion Volume (acre-ft)
Updated	148	1.39	225
GSP	232	1.98	737

Attachment C – Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Detailed Graphs - DRAFT

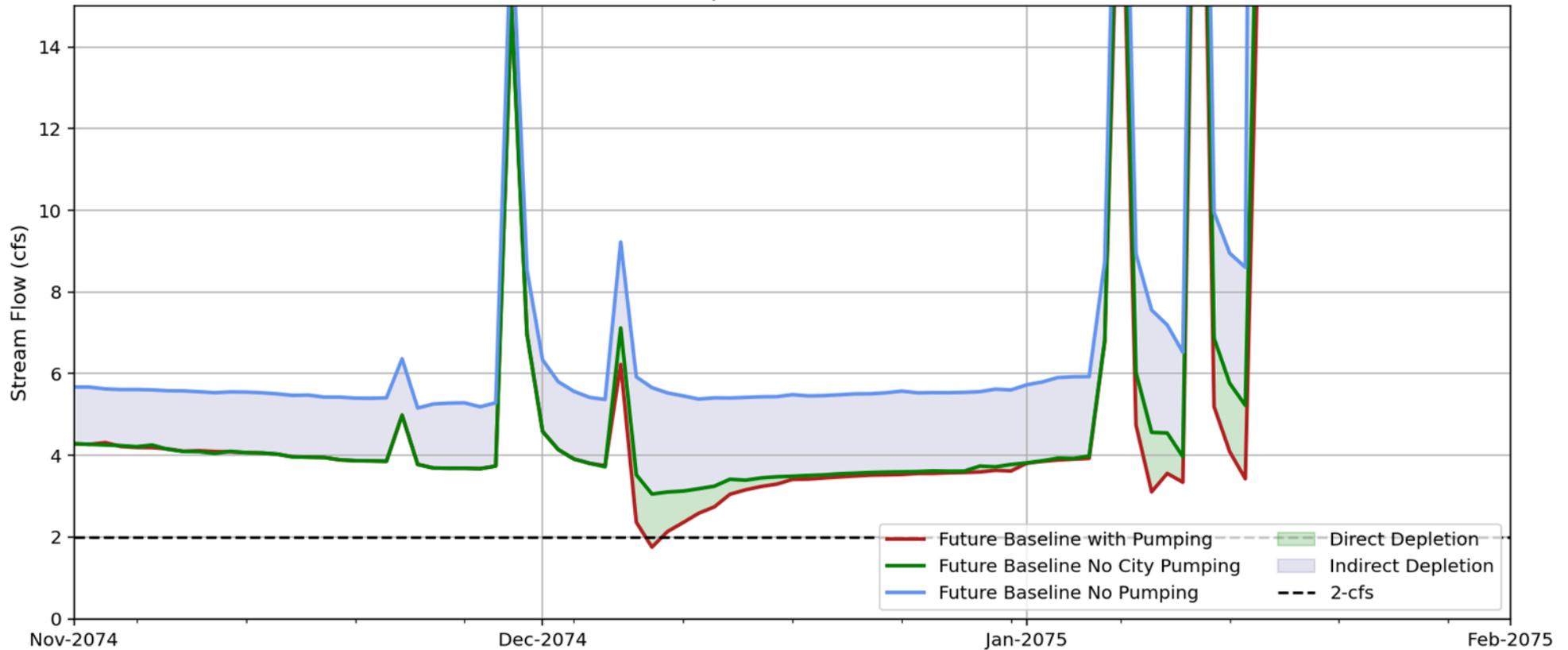


Comparison of Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Characteristics

Model	Duration (days)	Peak Depletion Rate (cfs)	Depletion Volume (acre-ft)
Updated	6	0.88	7
GSP	NA	NA	NA

Attachment C – Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Detailed Graphs - DRAFT

Depletion Event 10



Comparison of Minimum Threshold Exceedance Event Characteristics

Model	Duration (days)	Peak Depletion Rate (cfs)	Depletion Volume (acre-ft)
Updated	1	0.25	0.5
GSP	NA	NA	NA