

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MAY 14, 2026**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency was held at the Ventura River Water District, 409 Old Baldwin Road, Ojai, CA.

Chair Tribo called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Tribo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Executive Director Bondy called roll.

Directors Present:

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

Non-Voting Directors / Alternate Directors Present:

Alma Quezada, Alternate Director
Justin Martinez, Alternate Director

Directors Absent: Pete Kaiser

Staff Present:

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Director Kuebler moved agenda approval. Seconded by Director Kentosh.

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

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) Approve Minutes of April 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- b) Approve Financial Report for April 2026
- c) Fiscal Year Report 2025-2026 3rd 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 Palmer moved approval of the consent calendar items. Seconded by Director Ayala.

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

7. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Tribo called for Director announcements. No announcements were made.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Director Ayala said it is good news that extraction fees are being paid timely.

Director Kuebler asked what the Small GSA Coalition is working on now that it has successfully secured an earmark in the upcoming grant program. Executive Director Bondy explained that the coalition is developing recommendations for the grant guidelines and streamlining the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act reporting and compliance requirements.

Director Kentosh inquired about reviewing adjudication matters. Executive Director Bondy said he can provide a summary during closed session.

No Public Comments.

Burt Handy asked about the availability of drone imagery. Executive Director Bondy said the imagery can be found in the annual data reports.

9. AGENCY COUNSEL'S REPORT

Agency Counsel Lemieux said he will provide his report in closed session.

10. Administrative Items

a. Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Annual Budget and Multi-Year Budget Projection

Executive Director Bondy said the draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2026/2027 budget and multi-year projection is the same as presented during prior Board meeting. He reminded the Board that a presentation on extraction fee variability and smoothing options was made during the previous Board meeting and that the Board decided to move forward using the existing approach for calculating groundwater extraction fees. Director Ayala said she spoke with some pumpers and they would prefer smoothed rates. The Board briefly discussed the feedback and concluded that they can review the fee setting approach each year during the budgeting process.

Director Flood moved approval of the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Annual Budget and Multi-Year Budget Project and to schedule a public hearing at the next regular board meeting to consider adopting groundwater extraction fees for fiscal year 2026/2027. Seconded by Director Ayala.

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

11. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. Interconnected Surface Water Depletion Modeling Update

Executive Director Bondy provided a presentation consisting of an update on the Agency's interconnected surface water depletion modeling work. The presenting included background on how the modeling fits into GSP implementation, summary of model uncertainty results, review of the depletion modeling approach, and a summary of draft modeling results. The presentation slides are attached to these meeting minutes.

Executive Director Bondy answered clarifying questions about pumping volumes in baseline model, which Meiners Oaks Water District wells were treated as operational, and the approach for simulating the City of Ventura Foster Park Protocols.

Executive Director Bondy answered clarifying questions about the modeling approach and results charts.

Directors Kuebler and Kentosh and said the work is important. Director Kentosh and asked how the modeling results might be used as a management tool. Executive Director Bondy explained that the model could be used together with groundwater level and/or streamflow data to develop a management tool.

Director Palmer commented that turning wells off does not always result in meaningful increases in streamflow at Foster Park, particularly during critical periods.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Agency Counsel reviewed the criteria for closed session attendance. Director Kentosh stated that he would be leaving early and asked if Alternate Director Martinez could remain. Agency Counsel Lemieux concurred. Director Ayala, Director Sedgwick, and alternate Director Quezada left the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

The Board entered closed session at 2:22 p.m. Conference with Legal Counsel; Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)).

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

The Board returned to open session at 3:14 p.m.

Agency Counsel Lemieux reported that there was no reportable action taken in closed session.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next scheduled Board meeting is Thursday June 11, 2026.

Action: _____

Motion: _____

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