

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, 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 1:15 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. ROLL CALL

Admin Assistant Tucker called roll.

Directors Present:

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

Director Absent: County of Ventura

Vacancy: Environmental Stakeholder

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 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

Directors Absent: County of Ventura

Vacancy: Environmental Stakeholder

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 August 13, 2026 Regular Board Meeting**
- b) Approve Financial Report for August 2026**
- c) Approve Aleshire & Wynder Rate Increase Per Existing Contract**
- d) Approve Bondy Groundwater Consulting Rate Increase Per Existing Contract**

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

Director Flood moved approval of the consent calendar items. Seconded by Director Kuebler.

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

Directors Absent: County of Ventura

Vacancy: Environmental Stakeholder

7. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Tribo called for Director announcements.

Director Ayala asked about an upcoming environmental assessment public meeting. Director Flood explained that it is about the Matilija dam removal project.

Director Ayala described ongoing concerns about her inability to participate in UVRGA closed sessions concerning the watershed adjudication. She expressed concerns that agriculture has a limited voice in the process. Agency Counsel Lemieux noted that the proposed physical solution is a public document and the parties to the case, including agriculture, can participate directly in the case.

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. Executive Bondy noted that the Treasurer transferred \$300,000 to the investment account. He also noted that there is a new owner of well 04N23W32G01S. The owner is working on completing the registration of that well.

The Board requested a future agenda item to discuss the civil penalties accrued by the former owner of well 04N23W32G01S.

Director Ayala asked about the status of the well drilled near the intersection of El Roblar and La Luna. Executive Director Bondy said he will research.

Director Kuebler said OBGMA received a \$150,000 grant and asked UVRGA also applied. Executive Director Bondy said he was unaware of any recent grant opportunities and will inquire with OBGMA.

Director Kuebler expressed concerns about the Agency's reserves being too high. Executive Director Bondy noted that the Agency has unused funds that have resulted from completing tasks under budget and reduced monitoring work due to above-average flow conditions. The reserves will be considered during development of the next budget.

No Public Comments.

9. AGENCY COUNSEL'S REPORT

Agency Counsel Lemieux provided an update on the adjudication. UVRGA's comments on the physical solution have been addressed. Some State of California comments remain under discussion. A status conference will be held next week, and trial is scheduled for October 26. The settling parties intend to call Executive Director Bondy to testify at the trial as a witness. Agency Counsel will need to attend the trial when Executive Director Bondy is on the stand and his deposition.

10. Administrative Items

a. Environmental Stakeholder Director Nomination Process

Executive Director Bondy explained that Vivon Sedgwick recently resigned from her position at Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC) creating a vacancy in the Environmental Stakeholder Director seat on the board. The joint powers agreement states that the Member Directors shall select the Environmental Stakeholder Director from qualified nominees submitted by environmental nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organizations. The joint powers agreement goes on to say that nominations shall be submitted to the Member Directors pursuant to a process determined by the Member Directors.

Christine Gau from OVLC provided public comment via Zoom. She explained that OVLC intends to nominate someone from their organization. Their new executive director starts work next week and they intend to issue a nomination shortly thereafter.

The board directed the Executive Director to issue a request for nominations with a 30 day deadline.

11. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. GSP Periodic Evaluation Workshop

Executive Director Bondy provided a presentation summarizing the contents of the GSP Periodic Evaluation. The presentation slides are attached for reference.

Director Kuebler commented on the interaction of the GSP and physical solution.

Directors Tribo and Kentosh provided background information concerning the assumed future groundwater pumping projections.

Director Tribo provided background information concerning the status of stream gauges maintained by the City of Ventura.

Directors Flood and Kentosh complimented Executive Director Bondy on the periodic evaluation.

b. GSP Periodic Evolution Draft Public Comment Period

The draft GSP periodic evaluation has been posted to the UVRGA website for public review. The GSP periodic evaluation development schedule calls for 45-day public comment period, which staff recommends commencing on September 11, 2026.

Director Kuebler moved to approve the 45-day public comment period for the draft GSP periodic evaluation commencing on September 11, 2026. Seconded by Director Kentosh.

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

Directors Absent: County of Ventura

Vacancy: Environmental Stakeholder

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Civil penalties accrued by the former owner of well 04N23W32G01S.

CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

Closed session was not held due to lack of a quorum.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

The next scheduled Board meeting is Thursday, October 8, 2026.

ATTACHMENT

A. Presentation Slides

Action: _____

Motion: _____

J. Tribo_ B. Kuebler_ J. Kentosh _ E. Ayala _ P. Kaiser _ J. Palmer _