



Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday
November 18, 2021
5:00 p.m.

In accordance with the California Governor's Executive Stay at Home Order and the County of Ventura Health Officer Declared Local Health Emergency and Be Well at Home Order resulting from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the Fillmore City Hall is closed to the public. Therefore, the FPB GSA will be holding its Regular Board of Directors meeting virtually using the ZOOM video conferencing application.

If you are new to ZOOM video conferencing, please visit this help page in advance of the meeting date and time:
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting->

To participate in the Board of Directors meeting via Zoom, please access:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82477092074?pwd=SkJoa2hhZk5pUG1wZzJLa3V5dGZsQT09>

Meeting ID: **824 7709 2074**

Password: **FPBGSA**

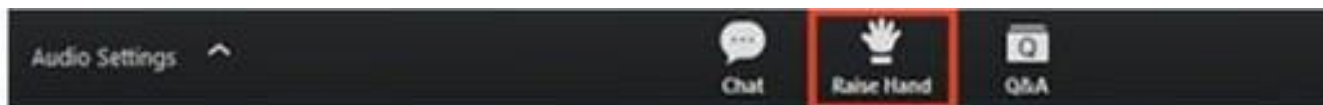
To hear just the audio portion of the meeting, phone into the toll-free number 877 853 5247

Meeting ID: **824 7709 2074**

All participants are asked to join the meeting at least five minutes in advance of the 5pm start time and be aware that all participants will be "muted" until recognized by the host. If your computer has a camera, please enable it so we can ensure better engagement between participants.

If you would like to address the Board with a question or offer a comment, please follow these simple instructions to engage the host (Clerk of the Board):

1. During a meeting, click on the icon labeled "Participants" at the bottom center of your computer screen.
2. At the bottom of the window on the right side of the screen, click the button labeled "Raise Hand."
3. Once you've been recognized by the Chair, please click on "Raise Hand" again to remove the signal.



Similarly, if you have a comment or question for the Board, you can use the "Chat" button to convey your question or comment to the HOST, who will put you in line to address the Board.

The Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA Board of Directors appreciates your participation and patience in using Zoom to conduct its public meeting.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

1A Pledge of Allegiance

1B Directors Roll Call

1C Public Comments

Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) will accept public comment concerning agenda items at the time the item is considered and on any non-agenda item within the jurisdiction of the Board during the agendaized Public Comment period. No action will be taken by the Board on any non-agenda item. In accordance with Government Code § 54954.3(b)(1), public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker per issue.

1D Approval of Agenda Motion

2. UPDATES

2A Director Announcements/Board Communications:

Oral Reports from the Board

**Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director
Update**

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

County of Ventura Member Director Update

2B Executive Director Update

Information Item

The Executive Director will provide an informational update on Agency activities since the previous Board meeting of October 21, 2021.

2C Legal Counsel Update

Information Item

Legal Counsel will provide an informational update on Agency's legal issues and concerns since the previous Board of Directors meeting of October 21, 2021.

2D GSP Consultant Update

Information Item

Representatives from Daniel B Stephens & Associates will provide an informational update on Agency's GSP development activities since the previous Board meeting of October 21, 2021.

3. 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. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)

3A Approval of Minutes

The Board will consider approving the Minutes from the regular Board Meeting of October 21, 2021.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board will consider approving payment of outstanding vendor invoices

UWCD	\$738.75
Fillmore Gazette	\$108.00

3C Monthly Financial Report

The Board will receive the Agency's monthly profit and loss statement and balance sheet.

3D Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Report

The Board will receive the annual financial reports for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

3E Resolution 2021-07 Subsequent Finding Regarding Continuation of AB 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements

The Board will consider adopting Resolution 2021-07 continuing findings that the requisite conditions exist for remote teleconference meetings of the Agency's legislative bodies without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), as authorized by Government Code section 54953(e).

4. MOTION ITEMS

4A Final Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans Motion

The Board will receive a presentation from DBS&A on the amended draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) for the Fillmore basin and the Piru basin and associated technical appendices and provide direction regarding preparation of the final GSPs for subsequent adoption by the Board at its December 16, 2021, meeting.

4B Receivables Collections Options Motion

The Board will receive a presentation from staff and legal counsel regarding options for collections of the Agency's receivables and provide comments and direction.

4C Support for King & King Ranch CDFA SWEEP Grant Application

Motion

The Board will consider authorizing a letter of support for the King & King Ranch's application for a California Department of Food and Agriculture State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program grant and provide direction to staff regarding future SWEEP grant applications.


FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

The Board will adjourn to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on Thursday, **December 16, 2021**, or call of the Chair.

Materials, which are non-exempt public records and are provided to the Board of Directors to be used in consideration of the above agenda items, including any documents provided subsequent to the publishing of this agenda, are available for inspection at UWCD's offices at 1701 N. Lombard Street in Oxnard during normal business hours.

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 District'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 UWCD Office at (805) 525-4431 or the City of Fillmore at (805) 524- 1500. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements.

Approved: 
Board Chair Kelly Long

Posted: (date), November 15, 2021

(time) 4:00 pm

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: <https://www.FPBGSA.org>

Posted: (date), November 15, 2021

(time) 4:10 pm

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: <https://www.facebook.com/FPBGSA/>

Posted: (date), November 15, 2021

(time) 4:20 pm

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: UWCD, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030



Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, October 21, 2021 5p.m.
MINUTES

Directors Present

Director Kelly Long, Chair
Director Ed McFadden, Vice Chair/Secretary/Treasurer
Director Gordon Kimball
Director Candice Meneghin
Director Glen Pace
Director Christina Villaseñor

Staff Present

Anthony Emmert, executive director
Scott Nave, legal counsel
Kris Sofley, clerk of the board

Public Present

Frank Bromschenk, Frank B & Associates
Burt Handy
Tony Morgan, DBS&A consultant
Patrick O'Connell, DBS&A
Steve Zimmer

1. CALL TO ORDER 5:00pm

Chair Long called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

1A Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Long asked everyone to join her in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1B Directors Roll Call

Chair Long asked the clerk to conduct roll call. Directors Kimball, Long, McFadden, Meneghin and Villaseñor were present. Director Pace was absent.

1C Public Comments

Chair Long asked if there were any public comments. None were offered.

At 5:02p.m. Director Pace joined the meeting.

1D Approval of Agenda

Motion

Motion to approve the agenda, Director McFadden; Second, Director Villaseñor.
Roll call vote: six ayes (Kimball, Long, McFadden, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor);
none opposed; motion carries unanimously 6/0.

2. UPDATES

2A Director Announcements/Board Communications: Information Item

Oral Reports from the Board

Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Kimball stated that the Fillmore and Piru Pumpers Associations' Board of Directors didn't meet since the last GSA meeting but have submitted comments on the draft GSPs. Bryan Bondy, the pumpers' consultant, wrote up suggestions and comments and submitted them on behalf of the associations. Director Kimball added that he attended the UWCD Water Sustainability Summit the previous week and found the event very informative. He said the event signified United's leadership role in determining more effective water use and he wanted to thank Ed and the rest of the United Board for its leadership.

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Update

Director Pace said that once again, Director Kimball makes it easy for him in that he echoes his statements. Director Pace said that he has attended the Water Sustainability Summit remotely and that he found all of the things being discussed very interesting. He added that lots of people are working together on good projects and what has been accomplished to date and what's up next is very encouraging.

Director Update Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

Director Meneghin reported that the Friends of the Santa Clara River are still working on comments for the Fillmore and Piru GSPs and that it's good to see different environmental stakeholders and other groups submitting letters. She also mentioned a river run and clean up on Saturday at the levee and stated that the plan is for this to become an annual event and supports the bike trail along the levee at Oxnard and the 118 and is a good location for environmental education. She also spoke about the fish passage restoration at private property on Sisar Creek and encouraged environmental stakeholders to help private landowners with funding and expertise for restoration projects.

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

Director Villaseñor reported that at the recent Fillmore City Council meeting, the Councilmembers were informed of a well shut down and that one well was operational. The Council authorized emergency repairs for well #8. She added that the four or five applicants for the vacant City Council seat were being interviewed during a special Council meeting on Tuesday and that an appointment was slated for the middle of November. The appointment will be for one year and whoever is appointed will have to run for election in November 22 for a two-year term.

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

Vice Chair McFadden said the Water Sustainability Summit was very successful and well attended and that staff, Tony Emmert and Mauricio Guardado did a great job.

County of Ventura Member Director Update

Chair Long reported that the drought officially encompasses Ventura County with the Governor's recent remarks that hopefully that proclamation will be helpful in moving funds. She added that she participated in the Association of Water Agencies Ventura County (AWA VC) annual Symposium today and that the City of Camarillo was recognized with an award for its Desalter project. Chair Long also mentioned that redistricting maps for the County Supervisorial districts have been released for public comment and that District 3 looked to be changing the most. She said it was an interesting dynamic and that she appreciates stakeholder engagement and involvement.

2B Executive Director Update

Information Item

Executive Director Anthony Emmert reported that the groundwater model is complete and Mr. Detmers group has provided all the documentation, including expert panel technical memos, on the Agency's website. He is working with staff to complete and submit grant report and invoice #10 and continues to work with the Grant Manager on amendments extending the time, moving money and removing the interagency agreement from the tasks. He added that he hopes to present the amendments to the Board at its November meeting. United staff have just completed the groundwater billing so outstanding receivables may look high at the moment, since the due date for everyone is today. He said that \$355,000 was billed for the period of January 1 through June 30, 2021; \$79,000 is still outstanding from the previous billing period and there is a \$250,000 grant invoice to DWR that he expects to receive soon. He added that he expects to receive the scope of work and fee proposal from DBS&A for preparing the annual report soon and expects to

present it to the Board for adoption at the next meeting. He said it was important to get DBS&A under contract as the annual report is due on April 1 and its important to get this first annual report completed and submitted on time.

2C Legal Counsel Update

Information Item

Mr. Scott Nave said that he had nothing to report and would explain more on AB 361 when that motion item came up for discussion. Director Meneghin asked Mr. Nave about his discussion with the County regarding steps the Agency could take regarding resolution of long-standing non-payment of water extraction fees. Mr. Emmert responded by saying the Agency had reached the end of the line in its discussions with the County, adding that the County's legal counsel was not comfortable with the JPA methodology the Agency was proposing. Mr. Nave agreed that was his recollection of the discussion as well. Chair Long asked if the topic could be brought back for future discussion and perhaps development of a "plan b." Mr. Nave said that now that the County has new legal counsel, it may be a good time to circle back with them, and Mr. Emmert agreed.

2D GSP Consultant Update

Information Item

Mr. Tony Morgan started his update by presenting slides (see attached) depicting the Agency's current activities including the public review and comments on the Fillmore basin GSP which were due on October 9, 2021. He stated that DBS&A staff were working with Stillwater Sciences on developing responses to comments received and creating a "Response to Comments" table (RTC) summarizing all public comments received. He added that the team was evaluating and developing responses to the comments and would be creating a red-line edited version of the GSP and technical appendices to document any changes to the documents and expects to present that to the Board soon. He stated that a similar process would be followed for public comments received on the Piru basin GSP, the deadline for comments on that GSP are due on October 23. Mr. Morgan also stated that the team would go through the whole thing again conducting a thorough review digitally rather than a hard copy print out, and that technical appendices are also being red line edited.

Chair Long asked if the edited versions of the GSP would be provided to the Board digitally or emailed. Director Kimball asked if it would be a Brown Act issue to provide the edited version to the Board for its review. Mr. Nave replied that as long as the public has access to the documents, it is not a Brown Act violation and if the

public wants a hard copy, it can request one through the Public Records Act. Chair Long asked about directing Mr. Morgan to provide a digital or paper copy of the red-line edits, would that be a violation, and Mr. Nave reported no. Chair Long then asked Mr. Morgan for a digital copy as did all of the Board members, with Director Meneghin requesting both a digital copy and a hard copy if it is small.

Vice Chair McFadden asked if the Board approved the draft GSP, how does it go about approving changes to the document. Mr. Morgan directed Vice Chair McFadden to the slide presentation, which showed what groups and individuals had provided comments and the categories within the GSP that had been commented on. Mr. Morgan stated that he expects to be able to provide the red-lined version of the GSPs and technical appendices to the Board by November 10 and that at the November 18 Board meeting, he would like to get the Board's response to the comments, adjustments and be able to draft a final GSP and adopt that final plan at the December 10 Board meeting. He reminded the Directors that the Final GSPs are to be filed with DWR by the end of January 2022.

Vice Chair McFadden asked Mr. Morgan to be sure that the Board has time to review and accept any proposed changes. Mr. Morgan restated that the red-line edits will be available to the Board on November 10, to be discussed at the November 18 Board meeting, one more week to review and respond to comments only. Vice Chair McFadden asked about changes to wording in the approved draft and Mr. Morgan said that 75 comments had been received on the Fillmore basin GSP. Director Meneghin asked if the Board could receive an excel document ahead of the red-line edited version. Mr. Morgan said he could probably do that, sorting comments by topic and produce one answer to similar comments and apply to sections and shared the system setup that DBS&A and Stillwater were using to allow for real-time editing from multiple sources as well as sharing.

Chair Long asked if there were any additional comments or questions. None were offered.

3. 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. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)

3A Approval of Minutes

The Board will consider approving the Minutes from the regular Board Meeting of September 23, 2021.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board will consider approving payment of outstanding vendor invoices:

DBS&A Consultants	\$87,069.81
United Water Conservation District	\$37,108.66
Olivarez Madrugal Lemieux O'Neill, LLP	\$ 1,822.50
County of Ventura IT Services	\$ 377.68

3C Monthly Financial Report

The Board will receive the Agency's monthly profit and loss statement and balance sheet.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar items; Vice Chair McFadden; Second, Director Pace. Roll call vote: six ayes (Kimball, Long, McFadden, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 6/0.

4. MOTION ITEMS

**4A Resolution 2021-06 Invoking the Provisions of Assembly Bill 361
Regarding its Public Meetings During the COVID-19 Emergency
Period**

Motion

Mr. Nave addressed the Board explaining that the Governor's Executive Order that previously allowed for remote teleconferencing without having to post agendas at and provide public access to the locations of the Board members participating remotely expired on September 30, 2021. In order for the Board to continue to meet remotely without having to post agendas at and provide public access to the locations being used by Board members participating remotely, new legislation in the form of AB 361, requires the Board to adopt findings that a local or regional state of public health emergency exists and may continue to provide remote teleconferencing to Board members for a 30-day period. If the Board does not adopt the findings in Resolution 2021-06, then the Board must comply with earlier Brown Act requirements for providing public notice of remote teleconferencing participation by Board members, posting agendas with location details at the remote locations and providing public access to participate from those remote locations.

Chair Long asked if the Board could still move forward on hybrid in-person and remote meetings and Mr. Nave said yes, as long as the Resolution is adopted. Vice Chair McFadden asked if future Resolutions could be addressed through the Consent Calendar, and Mr. Nave said yes. Mr. Nave added that AB 361 will be in effect until December 31, 2024 and added that he hoped the Board wouldn't need it for that long a time. Chair Long said that there was some push back at the State level from organizations that meet every two months but she hadn't heard any further discussion on that.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-06 invoking the provisions of Assembly Bill 361 regarding the conduct of its public meetings during the ongoing State of California-declared emergency regarding COVID-19, Vice Chair McFadden; Second, Director Meneghin. Roll call vote: six ayes (Kimball, Long, McFadden, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 6/0.

5. FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

Vice Chair McFadden asked if outstanding balances on receivables could be added for discussion at a future Board meeting, including Mr. Nave's efforts to discuss collections of long-term outstanding account receivables with County's legal counsel.

6. ADJOURNMENT 5:43p.m.

Chair Long thanked everyone for their efforts and work on the GSPs and adjourned the Board at 5:43pm to the next Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2021, or call of the Chair.

ATTEST: _____
Kelly Long, Chair, FPB GSA Board of Directors

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Board of Directors meeting of October 21, 2021.

ATTEST: _____
Kris Sofley, Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
21 OCT 2021
ITEM 2D GSP CONSULTANT UPDATE



Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

CURRENT ACTIVITIES



- Public Review Comment on Fillmore Basin were due 09 Oct 2021
- Developing responses to comments received on Public Review Draft GSP for Fillmore Basin and the technical memoranda in the Appendices
 - Response to Comments (RTC) Table summarizing all public comments
 - Evaluating and developing responses to comments
 - Creating red-lined version of GSP and technical appendices to document any changes to the documents
- Comments on Public Review Draft GSP for Piru Basin due 23 Oct 2021

ORGANIZATIONS COMMENTING ON FILLMORE GSP AND/OR TECHNICAL APPENDICES



- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) ●
- Bondy Groundwater (Fillmore & Piru Pumpers Associations) ●●●●
- Katie Brokaw ●●
- California Trout ●
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife ●
- County of Ventura ●●
- United Water Conservation District
- National Science Foundation research team (UCSB, SUNY, Cardiff Univ) ●
- The Nature Conservancy - Audubon CA - Local Government Commission - Union of Concerned Scientists - Clean Water Action / Clean Water Fund ●●

● Hydro

● Env/GDE

● SMCs

● Data Gaps

NEXT STEPS



- UPDATE GSPs AND TECH MEMOS BASED ON STAKEHOLDER REVIEW COMMENTS
- PROVIDE RED-LINED VERSIONS OF FILLMORE GSP TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON OR ABOUT 10 Nov 2021
- *IF POSSIBLE, PROVIDE RED-LINED VERSIONS OF PIRU GSP TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON OR ABOUT 10 Nov 2021 (DEPENDING ON QUANTITY AND SCOPE OF THE COMMENTS)*
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCUSSION OF RTCs - 18 Nov 2021 MEETING
- ISSUE DRAFT FINAL GSPs FOR GSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO CONSIDER FOR ADOPTION AT DECEMBER MEETING (16 DEC 2021)
- FILE WITH DWR BY END OF JAN 2022

Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA
Check Detail
November 10, 2021

Type	Num	Date	Name	Account	Original Amount
Bill Pmt -Check	11139	11/10/2021	The Fillmore Gazette	10000 · Bank of the Sierra	-108.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11140	11/10/2021	United Water Conservation District	10000 · Bank of the Sierra	-738.75
					-846.75



Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Item No. **3C Consent Calendar**

DATE: **November 1, 2021**

TO: **Board of Directors**

SUBJECT: Monthly Financial Report

SUMMARY

The Board will receive the monthly financial report for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency).

BACKGROUND

UWCD accounting staff has prepared financial reports based on the Agency revenue and expenses for the month of October 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

Attachments: October 31, 2021 P/L Budget Performance
 October 31, 2021 Balance Sheet

Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
July 2021 through October 2021

	Jul '21 -Oct 21	Annual Budget	Budget
Income			
40001 · Groundwater Extraction Charge	0.00	540,000.00	0.00%
41000 · Grant Revenue			
41001 · State Grants	0.00	537,970.00	0.00%
Total 41000 · Grant Revenue	0.00	537,970.00	
47000 · Other Revenue			
47001 · Late Fees	-262.93	0.00	
47012 · Returned Check Charges	0.00	0.00	
Total 47000 · Other Revenue	-262.93	0.00	
Total Income	-262.93	1,077,970.00	-0.02%
Gross Profit	-262.93	1,077,970.00	-0.02%
Expense			
52200 · Professional Services			
52240 · Prof Svcs - IT Consulting	509.44	1,700.00	29.97%
52250 · Prof Svcs - Groundwtr/GSP Prep			
52251 · Prof Svcs - UWCD GW Services	6,301.64	0.00	
52252 · Prof Svcs - GSP Consultant	86,840.99	280,000.00	31.01%
Total 52250 · Prof Svcs - Groundwtr/GSP Prep	93,142.63	280,000.00	33.27%
52270 · Prof Svcs - Accounting	3,480.66	24,200.00	14.38%
52275 · Prof Svcs - Admin/Clerk of Bd	5,732.66	25,000.00	22.93%
52280 · Prof Svcs - Executive Director	21,457.10	40,000.00	53.64%
52290 · Prof Svcs - Other	0.00	0.00	
Total 52200 · Professional Services	124,322.49	370,900.00	33.52%
52500 · Legal Fees			
52501 · Legal Counsel	5,872.50	30,000.00	19.58%
Total 52500 · Legal Fees	5,872.50	30,000.00	19.58%
53000 · Office Expenses			
53010 · Public Information	108.00	1,000.00	10.80%
53020 · Office Supplies	509.42	500.00	101.88%
53026 · Postage & Mailing	311.73	2,000.00	15.59%
53040 · Membership Dues	0.00	0.00	
53060 · Computer Software	0.00	0.00	
53110 · Travel & Training	54.20	4,000.00	1.36%
Total 53000 · Office Expenses	983.35	7,500.00	13.11%
53500 · Insurance			
53510 · Liability Insurance	0.00	2,500.00	0.00%
Total 53500 · Insurance	0.00	2,500.00	0.00%
70130 · Bank Service Charges	0.00	0.00	
81000 · Capital Expenditures	0.00	655,000.00	0.00%
Total Expense	131,178.34	1,065,900.00	12.31%
Net Income	-131,441.27	12,070.00	-1088.99%

Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA
Balance Sheet
As of October 31, 2021

	<u>October 31, 21</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 - Bank of the Sierra	660,158.10
Total Checking/Savings	<u>660,158.10</u>
Accounts Receivable	
11000 - Accounts Receivable	525,491.79
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>525,491.79</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,185,649.89</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,185,649.89</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 - Accounts Payable	846.75
Total Accounts Payable	<u>846.75</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>846.75</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>846.75</u>
Equity	
32000 - Retained Earnings	1,316,244.41
Net Income	<u>-131,441.27</u>
Total Equity	<u>1,184,803.14</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>1,185,649.89</u></u>



Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Item No. **3D Consent Calendar**

DATE: **October 1, 2021**

TO: **Board of Directors**

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Report

SUMMARY

The Board will receive the annual financial reports for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency).

BACKGROUND

UWCD accounting staff has prepared financial reports based on the Agency revenue and expenses for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

Attachments: FY 20-21 P/L Budget Performance - Final
 FY 20-21 Balance Sheet - Final

Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
July 1 through June 30, 2021

	Jul '20 - June 21	Annual Budget	Budget
Income			
40001 - Groundwater Extraction Charge	754,783.92	648,000.00	116.48%
41000 - Grant Revenue			
41001 - State Grants	437,070.77	503,246.00	86.85%
41000 - Grant Revenue - Other	0.00		
Total 41000 - Grant Revenue	437,070.77	503,246.00	86.85%
47000 - Other Revenue			
47001 - Late Fees	13,193.53	0.00	
47002 - Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00		
47012 - Returned Check Charges	20.00	0.00	
47000 - Other Revenue - Other	0.00		
Total 47000 - Other Revenue	13,213.53	0.00	
47022 - Returned Check Charges	0.00		
Total Income	1,205,068.22	1,151,246.00	104.68%
Cost of Goods Sold			
50000 - Cost of Goods Sold	0.00		
Total COGS	0.00		
Gross Profit	1,205,068.22	1,151,246.00	104.68%
Expense			
52200 - Professional Services			
52230 - Prof Svcs - Grant Solicitation			
52240 - Prof Svcs - IT Consulting	1,241.50	1,480.00	83.89%
52250 - Prof Svcs - Groundwtr/GSP Prep			
52251 - Prof Svcs - UWCD GW Services	11,992.28	50,000.00	23.98%
52252 - Prof Svcs - GSP Consultant	492,532.28	530,814.00	92.79%
52250 - Prof Svcs - Groundwtr/GSP Prep - Other			
Total 52250 - Prof Svcs - Groundwtr/GSP Prep	504,524.56	580,814.00	86.87%
52270 - Prof Svcs - Accounting	15,957.61	17,000.00	93.87%
52275 - Prof Svcs - Admin/Clerk of Bd	26,008.85	20,000.00	130.04%
52280 - Prof Svcs - Executive Director	60,855.09	40,000.00	152.14%
52290 - Prof Svcs - Other	0.00	1,000.00	
52200 - Professional Services - Other			
Total 52200 - Professional Services	608,587.61	660,294.00	92.17%
52500 - Legal Fees			
52501 - Legal Counsel	26,876.60	28,000.00	95.99%
52500 - Legal Fees - Other			
Total 52500 - Legal Fees	26,876.60	28,000.00	95.99%
53000 - Office Expenses			
53010 - Public Information	108.00	1,000.00	10.80%
53020 - Office Supplies	616.68	500.00	123.34%
53026 - Postage & Mailing	1,174.83	2,000.00	58.74%
53040 - Membership Dues			
53060 - Computer Software			
53110 - Travel & Training	74.68	4,000.00	1.87%
53000 - Office Expenses - Other	0.00		
Total 53000 - Office Expenses	1,974.19	7,500.00	26.32%
53500 - Insurance			
53510 - Liability Insurance	2,115.73	2,500.00	84.63%
53500 - Insurance - Other	0.00		
Total 53500 - Insurance	2,115.73	2,500.00	84.63%
59000 - In-Kind Services - Expense			
66000 - Payroll Expenses			
70000 - Interest & Debt Service			
70120 - Interest Expense			
70000 - Interest & Debt Service - Other			
Total 70000 - Interest & Debt Service	0.00	0.00	
70130 - Bank Service Charges	20.00	0.00	
80000 - AR Write-Offs - Bad Debt Exp.			
81000 - Capital Expenditures			
81001 - Design & Cons - Monitoring Well			
81000 - Capital Expenditures - Other	0.00	25,000.00	
Total 81000 - Capital Expenditures	0.00	25,000.00	
Total Expense	639,574.13	723,294.00	88.43%
Net Income	565,494.09	427,952.00	132.14%

Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2021

	<u>June 30, 21</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · Bank of the Sierra	613,409.92
Total Checking/Savings	613,409.92
Accounts Receivable	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	784,713.77
Total Accounts Receivable	784,713.77
Total Current Assets	1,398,123.69
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,398,123.69</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 · Accounts Payable	81,879.28
Total Accounts Payable	81,879.28
Total Current Liabilities	81,879.28
Total Liabilities	81,879.28
Equity	
32000 · Retained Earnings	750,750.32
Net Income	565,494.09
Total Equity	1,316,244.41
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>1,398,123.69</u>



Item No. 3E Motion

DATE: November 9, 2021 (for November 18, 2021 meeting)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **Resolution 2021-07 Subsequent Finding Regarding Continuation of AB 361
Exemptions to Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements**

SUMMARY

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Governor signed Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361) on September 16, 2021, that temporarily exempts agencies from certain requirements of the Brown Act and adds additional requirements for public meetings held by teleconference. This staff report provides an analysis of the changes to the Brown Act per AB 361. During its October 21, 2021 meeting, the Agency's Board adopted Resolution 2021-06 authorizing the use of the AB 361 provisions for its meetings. Adoption of Resolution 2021-07 continues the authorization of the use of AB 361 provisions for the coming 30 days.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Board will consider adopting Resolution 2021-07 continuing findings that the requisite conditions exist for remote teleconference meetings of the Agency's legislative bodies without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), as authorized by Government Code section 54953(e).

BACKGROUND

In March of 2020, the Governor of California issued Executive Order N-29-20, which waived Brown Act requirements found in Gov. Code § 54953(b)(3) for teleconference participation in public meetings. In particular, this Order waived:

- a) The requirement that state and local bodies notice each teleconference location from which a member will be participating in a public meeting;
- b) The requirement that each teleconference location be accessible to the public;
- c) The requirement that members of the public may address the body at each teleconference location;
- d) The requirement that state and local bodies post agendas at all teleconference locations; and
- e) The requirement that, during teleconference meetings, at least a quorum of the members of the local body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local body exercises jurisdiction.

Executive Order N-29-20 expired on September 30, 2021. However, AB 361 was signed by the Governor to extend the provisions of N-29-20, subject to certain conditions to be met by the local legislative body utilizing its exemptions. AB 361 also imposes certain new requirements, detailed below.

Item No: 3E: Subsequent Finding Regarding Continuation of AB 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements

ANALYSIS

AB 361 exempts local legislative bodies from certain Brown Act requirements currently governing teleconferencing. These exemptions may be used only in one of the following circumstances:

- a) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.
- b) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for purposes of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.
- c) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined by majority vote pursuant to b) above that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

Currently, the Governor's state of emergency regarding COVID-19 is still in effect, and the Ventura County Health Officer has recommended that legislative bodies in the County continue to follow social distancing measures to prevent the spread of COVID.

Further, AB 361 requires the Agency to reconsider the state of emergency and make such determination every 30 days after commencing use of its exemptions. However, if during the 30-day period the Agency wishes to meet in person, they may choose to do so despite adopting the proposed Resolution. The intent of the Resolution is merely to allow the Board members to avail themselves of the AB 361 teleconferencing conveniences if they so choose.

Finally, in addition to allowing for the above exemptions, AB 361 adds the following requirements:

- a) The legislative body must give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by the Brown Act.
- b) The legislative body must allow members of the public to access the meeting, and the agenda must provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Brown Act requirements. In each instance where notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body must also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda must identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via call-in option or an internet-based service option. The legislative body need not provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.
- c) The legislative body must conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties and the public appearing before the legislative body.
- d) In the event of a disruption that prevents the public agency from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in or internet-based service options, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in or internet-based service options, the legislative body must take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption preventing the broadcast of the meeting may be challenged as provided in the Brown Act.
- e) The legislative body may not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting, and it must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.
- f) The legislative body may use an online third-party system for individuals to provide public comment that requires an individual to register with the system prior to providing comment.

Item No: 3E: Subsequent Finding Regarding Continuation of AB 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements

- g) If a legislative body provides a timed public comment period, it may not close the comment period or the time to register to provide comment under f) until the timed period has elapsed. If the legislative body does not provide a time-limited comment period, it must allow a reasonable time for the public to comment on each agenda item and to register as necessary under f).

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Board adopt Resolution 2021-07. Doing so will enable the Agency's continued use of the AB 361 exemptions to Brown Act teleconferencing requirements, while allowing the Board to hold in person meetings at its discretion

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impacts.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution 2021-07

Proposed Motion: Adoption of Resolution 2021-07.

1st: Director _____

2nd: Director _____

Voice/Roll call vote: Director Kimball:

Director Long:

Director McFadden:

Director Meneghin:

Director Pace:

Director Villasenor:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FILLMORE & PIRU BASINS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE USE OF TELECONFERENCING FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FILLMORE & PIRU BASINS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY as follows:

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California (“Governor”) proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist as a result of the threat of COVID-19. (Governor’s Proclamation of a State of Emergency (Mar. 4, 2020).)

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-25-20 (Mar. 12, 2020); Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-29-20 (Mar. 17, 2020); and Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-08-21 (Jun. 11, 2021) provided that local legislative bodies may hold public meetings via teleconferencing and make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the local legislative body and waived the Brown Act provisions found in Govt. Code section 54953(b)(3) which require the physical presence of the members, the clerk, or other personnel of the body, or the public, as a condition of participation in, or quorum for, a public meeting, including:

- a) The requirement that state and local bodies notice each teleconference location from which a member will be participating in a public meeting.
- b) The requirement that each teleconference location be accessible to the public.
- c) The requirement that members of the public may address the body at each teleconference location.
- d) The requirement that state and local bodies post agendas at all teleconference locations.
- e) The requirement that, during teleconference meetings, at least a quorum of the members of the local body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local body exercises jurisdiction.

WHEREAS, the provisions of Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-25-20 (Mar. 12, 2020); Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-29-20 (Mar. 17, 2020); and Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-08-21 (Jun. 11, 2021) expired on September 30, 2021 and are no longer in effect thereafter;

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control is currently contending with the Delta Variant of the COVID-19 virus and anticipates the development of potential other strains which may further impede public agency operations and prolong the need for social distancing requirements; and

WHEREAS, recent legislation (A.B. 361) authorizes a local legislative body to use teleconferencing for a public meeting without complying with the Brown Act’s teleconferencing quorum, meeting notice, and agenda requirements set forth in Government Code section 54953(b)(3), in any of the following circumstances:

- a) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.

- b) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for purposes of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.
- c) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined by majority vote pursuant to b) above that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Fillmore & Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency as follows:

Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals. All of the foregoing Recitals are true and correct, and the Board so finds and determines. The Recitals set forth above are incorporated herein and made an operative part of this Resolution.

Section 2. Adoption of AB 361. The Board has determined by majority vote that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

Section 3. Continued Implementation of AB-361. If the state of emergency remains active, or state or local officials have imposed measures to promote social distancing, the Board of Directors of the Fillmore & Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall, in order to continue meeting subject to this exemption to the Brown Act, no later than 30 days after it commences using the exemption, and every 30 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

- a) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency; *and*
- b) Either (1) the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person; or (2) state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Section 4. Applicability. The health and safety findings and determination that teleconference meetings are appropriate applies to all District committees and legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on November 18, 2021.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Scott Nave, Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency General Counsel



Item No. **4A Motion**

DATE: November 11, 2021 (for November 18, 2021 meeting)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **Final Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates (DBS&A) on the amended draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) for the Fillmore basin and the Piru basin and associated technical appendices and provide direction regarding preparation of the final GSPs for subsequent adoption by the Board at its December 16, 2021 meeting.

DISCUSSION

Subsequent to preparation of the draft GSPs for the Fillmore basin and the Piru basin, including associated technical appendices, the Agency posted the documents for public review and comment, in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The Agency held two stakeholder workshops to answer questions regarding the draft documents and receive comments. The public review comment period for the Fillmore basin GSP and technical appendices closed on October 9, 2021. The public review comment period for the Piru basin GSP and technical appendices closed on October 23, 2021.

Stakeholders submitted several comments to the Agency via its website comments entry page and stakeholders also submitted several comment letters to the Agency's clerk of the board. The DBS&A team and Agency staff have reviewed the comments and met with several of the commenters to better understand their comments. The DBS&A team has developed a comments matrix that will be posted to the Agency's website prior to the Board meeting. The DBS&A team is also revising the GSPs in response to the stakeholder comments and recommendations. The amended documents (GSPs, technical memoranda) will be in strikeout revision format, in order to highlight the changes made, and will be posted to the Agency's website prior to the Board meeting. At the time of the writing of this report, the documents are not yet available. DBS&A staff anticipates that the strikeout revisions of the documents associated with the Fillmore basin will be available for review by the Board and stakeholders by approximately close of business on November 12, 2021. The DBS&A team will then turn its attention to preparing the revised Piru basin documents, and Agency staff will post them to the website following.

As per the Agency's groundwater sustainability planning schedule, following the Board's November 18, 2021 meeting, the DBS&A staff will finalize the GSPs and associated documents. Then, at its December 16, 2021 meeting, the Board will hold a public hearing regarding the final draft documents, and subsequently consider adoption of the documents. Following Board adoption, the DBS&A team will reformat the documents and upload them to the California Department of Water Resources SGMA

portal. This process is anticipated to take several weeks. SGMA requires the documents upload to be completed by January 31, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impacts.

ATTACHMENTS

None

Proposed Motion: Provide comments and direction regarding the proposed edits to the Agency Bylaws.

1st: Director _____ 2nd: Director _____

Voice/Roll call vote: Director Kimball: Director Long: Director McFadden:

Director Meneghin: Director Pace: Director Villasenor:



Item No. **4B Motion**

DATE: November 11, 2021 (for November 18, 2021 meeting)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **Receivables Collections Options**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Board will receive a presentation from staff and legal counsel regarding options for collections of the Agency's receivables and provide comments and direction.

DISCUSSION

The Agency's groundwater extraction fees are the primary revenue source it uses to carry out its responsibilities as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The Board first set a groundwater extraction fee at its March 26, 2018, meeting. Pumping that occurred after that date is subject to the fees, which are collected by the Agency twice per year (Period 1 from January 1 to June 30, and Period 2 from July 1 to December 31). The Agency utilizes pumping data that the United Water Conservation District collects and shares with the Agency. Although there is generally good compliance with the Agency's groundwater extraction fees, there are a significant number of wells carrying an unpaid delinquent balance. Staff recommends that the Agency consider an increased effort to collect these delinquent receivables.

Agency records show that owners or operators of 23 groundwater wells with production since March 2018 have never made a payment to the Agency. There are many other wells carrying an overdue balance. Prior to the most recent billing, the Agency's total balance of unpaid groundwater fees was approximately \$79,000. Of that total, one well's delinquent fees were approximately \$29,000 – it was the only well with a total delinquent balance of over \$10,000. At that time, there were approximately 33 wells with delinquent fees totals of between \$500 and \$10,000. There were also a significant number of wells with apparent low groundwater production and delinquent fees totals of under \$500 each.

As has been presented to the Board by legal counsel several months ago, SGMA provides groundwater sustainability agencies with several options for collection of delinquent fees, including:

1. by filing a lawsuit,
2. ordering a pumper to cease extracting groundwater, or
3. in a manner in which the County collects delinquent assessments, water charges, or tolls on the tax roll.

Several month ago, Agency legal counsel discussed with County Counsel the option of utilizing the County's property tax authorities to assess the delinquent charges as property taxes on behalf of the Agency, as the County is a member of the joint powers authority agreement that formed the Agency. At

the time, County Counsel was not convinced that state law would allow this. Agency legal counsel is inquiring again with County Counsel regarding this option, but not finding is available at the time of the writing of this report.

The Agency's existing agreement with the United Water Conservation District specifically states that the District does not provide collections services for the Agency. Current Agency staff is not aware of the history of that provision in the agreement but recommends that the Board consider amending the agreement and requesting that District staff begin to provide collections efforts for the Agency. Two types of collection activity seem prudent to increase: 1) frequent contacts with well owners/well operators by phone, by email or in-person, and 2) consideration of the use of small claims court for well owners/well operators that are not responsive to the contacts from staff. The small claims court effort can be used for delinquent amounts under \$10,000, which would apply to all overdue balances except the largest one.

For groundwater pumpers that are not responsive to the contacts from staff or to the small claims court approaches, staff recommends that the Agency consider holding a public hearing and order the pumpers to cease extracting groundwater. This action is probably appropriate to take in the very near future for the pumper whose delinquent balance is approximately \$29,000. United Water Conservation District recently took such action regarding this same pumper.

Finally, if other means have been unsuccessful, the Agency should consider filing a lawsuit to recover the delinquent amount owed.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impacts.

ATTACHMENTS

None

Proposed Motion: Provide comments and direction regarding the proposed edits to the Agency Bylaws.

1st: Director _____

2nd: Director _____

Voice/Roll call vote: Director Kimball:

Director Long:

Director McFadden:

Director Meneghin:

Director Pace:

Director Villasenor:



Item No. **4C Motion**

DATE: November 12, 2021 (for November 18, 2021 meeting)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **Support for King & King Ranch CDFA SWEEP Grant Application**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Board will consider authorizing a letter of support for the King & King Ranch's application for a California Department of Food and Agriculture State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program grant and provide direction to staff regarding future SWEEP grant applications.

DISCUSSION

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) offers grants through its State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) to agricultural owners and operators for water and energy efficiency improvement projects. The King & King Ranch is submitting an application for such a project. The proposed project will be located on the 62-acre King & King Ranch, a family owned and operated multi-crop farm, situated at the east end of the Fillmore groundwater basin. The proposed project will include the installation of a variable frequency drive to the existing well pump motor, a weather station, a soil moisture sensor system; replacement of 22,000 linear feet of irrigation hose, 28 valves, 6 air gaps; installation of uniform emitters throughout; and replacement of a 15,000-gallon steel tank with 3 new poly tanks with automatic shutoff valves and depth indicators. The project's intent is to reduce water use and energy use and lower the farm's carbon footprint.

Staff recommends that the Board authorize a letter of support for the King & King Ranch's application for the CDFA SWEEP grant (draft letter attached), as the project will help the Agency meet its groundwater sustainability goals.

Additionally, staff recommends that the Board consider authorizing the Chair to sign similar support letters for other agricultural property owners or operators who are seeking such water use efficiency grants within the Agency's boundary.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impacts.

ATTACHMENTS

Letter of Support

Proposed Motion: Provide comments and direction regarding the proposed edits to the Agency Bylaws.

1st: Director _____

2nd: Director _____

Voice/Roll call vote: Director Kimball:

Director Long:

Director McFadden:

Director Meneghin:

Director Pace:

Director Villasenor:



Post Office Box 1110, Fillmore, CA 93016
(805) 525-4431 <http://fpbgsa.org>

November 18, 2021

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation
1220 N Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: Support for King & King Ranch's Proposed Water Efficiency Improvement Project
Application for State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Grant

Dear Program Manager:

The Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) provides this letter of support for the King & King Ranch's proposed water and energy use efficiency improvement project application, for consideration for funding under the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program. The proposed project is located within the Fillmore groundwater basin. The Agency believes that the King & King Ranch's proposed grant-funded efforts will enhance the Agency's efforts to achieve long-term sustainability of its groundwater basins.

The Agency is a local groundwater sustainability agency representing the Fillmore groundwater basin and the Piru groundwater basin, located in the Santa Clara River watershed in Ventura County. The primary land use within the Agency's boundaries is agriculture. The agriculture within the Agency's boundaries utilizes groundwater as its primary water source. The City of Fillmore, population 15,566, and unincorporated community of Piru, population 2,063, are the primary urban areas within the service area, and both are 100% dependent upon groundwater as their water source. Both communities have been designated by the State as disadvantaged communities. Because of the dependence of water users on groundwater, the California Department of Water Resources has designated the basins as high priority. The Santa Clara River spans the center of the service area and supports numerous sensitive species, so the Agency's planning includes consideration of these important resources. The groundwater basin upstream of the Agency, the Santa Clarita Valley basin, is managed by the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and the basin downstream, the Santa Paula basin, is managed by Court adjudication. The coastal groundwater basins of the Santa Clara River watershed to the west are designated by the State as critical and are currently experiencing seawater intrusion, due to lingering effects of drought. If the region's groundwater basins are to achieve their sustainability goals, water use efficiency will be critical. The Agency feels that the proposed King & King Ranch project to improve its water and energy use efficiency will help

the Agency's effectiveness in its efforts to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), in reaching its groundwater sustainability goals.

The proposed project will be located on the 62-acre King & King Ranch, a family owned and operated multi-crop farm, situated at the east end of the Fillmore groundwater basin, near an area of the Santa Clara River that the Agency has identified as a groundwater dependent ecosystem. The proposed project will include the installation of variable frequency drive to the existing well pump motor, a weather station, a soil moisture sensor system; replacement of 22,000 linear feet of irrigation hose, 28 valves, 6 air gaps; installation of uniform emitters throughout; and replacement of a 15,000-gallon steel tank with 3 new poly tanks with automatic shutoff valves and depth indicators. The project's intent is to reduce water use and energy use and lower the farm's carbon footprint.

Thank you for your consideration of the King & King Ranch's proposal. The Agency appreciates your support of our groundwater sustainability efforts. Thank you for affording the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Board of Directors the opportunity to offer its opinion on this matter.

Respectfully,

Kelly Long, Chair