



**Fillmore and Piru Basins**  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**SPECIAL Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Friday, July 22, 2022**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**MINUTES**

**Directors in Attendance**

Chair Kelly Long  
Director Candice Meneghin  
Director Christina Villaseñor  
Director Gordon Kimball

**Absent**

Vacant – Fillmore Pumpers Association  
Vacant – Piru Pumpers Association

**Staff in Attendance**

Anthony Emmert, executive director  
Steve O’Neill, legal counsel  
Eva Ibarra, clerk of the Board

**Public in Attendance**

Eric Elliott, UWCD  
Carole Fornoff  
Debbie Jackson, Fillmore Pumpers Association  
Rachel Laenen, Kimball Ranches  
Tony Morgan, DBS&A  
Glen Pace, Piru Pumpers Association  
Daryl Smith, UWCD  
Steve Zimmer, Five Points

**1. Call to Order 5:05pm**

Chair Long called the Special Board Meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**1A Pledge of Allegiance**

Director Villaseñor led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1B Directors Roll Call**

The clerk called roll. Four Directors were present (Kimball, Long, Meneghin, Villaseñor).

**1C Public Comments**

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

**1D Approval of Agenda**

**Motion**

Chair Long asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

Executive Director Anthony Emmert requested section three be moved to the end of the meeting, due to Director Long's time constraints.

Motion to approve agenda with the requested sequence change, Director Villaseñor; Second, Director Pace. Roll call vote: five ayes (Kimball, Long, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 5/0.

**2. SEATING OF NEW DIRECTORS AND SELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**2A Seating of New Member Director Appointed by United Water Conservation District**

**Information Item**

The Board welcomed Gordon Kimball as the new Member Director appointed by the United Water Conservation District Board on July 13, 2022, as its representative on the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board.

**2B Appointment of Piru Basin Pumpers Stakeholder Director**

**Motion**

The Member Directors confirmed Glen Pace as the Piru Basin Pumpers Stakeholder Director, as nominated by the Piru Basin Pumpers Association.

Motion to approve, Director Villaseñor; Second, Director Kimball. Roll call vote: four ayes (Kimball, Long, Meneghin, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 4/0.

**2C Appointment of Fillmore Basin Pumpers Stakeholder Director**

**Motion**

The Member Directors confirmed Debbie Jackson as the Fillmore Basin Pumpers Stakeholder Director, as nominated by the Fillmore Basin Pumpers Association.

Director Long asked Ms. Jackson to provide her background for the Board. Ms. Jackson shared her background with the Board.

Motion to approve, Director Villaseñor; Second, Director Kimball. Roll call vote: five ayes (Kimball, Long, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 5/0.

**2D Selection of Officers**  
**Motion**

The Board confirmed Member Director Kelly Long as Chair, Member Director Gordon Kimball as Vice Chair and Treasurer, and Member Director Villaseñor as Secretary, comprising the Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA's Executive officers.

Motion to approve, Director Meneghin; Second, Director Pace. Roll call vote: five ayes (Kimball, Long, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 5/0. Clerk accidentally omitted Director Jackson from the roll call vote.

**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 June 16, 2022.

**3B Approval of Warrants**

The Board will consider approving payment of outstanding vendor invoices:

United Water Conservation District	\$ 38,840.26
Aleshire & Wynder LLP Attorneys at Law	\$ 7,626.00
Olivarez Madruga Lemeiux O'Neill LLP	\$ 3,590.50
The Fillmore Gazette	\$ 126.00

**3C Monthly Financial Report**

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

**3D Subsequent Finding Regarding Continuation of AB 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements**

The Board will consider adopting Resolution 2022-11 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)

Motion to approve consent calendar, Director Pace; Second, Director Villaseñor.

Roll call vote: six ayes (Jackson, Kimball, Long, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 6/0.

#### **4. MOTION ITEMS**

##### **4A Waivers of Late Fees and Interest for Five Pumpers**

###### **Motion**

The Board considered the waiving of late fees and interest in the total amount of \$5,671.43 for groundwater pumping during 2021-2 associated with Brownstone Mutual Water Company, Community Mutual Water Company, Elkins Ranch Company, Farmers Irrigation Company, and Goodenough Mutual Water Company, all of whom did not receive their statements in March 2022.

Director Meneghin said the GSA needs to waive the late fees for these five customers as the error was the Agency's.

Director Pace said all pumpers should have late fees waived, whether they request a waiver or not, as they are all entitled to a waiver due to the circumstances that generated the late fees. It should not be an issue as this cost does not affect any financials for the agency.

United Water's Controller Daryl Smith stated the statements for payment were sent out on time, although it appears the post office lost the mailing.

Director Meneghin asked if any pumpers have already paid the late fee? Mr. Emmert said yes, there are some pumpers that had already paid the late fee and added that it would be a good idea to have the Board approve the removal of late fees for all pumpers in good standing. Mr. Emmert asked Mr. Smith if this idea would work for staff? Mr. Smith stated as long as staff are given direction to remove the late fees in a blanket waiver, it can be done.

Mr. Steven O'Neill said he recommends an amendment to the original motion to cover the request for change and if Finance can provide an estimate of cost with the removal of late fees. Chair Long said the motion had not been approved.

Director Jackson said she would like to make a motion to waive all late fees from last billing for all pumpers in good standing.

Motion to approve the removal of late fees for all pumpers, Director Jackson; Second, Director Meneghin. Roll call vote: six ayes (Jackson, Kimball, Long, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 6/0.

**4B Kenter Canyon Farms Inc. Well Permit Application Review**  
**Motion**

The Board considered finding that the Kenter Canyon Farms Inc. application for the construction of a new irrigation well located at 1043 Santa Paula Street, Fillmore, California, is not inconsistent with the Agency's Fillmore Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and direct staff to provide a letter to the County of Ventura stating the Agency's findings.

Director Meneghin said the Bardsdale area is where the potential for wells going dry exists and where the Agency may have to consider potential litigation. She added that she is concerned with what the Agency submitted to the County at its last meeting regarding discretion on new wells, as counties' reviews are going beyond what may be allowed without CEQA analysis. Director Meneghin said she is also concerned the proposed new well is in an area that might have impacts to other wells. She asked if the existing wells that supply the parcel are in a boundary area, and if there will be a monitoring well nearby?

Mr. Emmert explained that, based on the information the Agency has, these concerns have been evaluated, with a finding that the well is not going to add to the groundwater pumping nor is it going to interfere with nearby wells. Mr. Emmert asked Associate Hydrogeologist Eric Elliott to address the concern over the wells that are nearby.

Mr. Elliott explained his research, assumptions, and findings. Director Jackson asked if it is assumed that the water coming from the Southside Improvement District will no longer be pumped? Mr. Elliott stated it can be safely assumed. Mr. Emmert also expressed his assumptions. Mr. Emmert stated that the Agency budget already includes a line item for United staff and DBS&A staff to identify the wells that are most vulnerable to dewatering during droughts. He said he intends to take a deeper dive and contact the well owners.

Director Meneghin said the Board doesn't have all the information, as this is an unprecedented request. She also asked how the Board can make an informed decision, and if there is a time frame as to when the Agency has to concur with the County, or to make a better-informed decision?

Mr. Emmert said he did not clearly understand Director Meneghin's question. Director Meneghin reiterated that the Board has not identified the most vulnerable wells within the Bardsdale area and asked that further analysis be done. She then asked if there is a timeframe as to when the Agency has to reply back to the County about this? Mr. Emmert said the best time to look at these most vulnerable wells in these two basins would be during the next two to three months, as the Agency has an opportunity for grant applications and that he hopes the Agency does this soon.

Director Long read the information in the report provided and said she would be in support of the well, as the report shows no issues with the well. Mr. Emmert said the well is not inconsistent with the Agency's GSPs and it is not a new demand and said the only concern would be the nearby wells, adding that in Mr. Elliott's report no issues with nearby wells were found and staff's recommendation is to approve this request. He added that to Director Meneghin's point, to drill down and identify the most vulnerable wells should be an urgent activity.

Tony Morgan with DBS&A said with the information that we have today, the analysis shows that no wells go dry during a multiple year drought, although the model run does not guarantee they will not go dry, and said it would be a good idea to do a more in-depth analysis of the domestic wells and shallow wells in that area. He added that is a good thing to do, although based on modeling results, staff does not see any issues.

Director Meneghin asked Mr. Morgan to clarify his remark, asking "when you say modeling efforts are you referring to the middle modeling projection?" Mr. Morgan explained that he was referring to the modeling that was done for the GSPs. Director Meneghin said she was told that the State will be coming out with new climate change guidance due to the recent drought that will be more cautious in regard to the modeling and said she doesn't feel she has sufficient information to make a decision on this well. Mr. Morgan explained the strategy used to consider this request for approval. Director Jackson, Director Meneghin, Director Long, Mr. Elliott, and Mr. Morgan continued the discussion.

Motion to approve, Director Jackson; Second, Director Kimball. Roll call vote: five ayes (Jackson, Kimball, Long, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed, one abstains (Meneghin); motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

#### **4C Groundwater Monitoring Wells Project Construction Award**

##### **Motion**

The Board considered awarding the Groundwater Monitoring Wells Project construction to BC2 Environmental, LLC, for a total of \$441,485, and authorized the Chair to execute the construction agreement.

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

## **5. UPDATES**

### **5A Director Announcements/Board Communications:**

Oral Reports from the Board

#### **Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update**

Director Jackson stated the only update she had was the Fillmore Pumpers Association have had a leadership shuffle and is happy to be representing the Fillmore Pumpers on the GSA Board.

#### **Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update**

Director Pace also said the leadership shakeup has yet to be resolved and he's hoping to make adjustments with his replacement by next month and will be coming back with his replacement soon. He also said the date for the water company change is set for September 14, and that is his target date for fulfilling his current position, which he will hold for another month or two.

#### **Environmental Stakeholder Director Update**

Director Meneghin said restoration activities continue at the Fillmore Hatchery Nature Trail and Hedrick Farms Nature area. Friends of the Santa Clara River received a grant for training of field workers and restoration staff, across the English and Spanish language nexus, which will help them to work together on restoration projects. She also mentioned there is a plan on doing a coastal cleanup day in September and planting trees in the flood plain, and that the group is pursuing a grant for the Integrated Regional Water Management program to assess the resilient water portfolio in Ventura County and Los Angeles, for water conservation efforts, with an attempt to hire a resources specialist to do a cross benefit analysis to help guide Projects. She added that there are other funding opportunities being explored. She also mentioned she had a conversation with Paul Gosselin from DWR regarding the lack of guidance on GDEs in the first round of GSP development and he is to get back to her as to when a revised technical document will come out with additional guidance. As for now, other areas are being looked at. Director Long asked where did these conversations take place? Director Meneghin said at the GRA conference, and she also shared her discussion with Paul Gosselin.

#### **City of Fillmore Member Director Update**

Director Villaseñor had no update.

#### **United Water Conservation District Member Director Update**

Director Kimball had no update.

#### **County of Ventura Member Director Update**

Director Long said she is in Colorado for National Association of Counties meeting for understanding of funding for more grants, for water infrastructure and will share more at a later time.

**5B Executive Director Update**

**Information Item**

The Executive Director said Groundwater Sustainability Planning Grant was completed for Grant Period 13 at end of June, and staff is currently preparing Progress Report 13 and Invoice 13, due on August 15th. He also mentioned AB 2201 passed Senate Committee on Governance and Finance with amendments in June, and said it was referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations and was not on agenda for August 1st meeting. He also said the Agency needs to add the new Treasurer to the Bank of Sierra signature card and suggested a brief Special Board meeting before the next regular Board meeting on August 18. Mr. Emmert added that Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District is scheduled to present at the August 18 Board meeting, regarding the Chloride Removal Project at the Valencia Water Reclamation Plant.

Director Long mentioned the Treasurer was approved today, which should allow him to sign checks. Mr. Emmert said he will look into this with the bank and will need Director Long's signature on a letter directed to the Bank of the Sierra to add our new Treasurer, as was suggested by the bank.

**5C Legal Counsel Update**

**Information Item**

Legal Counsel Steve O'Neill said he worked on the resolution presented tonight for remote meetings, finalized the well drilling agreement, and continues to track Assembly Bill 2201 for groundwater wells and explained the new bill.

**5D GSP Consultant Update**

**Information Item**

Daniel B Stephens & Associates Tony Morgan said they have been working on the online database, making improvements and have requested their programmer to turn these new improvements on soon. He said he has provided the Executive Director with a new tech memo proposal in doing the subsidence update for the Board, and what that means to both basins. He mentioned AB 2201 and what he thinks about the new requirements and wants to help simplify the process for the applicants.

Director Long asked if we need to submit a report to DWR? Mr. Morgan said yes, every year we need to submit one, due on April 1<sup>st</sup>

Mr. Morgan told Director Jackson he would provide her with a flash drive with the GSPs with years of information that she can use if she needs more information on the agency.



Director Jackson asked about timeline for comments back for the draft GSPs. Mr. Morgan said he is anticipating DWR to provide an answer to the GSPs to be about two years from date submitted.

Director Meneghin asked if the Agency has been able to set a date to meet with the County? Mr. Emmert said they did meet with them but did not receive much feedback and he then explained what had been discussed.

Director Long thanked the new Directors for filling the open positions for the Board.

Mr. Morgan stated the implementation grant from DWR is coming out in September and said the Board needs to think of what projects can be submitted for grant funding. He said there is about one million in funds per basin and the paperwork is due in February to assemble a document, so the Board may want to put that as an item for a future agenda.

Director Long stated she was renominated to be the Chair for the agency and will continue to be the Chair.

#### **FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION**


None mentioned

#### **ADJOURNMENT 5:24p.m.**

Director Long adjourned the Board meeting at 5:24p.m. to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on Thursday, **August 18, 2022**, or call of the Chair.

ATTEST:   
Kelle 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 July 22, 2022.

ATTEST:   
Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board