



Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

SPECIAL Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 29, 2022
5:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Directors in Attendance

Chair Kelly Long
Director Debbie Jackson
Director Glen Pace
Director Gordon Kimball
Director Candice Meneghin
Director Christina Villaseñor

Staff in Attendance

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

Public in Attendance

Eric Elliott, UWCD
Dan Detmer, UWCD
Carole Fornoff
Matt Freeman
Burt Handy
Rachel Laenen, Kimball Ranches
Tony Morgan, DBS&A
Gus Tolley DBS&A
Martha Trembley, LACSD
Steve Zimmer, Five Point

1. Call to Order 5:00pm

Chair Long called the Board Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1A Pledge of Allegiance

Director Long led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1B Directors Roll Call

The clerk called roll. Six Directors were present (Jackson, Kimball, Long, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor).

1C Public Comments

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

1D Approval of Agenda

Motion

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

2. SEATING OF NEW DIRECTOR

2A Appointment of Piru Basin Pumpers Stakeholder Director

Motion

The Member Directors will consider confirming Carole Fornoff as the Piru Basin Pumpers Stakeholder Director, as nominated by the Piru Basin Pumpers Association.

Legal Counsel Steve O'Neill asked Executive Director Anthony Emmert if Director Pace had already submitted his resignation for his Director position? Mr. Emmert said he has not submitted a written resignation but has verbally notified the Board. Mr. O'Neill said he asked the question as Director Pace is having technical issues with his microphone and cannot speak, this is why he is asking the question, and stated with confirmation of Director Pace verbally notifying the Board, he said they can proceed with the seating.

Motion to approve, Director Kimball; Second, Director Villaseñor. Roll call vote: three ayes (Kimball, Long, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 3/0.

Directors welcomed Director Fornoff to the Agency and thanked Director Pace for his devotion and time of service with the Agency Board.

UPDATES

3A Director Announcements/Board Communications:

Oral Reports from the Board

Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Jackson reported the Fillmore Basin Pumpers Association had its Board of Directors meeting earlier in the month with discussion focusing on the well permitting flow chart, including export of water from the basins. She said that she is not clear if the flow chart presented is approved. Mr. Emmert said the chart is in final draft form. He stated that a standard procedure document is also being prepared, and that legal counsel has provided a draft of a section for the Bylaws that would all need to be considered by the Board for official action.

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Fornoff reported the Piru Basin Pumpers Association Board had a meeting where they discussed the position she has now filled as Director to the Agency. She added there was discussion on the flow chart and the Association is working with new landowners to secure their membership. She also said they will be having the next Piru Pumpers meeting on November 2.

Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

Director Meneghin reported last week she attended the Localizing California Water event in Ojai, where information focused on the Ventura River and on water conservation, State Board grant on instream flow enhancement, and other projects to be identified. Friends of Santa Clara River hosted Coastal Cleanup Day on September 17th at Mandalay Beach in Oxnard, Johnson Drive Gateway in Ventura, and at Fillmore Shieff's Park. She also mentioned The Pacific Institute presented cost benefit analysis regarding water projects and benefits of the projects at the Localizing California Water event. Friends of the Santa Clara River submitted a project to be included in the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County's (WCVC) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) update. She stated that she will be meeting with Pacific Institute to define the scope of work to determine a budget to revise a regional water project cost benefit analysis report. Director Meneghin said she spoke to Assemblymember Steve Bennett and on September 12 about the legislature potentially funding a pilot project. She reported that there was a WCVC Steering Committee meeting where a suite of projects was selected for submission for IRWM program funding. She reported that Tree People is working on a California Strategic Growth Council grant on regional climate collaboration. She stated that CAUSE is having its annual fund raiser on October 6th. Director Meneghin added that she will be attending the California Lawyers Association Environmental Conference in Yosemite in October, where they will likely be covering SGMA and CEQA related issues and mentioned she will be reporting back to the Agency on any pertinent information.

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

Director Villaseñor reported the City of Fillmore provided a letter of support for the Tree People grant application for removal of Arundo, and the City has also approved the North Fillmore Specific Plan update that was originally developed back in 2006.

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

Director Kimball had nothing to report.

County of Ventura Member Director Update

Director Long reported she has been serving as an alternate to the Fox Canyon GMA with the recent loss of Supervisor Ramirez. She also said Coastal Cleanup was a huge success in Ventura County and thanked all for their participation. She also mentioned there is a new ordinance that restricts camping in the watershed in redlined channel areas, and mentioned the Governor is working on water legislation for 2023 for water infrastructure projects, utilizing Federal funding. She also said the Governor has appointed Oxnard City Councilmember Vianey Lopez to fill Supervisor Ramirez seat for District 5.

3B Executive Director

Update Information Item

The Executive Director provided an informational update on Agency activities since the previous Board meeting of August 18, 2022.

Mr. Emmert reported that all of the Monitoring Wells project's permits are now in place, bird nesting season has concluded, and the driller has mobilized to the East Grove site. He said to expect mobilization of a second crew to the Cienega site later this week. He stated that groundwater invoices and statements have been mailed to pumpers for the period of January through June 2022, with payments due on October 15, 2022. He mentioned that the Groundwater Sustainability Planning Grant 14th quarter concludes on September 30, 2022, and staff are preparing progress report 14 and invoice 14. He also mentioned SGMA Implementation Round 1: \$150.5 million awarded, including several in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins, and SGMA Implementation Round 2: \$200 million both planning and implementation projects, proposal solicitation package is estimated for release in October 2022. He reported that AB 2201, Assemblymember Steve Bennett's bill, passed Senate on August 29, 2022, and returned to the Assembly for a vote regarding the Senate's amendments; however, the Legislative session ended August 30, 2022, without an Assembly vote on the bill. Mr. Emmert ended his update with a reminder of the celebration of Glen Pace's five years of service with the Agency, and requested the Agency select a date after Pace's return from vacation for the proposed celebration.

3C Legal Counsel Update

Information Item

Legal Counsel provided an informational update on Agency's legal issues and concerns since the previous Board of Directors meeting of August 18, 2022.

Steve O'Neill, with Aleshire and Wynder, reported he worked with Mr. Emmert and Tony Morgan with DBS&A on a flowchart for implementation of the Governor's executive order, and prepared a draft amendment to the Bylaws concerning the flowchart and a draft amendment to provide the Executive Director the authority to authorize change orders for on public works projects, to be brought to the Board at its next meeting. He also reported working with Clerk of the Board on document execution, reviewed observations from the audit, and worked with Mr. Morgan on export issues from the basin.

3D GSP Consultant Update

Information Item

Representatives from Daniel B Stephens & Associates provided an informational update on Agency's groundwater sustainability planning and reporting activities since the previous Board meeting of August 18, 2022.

Mr. Morgan welcomed Director Fornoff and thanked Director Pace for his years of valuable input. He also said he was told AB 2201 may be down, but is not gone, and suggested the Board stay tuned for more to come on a resurrection of that bill.

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)

4A Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting of August 18, 2022.

4B Approval of Warrants

The Board approved payment of outstanding vendor invoice

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates	\$4,408.50
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4C Monthly Financial Report

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

4D Subsequent Finding Regarding Continuation of AB 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements

The Board adopted Resolution 2022-14 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, Director Jackson; Second, Director Villaseñor. Roll call vote: six ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, Meneghin, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 6/0.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

5A Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District Chloride Compliance Project Information

The Board received a presentation from Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District regarding its Chloride Compliance Project at the Saugus and Valencia Water Reclamation Plants.

Chair Long asked Directors if they had any questions for Martha Trembley from Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District.

Director Meneghin asked about the delays to the project, stating that there has already been a request for an extension to the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and what is the timeline? Ms. Trembley said the current schedule ends December 31st, and as the project construction is nearly complete, the Sanitation District plans to request an additional extension after that to complete the commissioning process. She said that the extension would be a matter of months. Director Meneghin asked how they will be monitoring downstream of the facilities as there is a concern over the water quality that will impact the Agency basins? Mrs. Trembley said the 5-year NPDES permit was renewed in May 2022 and includes new requirements for temperature that the Sanitation District is currently unable to meet. Mrs. Trembley explained the requirements and what they are doing to meet the requirements.

Director Meneghin asked Mr. Morgan if the rolling average every three months would be acceptable with DWR? Mr. Morgan said the rolling averages is a standard for a discharge compliance requirement.

Director Meneghin asked Mr. Emmert if reaches five or six are anywhere near the Agency's groundwater dependent ecosystem areas, and if the Agency should be engaged? Mr. Emmert said yes, flows from reaches five and six do reach up into the Piru basins' upper boundary and felt the Sanitation District's study will have focus in that area of the release reach. Ms. Trembley said yes and explained that

process. Director Meneghin requested the Agency be added to the stakeholder email group for the project's progress, as it does affect the Agency's water and GDE.

Director Meneghin asked if the inter-basin agreement data was being shared? Ms. Trembley said yes, as they are required to provide it to the Regional Board, and it is also publicly available.

Director Kimball asked if either of the plants are currently able to adjust the temperature of their outputs? Ms. Trembley said no, as temperature is impacted by ambient temperature and other factors and explained what is being done to manage the temperature, and requested the Agency provide a list of the recipients the Agency wants to add to the stakeholder list for updates on their progress for this project. Mr. Emmert said he would reach out to Ms. Trembley and provide the needed email addresses for stakeholder updates.

UWCD Water Resources Manager Dan Detmer asked Ms. Trembley to provide an update on the arrangement with Five Point. Mrs. Trembley explained the agreement they have made with Five Point regarding its Newhall Project.

5. MOTION ITEMS

6A Projects and Management Actions

Motion

The Board received a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates reviewing the Projects and Management Actions included in the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Plans and provided comments and direction.

Director Fornoff asked how often has supplemental water had been available in the past? Mr. Morgan said about every seven to ten years and said Mr. Detmer would probably have more exact numbers.

Director Meneghin asked how much water has United Water purchased? Mr. Emmert said in addition to regular Table A water, there have been a couple of large purchases and shared the amount of water that was purchased and under what conditions it was purchased. Mr. Morgan also shared information on the opportunities and conditions for the purchasing of supplemental water.

Director Jackson said she is confused with the cost benefit as the water is said to be available in a wet year, as that water purchased may simply go into the downstream basins. Mr. Morgan said United Water is skilled at structuring releases so that the vast majority of that water ends up in the Piru and Fillmore basins and explained other scenarios of releases from United Water.

Director Meneghin asked where the Agency is regarding basins' capacity, how much water (acre-foot) can the basins store, and does the Agency then request 150

percent of its capacity and have other agencies cover the extra 50 percent of water, when available? Mr. Emmert said this is an extremely complex program and explained the process. He also asked Legal Counsel Steve O'Neill to weigh in on the Proposition 118 implications of a GSA's purchase of supplemental water. Mr. O'Neill said he will have to look into the legal part of this process and stated that the Agency will most likely have a Proposition 26 or Proposition 218 issue.

Director Kimball expressed his thoughts on purchasing water for the Fillmore and Piru basins and said this is a discussion talked about some years ago for the basins and suggested United Water be the one to manage that purchase, if that were to happen, as the Agency does not have to deal with inter-basin agreements and all that needs to play into a purchase, and said there needs to be a lot of thought into the idea of purchasing water as it is not as easy as it sounds. Mr. Detmer said the Fox Canyon GMA has asked United Water to look at these opportunities and United Water has done some work on that idea and said United Water can help with this purchase. Director Long said Fox Canyon GMA should not be the only entity to purchase water, it should be a regional approach to purchasing, and said the Agency needs to be better informed on the idea of water purchasing. Director Jackson said she advocates to add the idea for the future discussion. Director Villaseñor said she is surprised how much needs to play into purchasing water and feels we need to prepare for the opportunity to purchase of water. Mr. Morgan said this item will be added to a future agenda for consideration.

Director Jackson asked if the items in the subsidence infrastructure slide apply to the grant that the Agency is applying for to cover some costs. Mr. Morgan said yes, this will be covered in a future slide.

Mr. Emmert asked Mr. Morgan and Mr. Detmer if they have any indication if DWR is going to continue to do the flyovers of the region for InSAR data gatherings. Mr. Morgan said the last comments received from Steven Springhorn of DWR was that they still have enough money to continue for the next two to three years and will be working to renew the funding to continue the program.

Director Jackson asked, with the grant funding opportunities, can the Agency pick and choose the projects, or will DWR give the Agency a percentage? Mr. Morgan said in the round one examples, some agencies indicated a line item and were denied any funding, and other projects received amounts requested or a percentage of amount requested.

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

FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION


None mentioned

ADJOURNMENT 7:39 p.m.

Director Long adjourned the Board meeting at 7:39p.m. to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on Thursday, **October 20, 2022**, 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 September 29, 2022.

ATTEST: 
Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board