



**Fillmore and Piru Basins**  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**Special Board of Directors  
Meeting Thursday  
December 8, 2022  
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.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480305580?pwd=ZnFBWGhtVU05dXd3REFkM255c0h6UT09>

Meeting ID: **854 8030 5580**

Password: **FPBGSA**

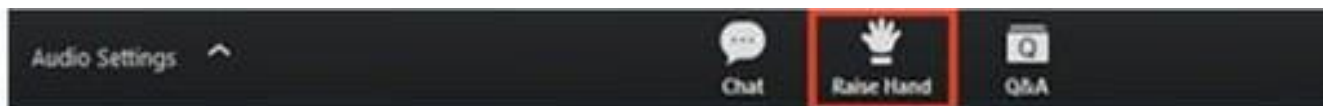
To hear just the audio portion of the meeting, phone into the toll-free number 877 853 5247

Meeting ID: **854 8030 5580**

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 of Directors meeting of November 17, 2022.

**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 November 17, 2022.

**2D GSP Consultant Update  
Information Item**

Representatives from Daniel B Stephens & Associates will provide an informational update on Agency's groundwater sustainability planning and reporting activities since the previous Board of Directors meeting of November 17, 2022.

### **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 of Directors Meeting of November 17, 2022.

#### **3B Approval of Warrants**

The Board will consider approving payment of outstanding vendor invoices

BC2 Environmental	\$509,689
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#### **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 2022-18 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 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program SGMA Implementation Grant**

##### **Motion**

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens & Associates and staff on the updated scope, schedule, and budget for its application submittal to the California Department of Water Resources for a 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program SGMA Implementation grant and provide comments and direction.

### **5. INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **5A Monitoring Wells Project Information Item**

The Board will receive a presentation from staff on the recently completed installation of the monitoring wells adjacent to the Sespe Cienega groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE) area at the Piru-Fillmore basins boundary and the East Grove GDE area at the Fillmore-Santa Paula basins boundary.

## 6. FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

The Board will adjourn to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on Thursday, **January 19, 2023**, 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) December 7, 2022 (time) 4:40pm (attest) Eva Ibarra  
At: <https://www.FPBGSA.org>

Posted: (date) December 7, 2022 (time) 4:45pm (attest) Eva Ibarra  
At: <https://www.facebook.com/FPBGSA/>

Posted: (date) December 7, 2022 (time) 5:00 pm (attest) Eva Ibarra  
At: UWCD, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030



**Fillmore and Piru Basins**  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 17, 2022**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**MINUTES**

**Directors in Attendance**

Chair Kelly Long  
Director Carole Fornoff (joined at 5:10pm)  
Director Debbie Jackson  
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  
Burt Handy  
Zachary Hanson, UWCD  
Rachel Laenen, Kimball Ranches  
Tony Morgan, DBS&A  
Robert Morris

**1. Call to Order 5:00pm**

Director Kimball called the Board Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**1A Pledge of Allegiance**

Director Jackson led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1B Directors Roll Call**

The clerk called roll. Five Directors were present (Jackson, Kimball, Long, Meneghin, Villaseñor). Director Fornoff was absent.

**1C Public Comments**

Director Kimball asked if there were any public comments. None were offered.

**1D Approval of Agenda**

**Motion**

Motion to approve agenda with reordering of items starting with item 4, per Executive Director Tony Emmert, Director Jackson; Second, Director Meneghin. Roll call vote: five ayes (Jackson, Kimball, Long, Meneghin, Villaseñor); none opposed; one absent (Fornoff) motion carries unanimously 5/0/1. Director Carole Fornoff joined the meeting at 5:10pm)

**4. MOTION ITEMS**

**4A Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program SGMA Implementation Grant**

**Motion**

The Board adopted Resolution 2022-17 directing and authorizing the Agency to prepare and submit an application to the California Department of Water Resources for a 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program SGMA Implementation grant and authorizing the Chair or designee to execute the funding agreement and all associated documents.

Director Fornoff asked if the agency needs to match the grant money? Tony Morgan from DBS&A said no, this is grant money the state gives out that does not require a match, although we can match if we want for extra points, but not required.

Director Jackson asked what if the agency puts money as a match? Mr. Morgan said no, only if you do not want to be reimbursed for that money, then you put in a match.

Mr. Emmert asked Mr. Morgan if he is aware of any other agencies that are presenting a match of funds? Mr. Morgan said no, he is not aware of any agencies providing a match.

Director Meneghin asked Mr. Morgan if he was able to provide the feedback and recommendations that Fox Canyon had received from DWR regarding southern California steelhead to include tasks if called for? Mr. Morgan said he was unable to complete the requested task before the meeting. Director Meneghin asked if he could provide the requested information by the upcoming Special Board meeting in December? Mr. Morgan said yes, he would have the requested information ready by December's Board Meeting.

Director Kimball asked Mr. Morgan if he felt that DWR was satisfied with the Agency's existing technology that monitors subsidence? Mr. Morgan said the plan is suggesting what all other agencies are using, and will not change it, only if there is a problem, in which case he will request the Board regroup and come up with another plan.

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

Mr. Emmert suggested the Board hold a special Board meeting on December 8 at 5pm to review the final application before submission. The Board agreed.

**4B Preparation of Annual Reports and Update of Online Database**  
**Motion**

The Board approved Task Order 2022-03 with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates for the preparation and submittal of annual reports for the Fillmore basin and the Piru basin for Water Year 2022 and updating of the Agency's Online Database.

Director Jackson asked if this was part of the budget? Mr. Emmert said yes, this was already included.

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

**4C Monitoring Wells Project Change Order Ratification**  
**Motion**

The Board approved ratifying Change Order 1 to the Agreement with BC2 Environmental, LLC for the Monitoring Wells Project, specifically for the addition of a fourth nested well on the East Grove site.

Mr. Morgan asked if the Board would be interested in a press release for the significant milestone of the installation of the monitoring well? Directors expressed their thoughts on the idea. Mr. Morgan will look into options.

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

**4D Meetings Calendar for 2023**  
**Motion**

The Board approved setting its regular meetings for calendar year 2023.

Director Jackson asked if the meetings can be held at an earlier time? Director Kimball asked if Director Jackson was suggesting the Board meetings start at 4:00 pm? Director Jackson said yes.

Director Long asked if there is anything that can be done when no items are to be discussed for the following Board meeting, can the meeting be canceled? Legal Counsel, Steve O'Neill said the reason for monthly meetings is for bills to get paid on a monthly basis. Director Kimball asked if there were any objections to canceling meetings when no items are to be discussed, no

objections were made.

Motion to approve the calendar with time change to 4:00 pm with dates listed, Director Meneghin; Second, Director Jackson. Roll call vote: six ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, Meneghin, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 6/0.

Mr. Morgan asked if the 4:00 pm start time would begin in January 2023? Mr. O'Neill said yes.

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### **5A Summary of Current California Requirements for Remote Meetings** **Information Item**

The Board received a presentation from Legal Counsel regarding California's requirements for remote meetings, including the Brown Act, Executive Order N-29-20, AB 361, and AB 2449.

Director Long asked for clarification for the statement of out for business? Mr. O'Neill said it means if you are traveling for the County of Ventura, it would be considered a just cause.

Director Jackson asked, once the Agency goes back to in-person meetings, does the Agency have the ability to allow public to come to the meetings, and wondered if the Agency can use some of the money from the grant to purchase good technology? Mr. Emmert said the agency had previously looked into upgrading the technology some time ago, although it was very costly at \$50,000 plus or minus, and a long lead item. He also said he has been working with United's IT personal on the project idea and has been in contact with the City of Fillmore to see if UWCD can assist, and perhaps with the Fillmore Unified School District, that also uses that facility, together the groups can make the technology improvements for that facility. He also said the Agency now has a meeting scheduled with the City Manager the first week of December to discuss this project and he liked the idea of using grant funds for the needed technology improvements. He said he will report back once the meeting with the City manager occurs.

## UPDATES

### **2A Director Announcements/Board Communications:** Oral Reports from the Board

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

Director Jackson reported the Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholders met last week, when they approved the budget and BD calendar for the upcoming year, and mentioned the association is doing a lot of housekeeping items and have been talking to Mr. Morgan on conducting a survey of the members regarding future plans and working with the questions that should be asked in the pumpers



survey.

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

Director Fornoff reported the Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholders are thinking of conducting a flat rate assessment, instead of pumping assessments, and have retained what they have been doing in the past few years, under advice from counsel and moving forward with that.

### **Environmental Stakeholder Director Update**

Director Meneghin had nothing to report and mentioned she visited the GSA's monitoring well going in near the Hedrick Farm Nature Area and was very excited to see it.

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

Director Villaseñor reported the City of Fillmore now has three new council members to be sworn in on the second week of December and awaiting committee placements in January. She also mentioned the City submitted its housing element to the State and will keep the Agency posted on the progress.

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

Director Kimball had no updates.

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

Director Long had no updates.

## **2B Executive Director Update Information Item**

The Executive Director provided an informational update on Agency activities since the previous Board meeting of October 20.

Mr. Emmert reported drilling had been completed at both sites for the monitoring wells project, and Eric Elliot will provide a presentation at the upcoming December 8 Special Board meeting. He also said groundwater charges payments were due on October 15, 2022, and Groundwater Sustainability Planning Grant for 14th quarter of GSP grant concluded on September 30, 2022, and staff submitted progress report and invoice 14 on November 8, 2022. He stated that the 15<sup>th</sup> quarter of the grant will end on December 31, 2022, and this will be the final quarter for billable activities for the grant. He said round two of Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program applications are due by December 16, 2022, and agency staff and consultants are working to refine the scope, schedule, budget, and cash flow. Mr. Emmert supported a Special Board Meeting to review the final grant project for December 8, 2022.

Director Meneghin asked when will the Board hear about the next grant cycle that is being submitted in December? Mr. Emmert said his impression is DWR worked hard to get this GSM round two grant out, and there may be several hundred basins

eligible to submit for this grant, which means it will be a while before the Agency hears from DWR. Mr. Morgan said there are 80 to 100 applicants, as most basins are eligible for this grant. Mr. Emmert said he estimates that the Agency will not hear from DWR on the recommended awards of this grant until summertime of 2023, as there will likely be many applications for DWR to review, and the Round 2 is a competitive one.

## **2C Legal Counsel Update**

### **Information Item**

Legal Counsel provided an informational update on Agency's legal issues and concerns since the Board meeting of October 20.

Steve O'Neill, with Aleshire and Wynder, reported he worked on the remote meeting summary, Proposition 218 requirements of SGMA, and worked with both Mr. Emmert and Mr. Morgan concerning the pumpers' association letter received regarding the Executive Order. He also said they revisited the agency's draft procedures regarding implementation of the Executive Order to see how it is going to work in coordination with the County of Ventura and shared what their findings have been so far.

Director Kimball asked Mr. O'Neill if there is any guidance from Sacramento, or any effort to help us out with the order? Mr. O'Neill said there are no regulations to assist in the implementation of this Executive Order and he is not aware of any other guidance documents.

Director Jackson asked if the permitting agency is responsible, and suggested if it were, the Board should sit back and wait for them to talk to us about it. Mr. O'Neill said yes, the County of Ventura is the permitting agency, and has overall responsibility for the process, including CEQA reviews, if needed.

## **2D 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 Board meeting of October 20, 2022.

Director Meneghin asked if the subsidence report is going to be part of the annual report? Mr. Morgan said yes, that will be part of the report to January's Board meeting.

## **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 approved the Minutes from the Board Meeting of October 20.

**3B Approval of Warrants**

The Board approved payment of outstanding vendor invoice

Aleshire & Wynder LLP	\$ 9,918.00
Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.	\$ 16,883.00

**3C Monthly Financial Report**

The Board received 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 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 Consent Calendar items, Director Long; 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**

Annual report from DBS&A

**ADJOURNMENT 6:26 p.m.**

Director Kimball adjourned the Board meeting at 6:26p.m. to the next **Special Board Meeting** on Thursday, **December 8, 2022**, or call of the Chair.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Director Kimball, 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 November 17, 2022.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board**





Board of Directors Meeting  
17 November 2022  
Item 2D GSP Consultant  
Update

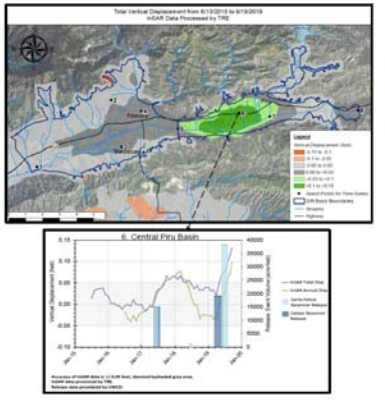



**Fillmore and Piru Basins**  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

- **SGMA Implementation Grants (Item 4)**
- **InSAR Subsidence Update - ongoing**










Board of Directors Meeting  
17 November 2022  
Item 4A SGMA Implementation Grant



**Fillmore and Piru Basins**  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Budget Categories	(a) Requested Grant Amount	(b) Local Cost Share: Non-State Fund Source	(c) Total Cost
<b>Component A Grant Support</b>	<b>\$230,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$230,000</b>
Task 1 - Grant Administration	\$205,000	\$0	\$205,000
Task 2 - Grant Preparation	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
<b>Component B Drought Mitigation</b>	<b>\$575,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$575,000</b>
Task 3 Cienega Springs Drought Refuge Pilot Program	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
Task 4 Domestic Well Drought Vulnerability Evaluation	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
Task 5 Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
<b>Component C Groundwater Model Upgrades</b>	<b>\$235,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$235,000</b>
Task 6 Subsidence Module to Groundwater Flow Model	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000
Task 7 Update Groundwater Flow Model with Refined Discretization	\$175,000	\$0	\$175,000
Task 8 Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
<b>Component D GSP Revisions and Updates</b>	<b>\$815,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$815,000</b>
Task 9 Subsidence Update Annual Reports (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Task 10 2022 GSP Revisions and Updates to DWR Comments	\$175,000	\$0	\$175,000
Task 11 2027 GSP Updates	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
Task 12 Annual Reports to DWR (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)	\$120,000	\$0	\$120,000
Task 13 Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement	\$120,000	\$0	\$120,000
<b>Component E Prop 218 &amp; 26 / CEQA</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
Task 14 Proposition 218 & 26 Consultation	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000
Task 15 CEQA Compliance	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000
<b>Component F Special Studies</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
Task 16 Rising Groundwater Evaluation at Basin Boundaries near GDEs	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,255,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,255,000</b>

**Eligible reimbursable costs must occur between 04Oct22 - 30Apr26**



**EXAMPLE Updated Proposed Budget per Basin**

**Major changes from last version:**

- ✓ Stakeholder Outreach included in each Component instead of a single line item
- ✓ Component C changed to Groundwater Model Upgrades from Subsidence
- ✓ Budgets being refined as scope of work is developed - Component totals are updated
- ✓ Applications due by 16 Dec 2022



Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA  
Check Detail  
November 28 - 29, 2022

Type	Num	Date	Name	Account	Original Amount
Bill Pmt -Check	11173	11/29/2022	BC2 Enviromental, LLC	10000 - Bank of the Sierra	-509,689.00
					-509,689.00



**Fillmore and Piru Basins**  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**Item No.**        **3C Consent Calendar**

**DATE:**         **December 1, 2022**

**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 November 2022.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

Attachments:    November 30, 2022 P/L Budget Performance  
                         November 30, 2022 Balance Sheet



**Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA**  
**Profit & Loss Budget Performance**  
 July through November 2022

	<u>Jul - Nov 22</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>			
40001 • Groundwater Extraction Charge	4,842.38	638,031.42	0.76%
41000 • Grant Revenue			
41001 • State Grants	0.00	400,057.68	0.00%
Total 41000 • Grant Revenue	0.00	400,057.68	0.00%
47000 • Other Revenue			
47001 • Late Fees	3,850.89	0.00	
47012 • Returned Check Charges	0.00	0.00	
Total 47000 • Other Revenue	3,850.89	0.00	
Total Income	8,693.27	1,038,089.10	0.84%
Gross Profit	8,693.27	1,038,089.10	0.84%
<b>Expense</b>			
52200 • Professional Services			
52240 • Prof Svcs - IT Consulting	89.26	1,700.00	5.25%
52250 • Prof Svcs - Groundwtr/GSP Prep			
52251 • Prof Svcs - UWCD GW Services	2,708.33	0.00	
52252 • Prof Svcs - GSP Consultant	33,774.00	165,000.00	20.47%
Total 52250 • Prof Svcs - Groundwtr/GSP Prep	36,482.33	165,000.00	22.11%
52270 • Prof Svcs - Accounting	3,259.80	24,200.00	13.47%
52275 • Prof Svcs - Admin/Clerk of Bd	1,885.87	25,000.00	7.54%
52280 • Prof Svcs - Executive Director	14,224.50	50,000.00	28.45%
52290 • Prof Svcs - Other	0.00	20,000.00	0.00%
Total 52200 • Professional Services	55,941.76	285,900.00	19.57%
52500 • Legal Fees			
52501 • Legal Counsel	11,725.00	60,000.00	19.54%
Total 52500 • Legal Fees	11,725.00	60,000.00	19.54%
53000 • Office Expenses			
53010 • Public Information	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
53020 • Office Supplies	0.66	500.00	0.13%
53026 • Postage & Mailing	3.42	2,000.00	0.17%
53110 • Travel & Training	4.50	4,000.00	0.11%
53000 • Office Expenses - Other	1,922.80		
Total 53000 • Office Expenses	1,931.38	7,500.00	25.75%
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			
81001 • Design & Cons - Monitoring Well	509,689.00	600,000.00	84.95%
81000 • Capital Expenditures - Other	0.00	0.00	
Total 81000 • Capital Expenditures	509,689.00	600,000.00	84.95%
Total Expense	579,287.14	955,900.00	60.60%
Net Income	<u><u>-570,593.87</u></u>	<u><u>82,189.10</u></u>	<u><u>-694.25%</u></u>

**Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of November 30, 2022

	<u>November 2022</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 - Bank of the Sierra	883,041.61
Total Checking/Savings	883,041.61
Accounts Receivable	
11000 - Accounts Receivable	354,906.14
Total Accounts Receivable	354,906.14
Total Current Assets	1,237,947.75
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,237,947.75</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 - Accounts Payable	0.00
Total Accounts Payable	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	0.00
Total Liabilities	0.00
Equity	
32000 - Retained Earnings	1,808,541.62
Net Income	-570,593.87
Total Equity	1,237,947.75
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>1,237,947.75</b>

**Item No.            3D Motion****DATE:**            November 29, 2022 (for December 8, 2022, meeting)**TO:**                Board of Directors**FROM:**           Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director**SUBJECT:**        **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 2022-16 continues the authorization of the use of AB 361 provisions for the coming 30 days.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Board will consider adopting Resolution 2022-18 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: 3D: 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.

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

- 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.
- 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 2022-18. 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 2022-18

Proposed Motion:

Adopt Resolution 2022-18.

1<sup>st</sup>: Director \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup>: Director \_\_\_\_\_

Voice/Roll call vote:

Director Fornoff:

Director Jackson:

Director Kimball:

Director Long:

Director Meneghin:

Director Villaseñor:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-18**

**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 December 8, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Counsel



**Item No.**            **4A Motion**

**DATE:**            November 29, 2022 (for December 8, 2022, meeting)

**TO:**                Board of Directors

**FROM:**           Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:**        **Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program SGMA Implementation Grant**

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens & Associates and staff on the updated, scope, schedule, and budget for its application submittal to the California Department of Water Resources for a 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program SGMA Implementation grant and provide comments and direction.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The Agency's groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs), under Section 4, *Projects, and Management Actions to Achieve Sustainability Goal*, include several projects, programs and studies that warrant further development, evaluation and consideration. At its November 17, 2022 meeting, the Board adopted Resolution 2022-17 authorizing the Agency to prepare and submit an application for a Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program SGMA Implementation Round 2 grant that included the following:

- Enhancement of California Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, and Santa Clara River Conservancy ongoing Cienega Springs Restoration project with a Drought Refuge Pilot Program, including
  - Development of potential provision of irrigation water from existing deeper groundwater wells for a critical portion of the Cienega Springs Restoration project during multiple-year droughts
  - Development of potential cooperation with ongoing efforts to keep invasive plants from re-colonizing previously cleared areas within the Cienega Springs Restoration project following multiple-year droughts
  - CEQA review and permitting
- Domestic Well Vulnerability Evaluation, with emphasis on potential disadvantaged communities affected
- Study of subsidence and associated impacts
  - Add subsidence module to regional groundwater flow model
  - Update groundwater flow model to USG and refine discretization
  - Prepare annual reports analyzing subsidence data and potential impacts (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)



## Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program SGMA Implementation Grant

November 29, 2022

Page 2 of 2

- Groundwater Sustainability Plans Revisions and Updates
  - GSPs revisions and updates to Department of Water Resources (DWR) comments
  - 2027 GSPs updates
  - Annual Reports to DWR (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)
- Stakeholder outreach program to better reach disadvantaged communities and other key stakeholders to overcome limitations experienced during COVID-19 period
- Proposition 26- and Proposition 218-compliant analysis and stakeholder education for groundwater fees supporting implementation projects and programs
- Special studies to better understand the dynamics associated with the groundwater dependent ecosystems near the basin boundaries

The current estimate of the total cost of the project is \$3,882,000. The grant requires no local match. Expenditures during the period October 4, 2022, to April 30, 2026, are eligible for grant reimbursement. The Agency's staff and consultant team is working to assemble the components of an application package. Applications are due to DWR by December 16, 2022.

### FISCAL IMPACT

The current Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget includes sufficient funds to prepare and submit the grant application and also includes the 2022 Water Year Annual Report to DWR and the 2022 Water Year Subsidence Report. The SGM Round 2 Implementation Grant Program does not require a local match; however, grant funds are provided on a reimbursement basis. The Agency will need to raise revenue for the activities included in the grant agreement via future groundwater extraction fees, starting with the Fiscal Year 2023-2024, and extending into the Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Following completion of the grant activities, the Agency will invoice DWR, and DWR will reimburse the Agency. Reimbursement payments are often six months or longer following invoices submittals.

### ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Grant Project Scope of Work

Attachment 2 – Grant Project Budget

#### Proposed Motion:

Receive a presentation on the updated, scope, schedule, and budget for Agency's application submittal to the California Department of Water Resources for a 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program SGMA Implementation grant and provide comments and direction.

1<sup>st</sup>: Director \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup>: Director \_\_\_\_\_

#### Voice/Roll call vote:

Director Fornoff:

Director Jackson:

Director Kimball:

Director Long:

Director Meneghin:

Director Villaseñor:

## SGMA Round Two Grant Submissions for the Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA

This Work Plan outlines the steps the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (FPBGSA) will implement using grant monies from SGMA Round Two. The Work Plan includes six components:

- Component 1: Grant Administration/Preparation
- Component 2: Drought Mitigation
- Component 3: Groundwater Model Upgrades
- Component 4: GSP Revisions and Updates
- Component 5: Prop 218 & 26
- Component 6: Special Studies

### COMPONENT 1: Grant Administration/Preparation

#### **Category (a) Grant Administration**

##### **Task 1: Grant Agreement Administration**

Prepare reports detailing work completed during reporting period. Progress Reports will include sufficient information for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Grant Manager to understand and review backup documentation submitted with invoices. Quarterly invoices will accompany the Quarterly Progress Reports and should be submitted to the DWR Grant Manager for review to receive reimbursement of Eligible Project Costs.

Collect and organize backup documentation by component, budget category, and task and prepare a summary Excel document detailing contents of the backup documentation organized by component, budget category, and task.

Prepare and submit the Environmental Information Form (EIF) within 30 days of the execution date of the Grant Agreement. No invoices will be reviewed or processed until the EIF has been received by the DWR Grant Manager.

Submit a deliverable due date schedule within 30 days of the execution date of the Grant Agreement to be reviewed and approved by the DWR Grant Manager. Any edits to the schedule must be approved by the DWR Grant Manager and the revised schedule saved in the appropriate project files.

Prepare the Draft Component Completion Report and submit to the DWR Grant Manager for comment and review 90 days before the end date for each component as outlined in Exhibit C. DWR's Grant Manager will review the Draft Component Completion Report and provide comments and edits within 30 days of receipt, when

possible. Prepare a Final Component Completion Report addressing the DWR Grant Manager's comments within 30 days before each Component end date outlined in Exhibit C. The report shall be prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" and approved by the DWR Grant Manager within 30 days after the end date. All deliverables listed within the Work Plan shall be submitted with each Final Component Completion Report unless a new deliverable due date was approved by the DWR Grant Manager.

Prepare the Draft Grant Completion Report and submit to the DWR Grant Manager for comment and review 90 days before the work completion date listed in Paragraph 2. DWR's Grant Manager will review the Draft Grant Completion Report and provide comments and edits within 30 days of receipt, when possible.

Prepare a Final Completion Report addressing the DWR Grant Manager's comments prior to the work completion date. The report shall be prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit F, "Report Formats and Requirements" and approved by the DWR Grant Manager within 30 days after the work completion report. However, all charges accrued after the work completion date in Paragraph 2 will not be reimbursed. The retention invoice must be received, processed, and through DWR's accounting office by the final payment date Grant Agreement No. 46000XXXXX Page 2 of 5 outlined in Paragraph 2. All deliverables listed within the Work Plan shall be submitted with the Final Completion Report unless a new deliverable due date was approved by the DWR Grant Manager.

#### **Deliverables:**

- EIF
- Deliverable due date schedule
- Quarterly Progress Reports, Quarterly Invoices, and all required backup documentation
- Draft and Final Component Completion Reports
- Draft and Final Grant Completion Reports

#### **Task 2 - Grant Preparation**

The GSA has elected to apply (reference Board Resolution 2022-17 dated November 17, 2022, Attachment 1) for a *SGMA Round 2 Implementation Grant* and engaged the grant writer/coordinator services to assist agency staff in assembling the necessary documentation.

The grant application preparation activities included the use of agency staff, as well as technical personnel from United Water Conservation District (United) and the agency's consultant team. This team worked with the Board of Directors to identify the various Project Components, the tasks within the components, scopes of work, deliverables, budgets and schedules needed to complete the grant application.

## **Deliverables:**

- SGMA Round 2 grant application

## **COMPONENT 2: Drought Mitigation**

This Component includes the Cienega Springs Drought Refuge Pilot Program and Domestic Well Drought Vulnerability Evaluation.

**Cienega Springs Drought Refuge Pilot Program (CSDRPP):** Analyses performed for the development of the GSP concluded that the curtailment of groundwater extractions near the Santa Clara River (Fillmore Basin GSP – Appendix J, Figure 3-4) did not totally mitigate the declining water levels (Fillmore Basin GSP – Appendix J, Figures 3-5 to 3-7) associated with a multi-year drought near the California Department of Water Resources (CDFW) Cienega Springs Restoration Project area. Those analyses show that groundwater extractions in the Basin can exacerbate the effects of major, multi-year droughts on the rising groundwater that supports the groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE) areas in the vicinity of the fish hatchery and the adjacent Cienega Springs Restoration Project. These effects include vegetative stress when, for example, the decline of water levels below the critical water levels occurs sooner and water levels remaining depressed below the critical water level longer when normal or wet conditions return.

While the FPBGSA recognizes that drought conditions have a major impact on the shallow water levels supported by rising groundwater, the FPBGSA desires to dampen the impacts of groundwater extraction by supporting the restoration efforts at the Cienega Springs Restoration Project via the design and operation of the Cienega Springs Drought Refuge Pilot Program (CSDRPP). The primary action of CSDRPP is to provide supplemental groundwater to the restoration program during multiyear droughts when the shallow groundwater levels decline to below the critical water level. The groundwater would be supplied from an existing production well (if a suitable well can be found or alternatively a newly constructed well) that is extracting water from the deeper hydrostratigraphic units (i.e., not the shallow aquifers).

The supplemental water delivery program will be designed to provide enhanced soil moisture to allow the target parcels to function as a refuge for the vegetative and wildlife species during multi-year droughts. The program is not envisioned to increase the shallow water level to above the critical water level, but will have the goal of maintaining the soil moisture at subsistence levels that will allow the target parcels to function as a drought refuge.

The costs of the CSDRPP (i.e., design of the system, permitting, upgrading of pumping and water delivery infrastructure, electrical power costs, monitoring of water levels in the shallow piezometers, etc.) would be the responsibility of the FPBGSA. CDFW and the restoration management team would use the water in the manner they deem most beneficial to their restoration program.

The mitigative effects of this action include:

- Providing a refuge for vegetation and wildlife during a period of prolonged drought
- Supplying water that can be used to irrigate additional land areas that are not served by the effluent from the fish hatchery operations
- Providing a natural seed supply that will be important for revegetation efforts in post-drought time frame
- Possible use as a seed source area for a “seed bank” that can function as a repository for native vegetation seeds for use in future restoration programs

**Domestic Well Drought Vulnerability Evaluation:** The Fillmore basin has many domestic potable water supply wells. The GSA’s online database (<https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com>) includes 147 known domestic wells in the basin. These wells tend to be older and shallower (Fillmore Basin GSP - Figure 2-1-4) than many wells drilled for municipal or irrigation purposes. There are 119 active domestic wells with 17 more identified as abandoned or destroyed and 11 with an unknown status. Well completion reports were researched for all wells in the basin and basic well construction details such as total well depth, depth to top and bottom of the well perforations added to the online database. Approximately 52 percent of the domestic wells in the Fillmore basin contained these basic well construction data, and approximately 56 percent for the Piru basin.

None of the domestic wells have been reported going dry during historic droughts. The current four-year drought has not caused any domestic well to go dry, however it is recognized that water levels are declining. The GSP used the existing groundwater flow model to evaluate the potential impacts of future climate change on water levels in relation to the depths of the domestic wells with known well construction details. None of the domestic wells were modeled to go dry during future climate conditions, however it was recognized that the water levels were approaching depths that might impact the operational efficiency of the wells even though they would not go dry.

The FPBGSA desires to better understand the impacts future groundwater level fluctuations might have on the domestic wells. The FPBGSA has elected to study this issue in more detail that will include attempting to update the well construction details (e.g., total well depth, depth to top and bottom of well perforations) and depth of the pump intake in the wells. The upgraded groundwater flow model (Component C - Groundwater Model Upgrades) will be used to compare modeled future groundwater levels to the expanded domestic well construction details database.

Potential impacts to domestic wells will be assigned a relative severity ranking, as well as a frequency of occurrence. The severity ranking scheme could include an escalating color code system such as, for example:

- Green (no perceived impact) – future water levels are modeled to be more than 10 feet above the current pump intake

- Yellow (lowest severity)– future water levels are modeled to be less than 10 feet above the current pump intake
- Orange (moderate severity) – future water levels are modeled to be at or below the top of the well perforations but above the bottom of the well perforations
- Red (well failure imminent) - future water levels are modeled to be within 5 feet of or below the bottom of the well perforations

The frequency of occurrence of each severity classification will be used to rank specific wells or clusters of wells according to their susceptibility to impacts from climate change. Once the severity classification is determined, the GSA, in conjunction with stakeholders in the basin, will develop a plan that will outline possible mitigation actions for wells that are expected to be impacted by climate change.

## Scope of Work

**Category (a): Component Administration** – Administration of this Component is contained in Component 1

**Category (b): Planning / Design / Environmental**

### Task 1 – CEQA Compliance

Prepare and submit required CEQA documentation pursuant to current CEQA guidelines if an exemption from CEQA is not granted. Submit the CEQA document(s) to the DWR Grant Manager for review and concurrence prior to beginning construction activities. Conduct a biological assessment to determine if there may be potential impacts to special species and comply with required mitigation measures.

Construction may not begin and no costs may be incurred until an exemption from CEQA is granted, or the State has reviewed the CEQA document(s), completed its CEQA responsible agency obligations and given its environmental clearance in accordance with Paragraphs 5 and D.8 of this Agreement. Any costs incurred for Category (c), Task 5 prior to an exemption from CEQA is granted, or DWR gives its environmental clearance shall not be reimbursed and any such amounts shall be deducted from the total Grant Amount in Paragraph 3.

Prepare applications for and obtain all necessary permits.

### Deliverables:

- CEQA Categorical Exemption or Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Board of Directors Resolution Making CEQA Findings
- Letter of No CEQA Challenge
- Biological Resources Assessment Report, if needed
- CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, if needed

- CDFW Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act Agreement, if needed
- US Army Corps of Engineers CWA 404 Nationwide permit, if needed
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board
- CWA 401 permit, if needed
- Other permits, if needed

### **Category (c): Implementation / Construction**

**Task 2 – Cienega Springs Drought Refuge Pilot Program:** Monitoring the depth of the shallow groundwater near this GDE area is an important component of this project. The FPBGSA recognized the lack of shallow aquifer groundwater level data in this area as a data gap and has installed three shallow monitoring wells to serve as the reference wells for this project.

The scope of work will include, for example, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Identification of target parcels in the Cienega Springs project area for inclusion in the pilot program;
- Identification of potential existing wells in the vicinity of the target parcels that could be used as a source of supplemental water;
- Engineering evaluation (e.g., availability of electrical power, condition of pumping equipment, condition of well casing, verification well perforations are positioned in deep aquifer zones) of each existing well to determine the infrastructure upgrades necessary to use an existing well as a supplemental water source;
- Design of water distribution manifold system to deliver water to target parcels;
- Development of *Supplemental Water System Operations Manual* that would prescribe the trigger(s) for initiating water deliveries, the amount of water to be delivered, timing of the water deliveries, water level monitoring protocols, and trigger(s) for ceasing supplemental water deliveries;
- Design and installation of soil moisture monitoring stations to quantify the impact of the supplemental waters on the root zone moisture contents. These data will be used to adaptively manage the delivery (i.e., quantity, duration, frequency) of the supplemental water;
- Development of shallow monitoring well and soil moisture meter monitoring program plan.

### **Deliverables:**

- *Supplemental Water System Operations Manual*
- Engineering evaluation memorandum on existing wells
- Target parcel identification memorandum
- Water distribution manifold system design memorandum
- Soil moisture monitoring system design and installation memorandum
- Shallow monitoring well and soil moisture monitoring program plan

## **Category (d): Monitoring / Assessment**

**Task 3 – Domestic Well Drought Vulnerability Evaluation:** This task will build upon the data compilation and preliminary domestic well drought vulnerability analyses performed in support of the development of a GSP. The analyses will lean heavily upon the updated domestic well database and the upgraded groundwater flow model.

The scope of work will include, for example, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Preparation of stakeholder outreach plan
- Canvassing domestic well owners to verify well construction details
- Updating the FPBGSA online database with information gained from the canvassing effort
- Comparing the well construction details against modeled water levels from the upgraded groundwater flow model (Component C)
- Development of severity classification system to characterize the potential impacts to domestic wells from climate change induced water level fluctuations
- GSA and stakeholders develop and implement a mitigation plan

### **Deliverables:**

- Online database updated with more comprehensive domestic well construction details
- Technical memorandum describing the domestic well vulnerability classification system
- Domestic well drought vulnerability mitigation plan

## **Category (e): Engagement/Outreach**

**Task 4 – Stakeholder Engagement/Outreach:** Tasks 2, 3 and 4 will benefit from the input of all stakeholders in the basin. The GSA will develop a Stakeholder Engagement/Outreach Plan. The GSA will:

- Complete outreach and public education in relation to Tasks 2, 3 and 4
- Perform local outreach and education on the progress and task activity timing
- Prepare task-specific communications for distribution through communications which may include public meetings, website, social media, and email communications that will describe the task goals, needs, and benefits
- Provide information regarding Tasks 1 and 2 to the GSA for inclusion in its ongoing outreach programs and communication.

### **Deliverables:**

- Stakeholder Engagement / Outreach Plan
- Copies of communication materials



## COMPONENT 3: Groundwater Model Upgrades

United has developed and calibrated a regional groundwater flow model that simulates (daily) surface water and (monthly) groundwater flow conditions and interactions for the years 1985 through 2019 (Regional Model; UWCD, 2021a; UWCD, 2021b). The Regional Model is based on the Newton-Raphson formulation for MODFLOW-2005 (MODFLOW-NWT; Niswonger, et al., 2011) and covers the seven groundwater basins that exist within United's district boundaries, including the portions of the Pleasant Valley and West Las Posas Valley basins that extend outside of United's boundaries. The Piru basin is the top of the groundwater flow system simulated by the regional flow model, and the Fillmore basin is adjacent and located downstream/downgradient. The FPBGSA relied on United's Regional Model for the development of its Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) that were adopted by the FPBGSA Board in December of 2021 and submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in January of 2022. The GSPs relied on 50-year future simulations with assumption for future water use practices and water management decisions and included future climate change factors for the local hydrology, as specified by DWR.

Prior to development of the numerical groundwater flow model, United's hydrogeologists mapped the major hydrostratigraphic units (i.e. aquifers and aquitards) of the groundwater basins the exist within the model domain, relying on an extensive collection of available geophysical logs, lithology logs from well completion reports, prior basin studies and investigations, and published maps fault locations and formations in outcrop. Ten major hydrostratigraphic units were mapped by United staff, including six major aquifers and four aquitards in the Piru and Fillmore basin, to a depth of about 1,600 feet. The mapped aquifer units are dominated by coarse-grained materials such as sand, gravel and cobble, and the aquitards are dominated by fine-grained materials such as silts and clays.

Capturing surface water-groundwater interactions in the Piru and Fillmore basins was prioritized during model construction and calibration. In the Piru basin, base flows of the Santa Clara River (SCR) continuously flow into the basin from the east, sourcing in part from recycled water discharges at the Valencia Water Reclamation Plant. Stormwater runoff from the upper portion of the watershed also enters the basin here near the Los Angeles County line, where groundwater underflow is minor and the vast majority of the water entering the Piru basin is surface water. Reservoir releases from Castaic Lake are also common in the spring, when winter inflows to the lake are released to downstream users according to a long-term water rights and storage agreement. In the area west of the near-surface bedrock that underlies the upstream margin of the basin is an area where surface water recharge to the basin is both consistent and prolific, and SCR flows of 200 cfs or greater are commonly required to establish surface to Torrey Road and the confluence of Piru Creek.

Piru Creek is the largest tributary to the Santa Clara River in the Piru basin. United owns and operates the Santa Felicia Dam and Lake Piru, which defines the northern extent of the Piru basin in this vicinity. United is required to continuously release water

to maintain aquatic habitat below the dam. These required releases range from 7 to 20 cfs depending on certain watershed conditions.

In this grant application Component, we propose to include the MODFLOW subsidence package into the groundwater model as well as convert the MODFLOW-NWT based Regional Model to a MODFLOW-USG based groundwater flow model. The local grid refinement will be applied to the areas with rapidly varying hydrogeological structures, areas of channel incision, and the areas with rising groundwater and sensitive environmental habitats to improve the current Regional Model based on a fixed 2,000 ft grid. The submitted GSPs for both basins included “land subsidence (prevent inelastic [non-recoverable] land elevation declines, due to groundwater pumping, that interfere with critical infrastructure [e.g., canals, roads, and utilities])” as one of the four sustainability criteria that was applied to the basins and identified “undesirable results to avoid.” Stakeholders within both basins expressed a desire for the FPBGSA to develop an infrastructure vulnerability evaluation of civil infrastructure that may be susceptible to differential, inelastic ground subsidence within the 50-year planning period for the GSPs.

The Santa Clara River valley that contains the Piru, Fillmore, and Santa Paula groundwater basins is a long and varying-width valley with rapidly changing elevations along the flanks of the valley. Areas of rising groundwater along the Santa Clara River stream channel near the basin boundaries makes evident the interaction between surface water and groundwater that is both spatially and temporally complex. The Regional Model is based on a 2000-ft fixed model grid. While the Regional Model is well calibrated and is considered adequate for basin scale analysis, it was noted that using grid sizes less than 2000 ft may improve the simulation of geologic structure and the surface water/groundwater interaction within the Fillmore and Piru basins.

The Regional Model was developed with the MODFLOW-NWT model software which does not allow for the local grid refinement. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has developed and released a new version of MODFLOW, MODFLOW-USG, which adopts an unstructured model grid. The MODFLOW-USG model has been recognized by groundwater modelers for its flexibility in refining the model grid locally. The ease and flexibility in local grid refinement from MODFLOW-USG may serve FPBGSA well in improving the model resolution in simulating geological transitions and surface water/groundwater interaction.

## Scope of Work

**Category (a): Component Administration** -- Not applicable to this Component

**Category (b): Planning / Design / Environmental** -- Not Applicable to this Component

## **Category (c): Implementation / Construction**

### **Task 1 Add Subsidence Module to UWCD GW Flow Model (UWCD)**

Implement the Subsidence and Aquifer-System Compaction Package (SUB; Hoffman et al., 2003) into the existing (MODFLOW-NWT based) Regional Model within the Santa Clara River (SCR) groundwater basins, which includes the Fillmore and Piru basins. With subsidence modeling applied to the Fillmore and Piru basins within the existing Regional Model, historical and future estimates of subsidence can be simulated and leveraged during analysis and decision making for future potential infrastructure vulnerability evaluation. To date, United has been testing implementation of the SUB package within the coastal groundwater basins (using a truncated version of the Regional Model that does not include the SCR basins). Additional effort and resources will be required to implement the SUB package in the SCR basins to simulate subsidence potential in the Fillmore and Piru groundwater basins.

The steps to apply subsidence modeling to the existing Regional Model are summarized below:

#### **Subsidence Model Package Development and Implementation under Historic Hydrologic Conditions**

- The necessary model input files that are required for simulating subsidence within the existing Regional Model will be created to include the additional groundwater basins. The new input model files will include several parameter datasets that are necessary for the subsidence modeling, and will be informed by existing hydrogeologic parameter datasets that are currently available (e.g. mapped elevations and thicknesses of hydrostratigraphic units, horizontal and vertical hydraulic conductivities, and storage parameters) as well as subsidence-related parameters documented in previous reports, including observed and estimated historical-low water level elevations, which control future inelastic subsidence events.
- The existing Regional Model with subsidence included within the SCR basins will be simulated over the exiting Regional Model historical time-period that is available, January 1985 – December 2019. The simulated subsidence results will be compared to available historical land surface elevation change data, such as geodetic leveling data available in the 1980s and 1990s, as well as Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar subsidence data that is available from 2015-2019 (via DWR datasets). Where possible, subsidence modeling related parameter datasets will be calibrated to the available historical data.

#### **Subsidence Modeling for Implementation under Future Hydrologic Conditions**

- The new Regional Model with subsidence package included will be simulated over the same future time-period that was utilized in the development of the FPBGSA GSPs (January 2020 – December 2096). This future period was based

on 1943-2019 historical hydrologic conditions and was perturbed using DWR's central tendency 2070 Climate Change Factors for precipitation, reference evapotranspiration, and streamflow to represent estimated 2020 – 2096 hydrologic conditions.

#### **Deliverables:**

- Technical memo detailing the existing Regional Model update to include the addition of subsidence modeling within the Santa Clara River basins, including the methodology of the subsidence package development and implementations, as well as present results of both the historical and future subsidence simulations.

#### **Task 2: Update Groundwater Flow Model to USG and Refine Discretization**

The Regional Model (UWCD, 2021a; UWCD, 2021b) used to develop the GSPs for FPBGSA is a 2000-ft fixed grid numerical model based on MODFLOW-NWT. The Santa Clara River valley along the Piru basin, Fillmore basin, and Santa Paula basin is a long and varying-width valley with rapidly changing elevations in certain areas. A numerical model with smaller and flexible grid sizes will be designed to better capture the varying geologic and hydrologic features along the Santa Clara River stream channel and related environmentally sensitive habitats. The USGS released an unstructured grid MODFLOW software, called MODFLOW-USG (Panday et al., 2017), to allow the construction of groundwater flow models with flexible grids sizes. To better simulate the environmentally important habitats and the varying features in geology and stream channels along the SCR valley, United proposes in this grant application to convert the existing calibrated MODFLOW-NWT based Regional Model into a MODFLOW-USG Model with smaller and flexible grid sizes for local grid refinement. The model will be recalibrated following the conversion to MODFLOW-USG.

A limited number of new monitoring wells were recently installed near the basin boundary of the Piru and Fillmore basins, and the Fillmore and Santa Paula basins. The newly installed wells are intended to help fill the data gap identified in the FPBGSA GSP. Data from the newly installed wells will also be incorporated into the proposed model update.

The task to convert the existing groundwater flow model to MODFLOW-USG and the discretization refinement is summarized as follows:

#### **Model Conversion:**

- The model input files from the MODFLOW-NWT based model will be converted to the required model input files for the MODFLOW-USG Model with the same model grid (2000 ft).

- The model calibration will be reviewed and validated. Sometimes the model software conversion may cause the model to be out of calibration. If necessary, model re-calibration will be performed

#### Model Update and Refinement:

- The conceptual model will be reviewed along with the geologic data from the newly installed monitoring wells to determine the appropriate grid refinement. The stream channel width and incision varies significantly in less than 2,000 feet along the SCR in the areas of basin boundaries between Piru and Fillmore, and Fillmore and Santa Paula, a smaller grid size, e.g. 500 ft, will improve the stream flow simulation and the related rising groundwater. The local grid refinement will be applied to the Fillmore Fish Hatchery near the basin boundary of Piru and Fillmore and the area near the basin boundary of Fillmore and Santa Paula
- The MODFLOW-USG model will be revised based on the grid refinement by updating all the model input files
- The model calibration will be reviewed to ensure the model is well calibrated. If necessary, the MODFLOW-USG model will be re-calibrated. It is expected that the local grid refinement will improve the simulation of stream flow and the rising groundwater along the SCR
- If the data including water level, pumping records, stream flow newer than 2019 become available, the post 2019 data will be added to extend beyond the current model calibration period from 1985 to 2019

#### Technical Memo Preparation:

The technical memo will include the following:

- Conversion from the MODFLOW-NWT based model to MODFLOW-USG based model
- Areas of local model grid refinement
- Incorporation of the post 2019 data
- Validation of the MODFLOW-USG model and model calibration if needed

#### **Deliverables:**

- Technical memo detailing the model conversion from MODFLOW-NWT to MODFLOW-USG, local grid refinement, incorporation of the post 2019 data, and the model validation.

It is anticipated that the improved USG version of the groundwater flow model will be used for the simulations included in the 5-year updates to the GSPs for the Fillmore and Piru basins.

**Category (d): Monitoring/Assessment -- Not Applicable to this Component**

### **Category (e): Engagement / Outreach**

- The findings from the technical memos will be presented to the FPBGSA Board, stakeholders, and public through a presentation, and the document will be made available on the United and FPBGSA websites.

### **Deliverables:**

- Stakeholder outreach and engagement materials (public meetings, notices, educational materials)
- Public comments and responses from Engagement/Outreach

## **Component 4 – GSP Revisions and Updates**

It is anticipated that the DWR comments on the 2022 GSP for the Fillmore Subbasin will become available in the near future and the GSA desires to promptly respond to those comments. The FPBGSA has retained its GSP technical team to assist with reviewing and responding to those comments. Responses to the comments will be coordinated with the FPBGSA Board of Directors, its staff, and interested stakeholders. Responses to comments will be summarized and recorded in a manner similar to that used in the GSP.

The GSA will assess progress in prior years after the adoption of the Fillmore Subbasin GSP, and use the best available information and science to prepare the 2027 5-year amendment to the 2022 Subbasin GSP. The amendment will be updated to reflect progress towards achieving the Fillmore Subbasin 2040 sustainability goals, project implementation, and SGMA regulations compliance.

§ 356.2 Annual Reports in the SGMA Emergency Regulations describes that each GSA must submit an annual report summarizing the current condition of the basin and progress made towards achieving sustainability. The Annual Reports are due by April 1 of each year for the previous calendar year. The FPBGSA recognizes its reporting requirement and will prepare these reports in accordance with § 356.2.

The GSA has identified subsidence as a phenomenon warranting monitoring as the agency maintains the basins' sustainability during the ongoing drought conditions. Land subsidence conditions in the Basin region indicate a low risk of subsidence based on previous studies (Hanson et al., 2003; DWR, 2014) and evaluation of more recent datasets (i.e., Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar [InSAR]) (GSP Appendix F). However, the GSA recognizes that multi-year drought sequences may become more common with climate change and the agency desires to develop a baseline data set with respect to subsidence prior to the consideration of implementing more permanent, on-the-ground monitoring programs (e.g., continuous GPS stations, extensometers).

Numerical groundwater flow modeling by Hanson et al. (2003) simulated a maximum subsidence value of just over 0.1 foot (0.00098 foot per year [ft/yr]) of subsidence between 1891 and 1993 in the Basin area. DWR (2014) lists the Fillmore Basin with low potential for future subsidence. The cumulative change in land elevation from 2015 through 2019 (Figure 2.2-26), as measured with InSAR, is insignificant (less than the  $\pm 0.1$  foot error range of DWR-provided datasets [Towill, 2021]). Annual land elevation changes are similarly insignificant (DBS&A, 2021b). These findings are consistent with the Basin HCM, which indicates that the Basin is composed largely of coarse-grained aquifer material, making it resistant to inelastic land subsidence.

## Scope of Work and Deliverables

**Category (a): Component Administration** -- Not applicable to this Component

**Category (b): Planning / Design / Environmental**

### Task 1 – GSP Revisions and Updates to DWR Comments

The scope of work for this task will include:

- Review and categorization of DWR comments
- Preparation of responses to DWR comments, as appropriate
- Stakeholder coordination on responses to comments
- Incorporation of DWR comments into the 2027 GSP updates

#### Deliverables:

- Responses to DWR comments
- Stakeholder comments regarding DWR comments and GSA responses to comments

### Task 2 – 2027 GSP Updates

The GSP for the Fillmore Subbasin was submitted to DWR in 2022 in accordance with the deadline for a High Priority basin. The GSA desires to begin updating the GSP in advance of the 2027 5-Year GSP Update. The updates are envisioned to include, for example, the latest water level measurements and trends, new subsidence data and trends, enhanced information on the surface water – groundwater interactions near important GDEs, and updates to the groundwater flow model.

#### Deliverables:

- Updated sections of the 2027 GSP and/or technical appendices

### **Task 3 – Annual Reports to DWR (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)**

The general scope of work for this task includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

#### Data Collection, Evaluation and Analysis

This task will include data collection, evaluation, analysis and archival elements.

#### Data Collection

DBS&A will coordinate with United and Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) to collect relevant up-to-date information, notably:

- newly installed well locations and construction details;
- groundwater level, quality and production data; and
- surface water imports and conservation releases.

#### Data Evaluation and Analysis

Data will be evaluated against data and reporting standards specified in *Sections 352.4 and 356.2* of SGMA to ensure consistency with the GSPs and ongoing basin monitoring requirements. Coordination with United and/or VCWPD is anticipated to resolve any potential discrepancies in the data. The primary data evaluation that we anticipate requiring coordination will be developing water year equivalent estimates of groundwater production, because production volumes are reported to United on a semi-calendar year basis instead of a water year basis.

Once data have been evaluated and determined to be of sufficient quality, DBS&A will analyze data to describe and represent basin conditions. Analyses will, at a minimum, include:

- spatial and temporal trends in groundwater levels, production and storage; and
- surface water used or available for recharge.

Changes in the volume of groundwater in storage will be calculated based on changes in groundwater elevation contours (i.e., the water table) that are based on measured groundwater levels and aquifer storage coefficients from United's regional groundwater model.

#### Data Archiving

The FPBGSA online database functions as the GSAs' formal information repository of a variety of data compiled during the GSP development process and will need to be periodically updated as supplemental data sets (e.g., groundwater extractions, water quality, locations of new wells) are compiled. The online database will be updated with



information from Task 1 and any additional information (e.g., GDE locations and groundwater level contours) that became available during the GSP development process.

### Report Preparation and Submittal

DBS&A will prepare an annual report for the basin that meets the requirements of *Section 356.2* of SGMA. This task will involve summarizing and presenting information associated with water year 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. This information will include:

- general information about each basin, (e.g., an executive summary and location maps);
- detailed descriptions and graphical (i.e., tables, charts and maps) representation of basin conditions, notably:
- groundwater elevation contour maps and hydrographs;
- groundwater production by water use sector and reporting method type;
- surface water used or available for use for groundwater recharge; and
- maps and graphs depicting changes in groundwater in storage.
- description of progress towards implementing each GSP, including the implementation of projects and/or management actions since the previous annual report.

### **Deliverables:**

- Annual Reports for submission to DWR
- Updated online database

### **Task 4 – Subsidence Update Annual Reports (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)**

The GSA will update the land subsidence conditions in the Fillmore and Piru groundwater basins as revealed in the interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) data collected by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). This update will support the FPBGSA as it monitors the impact, if any, of their groundwater management strategies on land subsidence. The scope of work for this task includes the following items:

- Acquisition of InSAR subsidence data recently published by DWR;
- Review of the InSAR subsidence data set(s) and compare with the Fillmore and Piru Basins Land Subsidence Evaluation Technical Memorandum (DBS&A, 2021);
- Construction of ground-elevation time series plots for representative areas in each basin and near any critical infrastructure (e.g., major bridges).

### **Deliverable(s):**

- Annual Land Subsidence Update Technical Memorandum

## Component 5 – Proposition 218 & 26 Consultation

GSAs' fees are subject to the requirements of the California Constitution, Statutory Code and Regulatory Code. As GSAs transition from planning to implementation, the SGMA requires that their fees be compliant with Proposition 218. The GSA submitted its GSPs to DWR in January 2022, and expects approval from DWR by January 2024; therefore, it will soon need to comply with Proposition 218 requirements. As a part of its groundwater fees-setting process, the GSA will prepare a cost-of-service study and develop and conduct a Proposition 218-compliant noticing and protest-voting process.

**Category (a): Component Administration** -- Not applicable to this Component

**Category (b): Planning / Design / Environmental**

### **Task 1 Prop 218 & 26 / Rate Consultant**

The Proposition 218 & 26 Rates Setting includes the following tasks:

- Preparation of cost-of-service studies for Fiscal Years 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26

#### **Deliverables:**

- Cost-of-Service Studies for Fiscal Years 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26

**Category (c): Implementation / Construction** -- Not Applicable to this Component

**Category (d): Monitoring / Assessment** --Not Applicable to this Component

**Category (e): Engagement / Outreach**

### **Task 2 Stakeholder Outreach**

- Development and implementation of a Proposition 218-compliant noticing, protest ballot, and public hearing process for its groundwater fees setting.

#### **Deliverables:**

- Documentation of Proposition 26- and/or Proposition 218 -compliant noticing, protest ballots, and public hearing process for groundwater fees setting.

## Component 6 – Special Studies

Temperature differentials will be used to determine rising groundwater flux near the Fillmore-Piru groundwater basin boundary in the vicinity of the Cienega Springs Restoration project and Component 2 – Task 1 Cienega Springs Drought Refuge Pilot Program in this grant application.

Appendix J in the GSP presents the current state of knowledge regarding the quantification of the rates and quantities of rising groundwater near the GDE areas located at the Fillmore-Piru and Santa Paula-Fillmore basin boundaries. The current state of our knowledge has been derived from the strong empirical relationship discovered between water levels in a select well near each basin boundary and manual surface water flow measurements near each basin boundary. This method of resolving the surface water derived from rising groundwater is limited to characterizing the gross flow for the entire wetted area. An analytical method that allows for more point-specific data values would be an improvement.

An appropriately designed integrated surface water-groundwater flow model offers promise in quantifying the rates and quantities of rising groundwater. The model available for the surface water – groundwater interaction analyses included in the GSP was not specifically designed to address this issue. Use of the integrated surface water - groundwater model for addressing this issue was constrained by the larger discretization (2,000ft) that lacked the adequate spatial resolution, lack of historical data from the shallowest aquifer, and the flashy, ephemeral nature of the Santa Clara River.

This task will approach the quantification of the rising groundwater rates using temperature fluctuations. Thermal probes have been used to determine groundwater infiltration rates in previous studies (e.g., Hatch et al, 2006; Racz et al, 2011; Schmidt et al, 2011). We propose using a similar method to determine rising groundwater flux. A project plan will be developed to collect subsurface thermal data from multiple thermal probes (e.g., up to twenty locations in a 300 ft by 300 ft area). The thermal probes will be deployed in or near two areas (Appendix J – Fillmore Subbasin GSP, Figure 2-4): the Willard Road/East Grove GDE area and an area near the Cienega Springs Restoration Project. A third nearby area in the far western portion of the Piru Subbasin (just east of the Fillmore-Piru basin boundary) will be instrumented as part of the surface water – groundwater interaction evaluation in the Piru basin.

Each thermal data collection site will consist of at least two thermal sensors deployed at varying depths in the saturated zone. Temperature data will be automatically collected at specified intervals (e.g., up to every 15 minutes). Since groundwater has a different temperature than the surrounding subsoil, the thermal probes will capture the groundwater temperature signature. The rate of temperature change between the thermal probes at varying depths can calculate the rising and falling groundwater flux. If the water levels in the shallow saturated zone fluctuate significantly, the thermal probes can be equipped with a pressure transducer to record the water level changes.

**Category (a): Component Administration** -- Not applicable to this Component

**Category (b): Planning / Design / Environmental**

## **Task 1 – Rising Groundwater Evaluation at Basin Boundaries near GDEs**

The scope of work for this task includes:

- Selection of land parcels for thermal probe deployment in consultation with the Cienega Springs Restoration Project team, interested stakeholders, and landowners, as appropriate
- Arrange land access agreements with landowners
- Prepare project implementation and monitoring plan
- CEQA compliance
- Develop and secure permits, as needed
- Develop thermal probe schematic design
- Source and acquire the casing, thermal sensors and related components including the optional pressure transducers, if desired
- Installation of the thermal probes using hand augers, if possible
- Periodic downloading of the thermal (and water level data, if appropriate)
- Preparation of annual reports summarizing the results

### **Deliverables:**

- Land Access Agreements
- Project Implementation and Monitoring Plan
- CEQA Categorical Exemption Declaration
- Board of Directors Resolution Making CEQA Findings
- Letter of No CEQA Challenge
- CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, if needed
- US Army Corps of Engineers CWA 404 Nationwide permit, if needed
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board CWA 401 permit, if needed
- Other permits, if needed
- Annual Reports summarizing results

**Category (c): Implementation / Construction** -- Not Applicable to this Component

**Category (d): Monitoring/Assessment** -- Not Applicable to this Component

### **Category (e): Engagement/Outreach**

Stakeholder outreach and engagement with Cienega Springs Restoration Project organizations, interested stakeholders, property owners.

### **Deliverables:**

- Documentation of meetings and communications with Cienega Springs Restoration Project organizations, interested stakeholders, and property owners

<b>Grant Budget Categories</b>	<b>Combined Requested Grant Amount for Both Basins</b>
<b>Component 1 Grant Administration/Preparation</b>	<b>\$390,000</b>
<b>Component 2 Drought Mitigation</b>	<b>\$1,030,000</b>
Task 1 CEQA & Permitting	\$100,000
Task 2 Cienega Springs Drought Refuge Pilot Program	\$600,000
Task 3 Domestic Well Drought Vulnerability Evaluation	\$300,000
Task 4 Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement	\$30,000
<b>Component 3 Groundwater Model Upgrades</b>	<b>\$332,000</b>
Task 1 Subsidence Module to Groundwater Flow Model	\$64,000
Task 2 Update Groundwater Flow Model with Refined Discretization	\$238,000
Task 3 Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement	\$30,000
<b>Component 4 GSP Revisions and Updates</b>	<b>\$1,520,000</b>
Task 1 2022 GSP Revisions and Updates to DWR Comments	\$350,000
Task 2 2027 GSP Updates	\$650,000
Task 3 Annual Reports to DWR (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)	\$240,000
Task 4 Subsidence Update Annual Reports (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)	\$200,000
Task 5 Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement	\$80,000
<b>Component 5 Prop 218 &amp; 26 / CEQA</b>	<b>\$310,000</b>
Task 1 Proposition 218 & 26 Consultation	\$220,000
Task 2 Stakeholder Outreach	\$90,000
<b>Component 6 Special Studies</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>
Task 1 Rising Groundwater Evaluation at Basin Boundaries near GDEs	\$300,000

**Total****\$3,882,000**