



Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, June 15, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Directors in Attendance

Director Carole Fornoff
Director Debbie Jackson
Director Gordon Kimball
Director Kelly Long
Director Candice Meneghin

Director Absent

Director Albert Mendez

Staff in Attendance

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

Public in Attendance

Burt Handy (virtual)
Logan Hardison, La Pedrera LLC
Heather Merenda (virtual)
Tony Morgan, DBS&A (virtual)
Ed Reese, UWCD
Daryl Smith, UWCD (virtual)
Jean Thirkettle, Kettle Koi Farms (virtual)

1. CALL TO ORDER 4:05 p.m.

Chair Long called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

1A Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Long lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1B Directors Roll Call

The clerk called the roll. Five directors were present: Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, Meneghin. Director Mendez was absent.

1C Public Comments

Chair Long asked if there were any comments or questions from the public. None were offered.

1D Approval of Agenda

Motion

Chair Long asked Executive Director Anthony Emmert if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Emmert responded that there had been no changes to the agenda. Chair Long then asked for a motion.

Motion to approve the agenda, Director Fornoff; Second, Director Jackson. Voice vote: five ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long and Meneghin), none opposed, one absent (Mendez). Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

2. UPDATES

2A Director Announcements/Board Communications:

Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Jackson said she had no update, and mentioned the Fillmore Pumpers Association will have their annual meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Fornoff said she also did not have anything to report, and mentioned the Piru Pumpers Association will be having a Zoom meeting next week on June 20, 2023.

Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

Director Meneghin reported on last Tuesday's meeting regarding the scope of work, study plan, and how to best support/dovetail the environmental stakeholders' efforts with those of the Agency. She reported that Friends of the Santa Clara River will have their Coastal Cleanup event on Saturday, September 23, 2023.

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

Director Mendez was absent.

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

Director Kimball reported United's significant recharge in all basins, and that it will continue until October or November. He stated that diversions at Freeman have remained at 375 cfs, and said the District is expecting Article 21 water to be available in the coming weeks. He also said Lake Piru is still full and lake levels will be dropping as the District implements a release for basins recharge. He also mentioned that Castaic is still receiving and releasing water. He said United is progressing well with the Navy on the Extraction Barrier Brackish Water project, and also touched on the outcome of the San

Buenaventura litigation with United.

Chair Long said we are all awaiting snowpack results.

County of Ventura Member Director Update

Chair Long reported that approval of the County's budget is pending, and said the County is working with Public Works and FEMA to obtain grant funding to repair damaged drains in the County, which will help to improve water flow and help divert water.

2B Executive Director Update Information Item

The Executive Director provided an informational update on Agency activities since the previous Board of Directors meeting of May 18, 2023. Mr. Emmert reported staff are working on amending grant Invoice 15 per DWR's comments and will then resubmit and may potentially negotiate a grant amendment to adjust budget line items, which would facilitate utilizing all the available grant budget with an Invoice 16. He also stated DWR's recommended award for SGM Implementation Round 2 grant list did not include the Agency's applications. Mr. Emmert said staff plans to bring forward a report on receivables and a proposal for the Executive Orders N-7-22 and N-3-23 compliant well permit review process during the July 20, 2023, Board Meeting.

2C Legal Counsel Update Information Item

Legal Counsel provided an informational update on Agency's legal issues and concerns since the previous Board of Directors meeting of May 18, 2023. Steve O'Neill discussed AB 560 and AB 779 that are both set for a June 27 committee hearing. He also explained the case of Sackett versus USEPA and how that case can affect the Agency.

2D GSP Consultant Update Information Item

Tony Morgan from Daniel B Stephens & Associates provided an informational update on the Agency's groundwater sustainability planning and reporting activities since the previous Board of Directors meeting of May 18, 2023. Mr. Morgan said there are active discussions going on in Sacramento regarding the reworking of California water rights system. He also said the Agency was not awarded any grant money from DWR and explained the distribution of grant awards.

The Board, Mr. Emmert, Mr. O'Neill, and Mr. Morgan all voiced their thoughts on the grant awards and Assemblymember Bennett's AB 560.

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 May 18, 2023.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board approved payment of outstanding vendor invoices:

DBS&A	\$6,931.39
The Fillmore Gazette	\$ 108.00

3C Monthly Financial Report

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

Motion to approve Consent Calendar items, Director Jackson; second, Director Kimball. Roll call vote: five ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, and Meneghin); none opposed, one absent (Mendez). Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

4. MOTION ITEMS

4A Amendment to Agreement with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates for Technical Support Services

Motion

The Board discussed Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement No. 2019-01-18-DBSA with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. for as-needed technical support services.

Motion to approve, Director Meneghin; Second, Director Jackson. Voice vote: five ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long and Meneghin), none opposed, one absent (Mendez). Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

4B Task Order with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates for Online Database Hosting Services

Motion

The Board discussed Task Order 2023-01 with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc., for hosting the agency's online groundwater database.

Motion to approve, Director Meneghin; Second, Director Kimball. Voice vote: five ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long and Meneghin), none opposed, one absent (Mendez). Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

4C Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Groundwater Extraction Charge and Adoption of Resolution 2023-02

Motion

The Board conducted a public hearing to receive stakeholder comments regarding the proposed groundwater extraction fee of \$12 per acre-foot and adopted Resolution 2023-02 setting the proposed extraction fee to become effective on July 1, 2023.

Chair Long opened the public hearing, and asked if anyone had any comments, with no comments from virtual or in person attendees, she then announced the closing of the public hearing.

Director Kimball stated he would like to see pumpers paying nine dollars per acre-foot instead of the proposed \$12 dollars. He suggested this idea be revisited for next fiscal year. Both Director's Long and Meneghin also agreed and hope it can be reduced by next year.

Motion to approve Resolution 2023-02, Director Fornoff; Second, Director Kimball. Voice vote: five ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long and Meneghin), none opposed, one absent (Mendez). Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

4D Resolution 2023-03 Adopting Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

Motion

The Board discussed adoption of Resolution 2023-03, approving the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-03, approving the FY 2023-2024 Budget, Director Meneghin; Second, Director Jackson. Voice vote: five ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long and Meneghin), none opposed, one absent (Mendez). Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

5. FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

None mentioned.


6. ADJOURNMENT 4:56p.m.

Chair Long adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m. to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on Thursday, **July 20, 2023**, or call of the Chair.

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 June 15, 2020.

ATTEST: 

Kelly Long, Chair, FFB GSA Board of Directors

ATTEST: 

Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board