



Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Special Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, April 4, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
City of Fillmore City Hall Council Chambers
250 Central Avenue, Fillmore, CA 93016
and
Fig Garden Financial Center
5250 N. Palm Avenue Suite 401,
Fresno, CA 93704

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87537328359?pwd=QWIXZTdLYWxlRDVnS2ZUSEVWZG83QT09>

Meeting ID: **875 3732 8359** Passcode: **691025**

To hear just the audio portion of the meeting, phone into:
Toll-free number: **877 853 5247** Meeting ID: **875 3732 8359**

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. MOTION ITEMS

2A Amendment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Motion

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates and staff summarizing the Agency's progress toward addressing the findings, comments and recommendations received from the California Department of Water Resources regarding the Agency's Fillmore Basin Groundwater Management Plan and Piru Basin Groundwater Management Plan and provide comments and direction.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board will adjourn to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on Thursday, **April 18, 2024**, 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) April 2, 2024 (time) 12:30pm (attest) Eva Ibarra
At: <https://www.FPBGSA.org>

Posted: (date) April 2, 2024 (time) 12:35pm (attest) Eva Ibarra
At: <https://www.facebook.com/FPBGSA/>

Posted: (date) April 2, 2024 (time) 12:40pm (attest) Eva Ibarra
At: UWCD, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

Posted: (date) April 2, 2024 (time) 12:45 pm (attest) Eva Ibarra
At: Fillmore City Hall, 250 Central Avenue, Fillmore, CA 93016



Item No. **2A Motion**

DATE: March 31, 2024 (for April 4, 2024, meeting)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **Amendment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates and staff summarizing the Agency's progress toward addressing the findings, comments and recommendations received from the California Department of Water Resources regarding the Agency's Fillmore Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Piru Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and provide comments and direction.

DISCUSSION

On December 18, 2021, the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) adopted groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) for the Fillmore subbasin and Piru subbasin, and subsequently submitted them to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for review and approval, as per the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). On January 18, 2024, the DWR transmitted its findings and recommendations to the Agency. DWR determined that the two GSPs were incomplete, pursuant to Section 355.2(e)(2) of the GSP regulations. The two areas the DWR determined to be deficient were: 1) sustainable groundwater management criteria (undesirable results, minimum thresholds, and effects) associated with groundwater levels, and 2) must set preliminary sustainable management criteria for depletions of interconnected surface water associated with groundwater use. The Agency has 180 days to address the deficiencies and resubmit the GSPs to DWR, no later than July 16, 2024.

Agency staff has been coordinating with DWR SGMA staff on an ongoing basis. Three technical consultation meetings have been held, and a fourth is scheduled for April 5, 2024. The primary subject matter to date has been developing a better description of the undesirable results associated with lowered water levels, specifically: 1) chronic lowering of water levels, and 2) reduction of groundwater storage; and better describing how those line up with the associated sustainability criteria selected by the Agency. Proposed revised significant and unreasonable impacts to be avoided:

- 1) decreased ability of wells to supply the water demand of all groundwater uses and users, and
- 2) reduction of groundwater storage values to less than five times the average annual groundwater extractions for the basin.

This would be accomplished by avoiding wells (domestic, municipal, and irrigation) going dry due to groundwater extractions. Monitoring wells do not satisfy water demands, so a monitoring well going dry would not be a significant and unreasonable impact. Utilizing this methodology, the Agency team recommends setting a minimum threshold of 50 feet below 2011 average water level elevation for the Fillmore subbasin and 75 feet below 2011 average water level elevation for the Piru subbasin. These

levels would allow the Agency to act before significant and unreasonable impacts occurred. Additionally, staff recommends that the Agency create of a dry domestic well mitigation plan that could be implemented if the minimum thresholds are reached. The Agency’s consultant and staff team will develop and present options for the Board to consider.

To stay on schedule to produce and approve amended groundwater sustainability plans by June 2024, in the upcoming April 5, 2024 consultation meeting with DWR, discussions will transition to interconnected surface water.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Agency’s Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget includes sufficient funds to amend its GSPs.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Motion:

Provide comments and direction to staff regarding amendment of the groundwater sustainability plans.

1st: Director _____ 2nd: Director _____

Voice/Roll call vote:

Director Fornoff:
Director Long:

Director Jackson:
Director Mendez:

Director Kimball:
Director Meneghin: