



Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 4:00p.m.

MINUTES

Directors in Attendance

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

Directors 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

Christian Braudrick, Stillwater Science
Beth Crockatt, Piru Citizen
Jesse Gomez (virtual)
Sara Guzman, UWCD (virtual)
Logan Hardison, Lu Peaera
Taylor Jones, UWCD (virtual)
Helen McGrath (virtual)
Tony Morgan, DBS&A
Sean Morris, Morris Ranch Co.
Patrick O'Connell, UWCD
Zachary Plummer, UWCD
Gus Tolley, DBS&A

1. CALL TO ORDER 4:01p.m.

Director Long called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

1A Pledge of Allegiance

Director Kimball led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1B Directors Roll Call

The Clerk called the roll. 5 Directors were present: Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, and Meneghin. Director Mendez was absent.

1C Public Comments

Director Long asked if there were any comments or questions from the public.

A resident of the City of Piru expressed her concern over the Chiquita Canyon Landfill incident and asked for support in finding out what the status is on the issue. Director Long suggested that the County of Ventura Office of Emergency Services' website would be a good source of information, as it is regularly updated with the latest on the incident.

1D Approval of Agenda Motion

Director Long asked Executive Director Emmert if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Emmert responded with saying yes, staff recommended reordering the motion items to consider the Amended GSPs prior to considering the groundwater extraction fees. Director Long then asked for a motion with the requested modification .

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

2. UPDATES

2A Director Announcements/Board Communications:

Oral Reports from the Board.

Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Jackson reported the Fillmore Pumpers Association had their annual meeting this week and are concerned over rise in groundwater fees.

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Fornoff said Piru Pumpers Association stakeholders met and are also concerned over groundwater fees rising, and stated she was reappointed as representative of the GSA.

Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

Director Meneghin said Friends of the Santa Clara River and others are supporting Jacqui Irwin in forwarding wildlife corridors bill for funding through Wildlife Conservation Board. She said Friends of the Santa Clara River is hosting restoration sites tour on June 21st and will be highlighting the new monitoring wells near the East Grove GDE and the Sisar Creek project.

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

Director Mendez was absent.

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

Director Kimball said United Water reluctantly approved groundwater extraction fees increases, driven by regulatory-driven and human safety-driven capital improvement project's needs, and he hopes rates will stabilize as United applies for grants and loans to offset the costs of the projects.

County of Ventura Member Director Update

Chair Long reported the County has now approved their budget and is working on recruiting a Public Works Director. She said the County is coordinating with Los Angeles County on the Chiquita Canyon Landfill incident and said you can visit the County OES website to obtain the latest information.

2B Executive Director Update

Information Item

The Executive Director said the Agency has now received grant reimbursement payments from DWR, with only the 10% retention outstanding.

2C Legal Counsel Update

Information Item

Legal Counsel said Indian Wells Valley GSP's were approved by DWR; parties have filed adjudication challenging the GSA and its GSP. He also said the courts should rely on GSP findings for Bennett's 5560 Bill, and mentioned the supreme court ruled the taxation proposition should not be on the ballot, as it is not simply an amendment to the constitution.

2D GSP Consultant Update

Information Item

Representatives 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 16, 2024. Mr. Tony Morgan provided slides regarding GSP updates and workplan.

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 of Directors meeting of May 16 and May 30, Special Board Meeting minutes.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board approved payment of outstanding vendor invoice:

DBS&A	\$43,459.07
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3C Monthly Financial Report

The Board received the monthly financial report for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Motion to approve consent calendar, Director Kimball; Second, Director Meneghin. Voice vote: 5 ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, Meneghin) none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

4. MOTION ITEMS

4A Waiver of Late Fees and Interest for Limoneira Company

Motion

The Board approved waiving late fees and interest in the amount of \$261.07 for the Limoneira Company.

Motion to approve, Director Long; Second, Director Jackson. Voice vote: 4 ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Long, and Meneghin) none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 4/0/2. Director Kimball recused and left chambers while voting took place.

4B Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Groundwater Extraction Fee and Adoption of Resolution 2024-03 Public Hearing and Motion

The Board conducted a public hearing and received stakeholder comments regarding the proposed groundwater extraction fee of \$14 per acre-foot. Director Jackson recommended modifying Resolution 2024-03 setting the proposed extraction fee to \$13 per acre-foot to become effective on July 1, 2024.

Motion to approve amended resolution 2024-03 with the change to \$13 per-acre foot, Director Kimball; Second, Director Meneghin. Voice vote: 5 ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, Meneghin) none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

4C Groundwater Sustainability Plans Workshop

Motion

The Board received a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens & Associates on the Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plans, received comments and questions from stakeholders, and provided comments and recommendations to Agency team. Discussions followed with staff, DBS&A and Board Directors.

Director Kimball said the executive summary emphasizes releases of treated water from Santa Clarita and de-emphasizes local natural and artificial recharge that could be misinterpreted. DBS&A said they will evaluate and modify executive summary for clarity.

4D Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

Motion

The Board received a presentation from staff regarding the Agency's anticipated scope of work and budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and provided comments. Director Jackson recommended modification of the draft budget to reflect the \$53,000 reduced revenue from the \$13 per acre-foot extraction charge just adopted, and for a reserve policy to be put in place. Sara Guzman, Finance Supervisor, said the Accounting department will send out a letter showing the rate increase from \$12 to \$13 per acre-foot to all customers.

Motion to approve amended Resolution 2024-03 with the change to \$13 per-acre foot and a reserve policy to be put in place, Director Kimball; Second, Director Meneghin. Voice vote: 5 ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, Meneghin) none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

5. FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

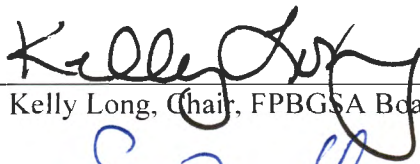
Send letters regarding Chiquita Canyon Landfill to agencies.

6. ADJOURNMENT 6:05 pm.

Director Long adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m. to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on Thursday, **July 18, 2024**, 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 20, 2024.

ATTEST:



Kelly Long, Chair, FPBGSA Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board of Directors