

LAS POSAS BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, December 21, 2023

In Person:

Calleguas Municipal Water District, 2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84816327542?pwd=Y-bN4zt674FOphU6wRyxXw9swYTqvA.9bNuXf3yWWBZyrae>

Webinar ID: 848 1632 7542

Passcode: 400774

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Las Posas Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) will hold a meeting at 3:00 P.M. on **Thursday, December 21, 2023**, in the Board Meeting Room of the Calleguas Municipal Water District and via Zoom.

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Roll Call**
- D. Agenda Review**
- E. Public Comments**
- F. PAC Member Comments**
- G. Regular Agenda**
 - 1. Approve the Minutes of the December 7, 2023 Meeting**
 - 2. PAC scheduling**

Adopt the attached schedule of regular meetings of the PAC.
 - 3. Brown Act Presentation**

Grant Burton, Manager of Human Resources and Risk Management at Calleguas Municipal Water District, will give an overview of the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act, which is intended to ensure that public bodies such as the PAC take their actions and conduct their deliberations openly.
 - 4. Initial Watermaster Budget**

Receive a briefing from the ad hoc budget committee on the status of the Initial Fiscal Year 2023-24 Watermaster Budget.
 - 5. PAC Administrator and TAC recruitment**

Receive an update from the ad hoc search committee on the process and approach to recruiting a PAC Administrator and the three funded Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members.
- H. Adjourn**

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the December 7, 2023 Meeting

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held its initial meeting at 3:00 PM on Thursday, December 7, 2023, in the Board Meeting Room of the Calleguas Municipal Water District Office and via Zoom.

- A. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by PAC member Rob Grether. Rob Grether moved to nominate John Menne to serve as temporary chair to preside over the meeting until the elections of the chair and vice-chair could be finalized as scheduled during the Regular Agenda portion of the meeting. Richard Cavaletto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. John Menne proceeded as temporary chair with the agenda items as listed.

- B. Pledge of Allegiance

- C. Roll Call – All PAC members were present as follows:
 - 1. Zone Mutual Water Company - John Menne
 - 2. Calleguas Municipal Water District - Ian Prichard
 - 3. Ventura County Waterworks District Nos. 1 and 19 - Joseph Pope
 - 4. Commercial - Scott Meckstroth
 - 5. Watermaster (non-voting) – Farai Kaseke (via Zoom)
 - 6. East Las Posas Large Agriculture - David Schwabauer
 - 7. East Las Posas Small Agriculture - Josh Waters
 - 8. East Las Posas Mutual Water Company - Laurel Servin
 - 9. West Las Posas Large Agriculture - Rob Grether
 - 10. West Las Posas Small Agriculture - Richard Cavaletto
 - 11. West Las Posas Mutual Water Company - Steven Murata

- D. Agenda Review No changes.

- E. Public Comments – Three local landowners provided comments regarding lost allocations.

- F. PAC Member Comments – There were no PAC member comments.

- G. Regular Agenda
 - Item 1: Initial Meeting(s) Protocol. Appoint PAC member to take and publish minutes of initial PAC meeting and to develop and publish agendas and to take minutes of future PAC meetings until a PAC Administrator is appointed by the Watermaster. John Menne asked Caroline Wesley, general manager of Berylwood Heights Mutual Water Company, to take and publish minutes of the initial PAC meeting(s) during this interim period until a PAC Administrator is appointed by the Watermaster; all members agreed to this temporary assignment. Meeting agendas will be created by the chair and vice chair or their designee until a PAC Administrator is appointed.

 - Item: 2: Election of Officers (Chair and Vice Chair) and establish Time and Place of Regular Meeting Dates (Judgment § 6.5).
 - i. The position of PAC Chair was opened for nominations. Rob Grether moved to nominate Ian Prichard for the chair position. Joseph Pope seconded the motion. There were no

further nominations presented. The vote was unanimous in favor of Ian Prichard as PAC Chair. John Menne relinquished the temporary chair role and Ian Prichard assumed the role of PAC Chair.

- ii. The position of PAC Vice-Chair was opened for nominations. Laurel Servin moved to nominate John Menne for the vice-chair position. Josh Waters seconded the motion. John Menne thanked them for the nomination, but stated that he did not have the time to perform the vice-chair duties for the committee, and asked to have their nominations withdrawn. Laurel Servin and Josh Waters withdrew their nominations for John Menne. Josh Waters made a motion to nominate Rob Grether for the vice-chair position. John Menne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of Rob Grether as PAC Vice-Chair, and Rob Grether accepted the position.
- iii. Vice-Chair Grether made a motion to hold the PAC meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 3:00 PM in the Board Meeting Room of the Calleguas Municipal Water District Office. Chair Prichard confirmed that the room should usually be available for this purpose; Joseph Pope offered use of the conference room at the Water Works office in Moorpark as an alternative location in cases when the Calleguas option is unavailable. Joseph Pope seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously. The next meeting date is Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 3:00 PM in the Board Meeting Room of the Calleguas Municipal Water District Office, and on the first and third Thursdays of each month at the same time and location going forward until further notice.

Item 3: Nomination of PAC Administrator, TAC Administrator, and Other Two TAC Members. Discuss next steps for generating candidates and issuing nominations to Watermaster.

- i. There was a discussion about the PAC Administrator position and whether the language in the Judgment (Section 6.10) clearly states whether it is meant to be a paid position or not. Kim Loeb of FCGMA advised that the current proposed budget does not include funding for a paid PAC Administrator. The PAC needs to get additional answers and clarification from Watermaster about the position and review possible candidates.
- ii. The TAC Administrator is a paid position, and is one of the three paid TAC positions which must be filled.
- iii. Vice-Chair Grether made a motion to empower Chair Prichard to appoint an ad hoc sub-committee to review and evaluate candidates for the PAC Administrator, TAC Administrator, and two other TAC members, and to present the chosen candidates to the PAC for review and submission to the Watermaster for final selection. Joseph Pope seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. . Chair Prichard agreed to proceed with the creation of the hiring sub-committee.

Item 4: Review Membership Responsibilities (Judgment § 6.6) The PAC reviewed the terms of the Judgment concerning the PAC members' responsibilities including attendance and participation, requirement to read materials and come to each meeting informed and prepared to discuss the topics on the agenda, and the importance of creating lines of communication with their respective constituency groups so they can accurately reflect the views of their groups. As an advisory committee, the PAC is tasked with creating a collaborative relationship between FCGMA/Watermaster and the LPV Basin water rights holders.

Item 5: Discussion/Planning for Brown Act Compliance. See attached presentation of Brown Act overview provided to the Borrego Basin Watermaster. Vice-Chair Grether suggested that a formal training presentation for this important law should be added to the agenda for one of the January meetings.

Item 6: Discussion/Planning for Judgment Tasks

Items 6.i through 6.iv were deferred to a future date to be determined once the PAC and TAC committees are staffed and operational. The group recognizes that there are hard due dates for many of these items, therefore prompt collection of assessments is needed to fund the committees.

- i. Budget and Scope of Work for Basin Optimization Yield Study – Topic deferred.
- ii. Annual Report – Topic deferred.
- iii. Basin Optimization Plan – Topic deferred.
- iv. Technical Representative on ASR Study Group – Topic deferred.

- v. Initial Watermaster Budget and Basin Assessment – The proposed Watermaster budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 (FY2023-24) was put together by FCGMA staff, and is up for review by the FCGMA board on December 15, 2023. FCGMA's fiscal year ends on June 30, 2024, and it is assumed that the Watermaster FY will follow the same FY calendar. The PAC reviewed the budget and discussed many questions. There is a proposed assessment to all water rights holders in the LPV Basin of \$64 per acre foot of allocation for the FY2023-24 fiscal year. The group identified the following initial high-priority items for budget review by the PAC:
 - a. Ensure there are no duplicative fees being assessed to the Watermaster budget that are already assessed through the regular extraction/pumping fee of \$55/AF. The Watermaster budget should support LPV Basin Judgment-related issues, and not ongoing fees for all Basins.
 - b. Make sure there's adequate/additional funding for the PAC Administrator role.
 - c. Review the salaries for the TAC professionals to ensure that they are appropriate.

Vice-Chair Grether made a motion to empower Chair Prichard to appoint a second ad hoc sub-committee to evaluate the budget including a session with Kim Loeb, FCGMA Groundwater Manager, who will explain the various line items to the sub-committee. Further, Vice-Chair Grether recommended that the sub-committee should create a letter on behalf of the PAC asking the FCGMA board to postpone acceptance of the budget until the PAC can evaluate and understand its contents. The letter will detail the PAC's specific concerns. John Menne seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous favorable vote. Chair Prichard agreed to develop the budget sub-committee as a high priority.

- H. Adjournment – With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Prichard at 5:02 PM.

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN WATERMASTER POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2024 REGULAR MEETINGS

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