

LAS POSAS BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 7, 2024, 3:00 P.M.

In Person:

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

Via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84816327542?pwd=Y-bN4zt674FOphU6wRyxXw9swYTgvA.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, March 7, 2024**, in the Board Meeting Room of the Calleguas Municipal Water District and via Zoom.

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Agenda Review

D. Public Comments

E. PAC Member Comments

F. Regular Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the following meetings:

- February 6, 2024 Special Meeting
- February 8, 2024 Special Meeting
- February 9, 2024 Special Meeting
- February 15, 2024 Regular Meeting

2. Watermaster/Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) staffing

The FCGMA, which provides staff to the Watermaster, is experiencing staffing challenges. The FCGMA Board has begun investigating alternative staffing arrangements to ensure their work can proceed. The PAC will consider whether and how to weigh in on this issue.

3. Update on Initial Basin Assessment

At its regular meeting on February 28, 2024, the Watermaster/FCGMA Board approved the following Resolution regarding the Water Year 2023 Basin Assessment:

We authorize the Staff to issue a billing on the assessment for 50% of the assessment effective March 1 with the balance to be billed in a supplemental billing on June 1, and between those time, Staff will report back to the Finance Committee and to the Board concerning adjustments and actual expenditures so that we can see whether or not a revised assessment would actually lower the assessment and either extinguish or reduce the June first billing.

4. Committee Consultation: GSP Annual Report

On February 29th 2024, the Watermaster submitted to the PAC the draft 2024 Las Posas Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Annual Report for committee consultation. The cover memo is attached to this packet. The draft plan can be found here full: [DRAFT 2024 LPVB GSP Annual Report_2024.02.27.pdf](#). The PAC will discuss the process for review. The Watermaster requests PAC comments on the GSP Annual Report by March 16, 2024.

5. PAC Administrator

The PAC will discuss the responsibilities of the PAC Administrator and how to fill the position.

6. Constituent Education/Communication

The PAC will discuss means and methods of improved stakeholder communication.

G. Future Agenda Items

The PAC will consider items for future agendas.

H. Adjourn

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2024

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a special meeting at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, via Zoom.

A. Call to Order: Chair Prichard called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M.

B. Roll Call: The following members of the PAC were present and quorum requirements were satisfied:

1. Calleguas Municipal Water District – Ian Prichard, Chair
2. Zone Mutual Water Company – John Menne
3. Commercial – Scott Meckstroth
4. Watermaster (non-voting) – Farai Kaseke (1st interview only)
5. East Las Posas Large Agriculture – David Schwabauer
6. East Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Laurel Servin
7. West Las Posas Large Agriculture – Rob Grether, Vice Chair
8. West Las Posas Small Agriculture – Richard Cavaletto
9. West Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Steven Murata

C. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

D. PAC Member Comments: There were no PAC member comments.

E. Closed Session – Public Employee Appointment

- a. The PAC entered a closed session at 2:11 P.M. for the purpose of interviewing candidates for consideration of appointment to the LPV Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee.
- b. The closed session was terminated at 4:29 P.M., and regular session resumed. There were no items reported to members of the public as a result of the closed session.

F. Adjourn: With no further business on the agenda, Chair Prichard adjourned the meeting at 4:43 P.M.

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2024

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a special meeting at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 8, 2024, via Zoom.

A. Call to Order: Chair Prichard called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

B. Roll Call: The following members of the PAC were present and quorum requirements were satisfied:

1. Calleguas Municipal Water District – Ian Prichard, Chair
2. Zone Mutual Water Company – John Menne
3. Ventura County WW Districts 1 and 19 – Joseph Pope
4. Commercial – Scott Meckstroth
5. Watermaster (non-voting) – Farai Kaseke
6. East Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Laurel Servin
7. West Las Posas Large Agriculture – Rob Grether, Vice Chair
8. West Las Posas Small Agriculture – Richard Cavaletto
9. West Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Steven Murata

C. Public Comments: One member of the public asked for clarification of the purpose of the meeting and the general purpose of the PAC and TAC.

D. PAC Member Comments: There were no PAC member comments.

E. Closed Session – Public Employee Appointment Pursuant to California Government Code 54957:

- a. The PAC entered a closed session at 2:10 P.M. for the purpose of interviewing candidates for consideration of appointment to the LPV Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee.
- b. The closed session was terminated at 4:41 P.M., and regular session resumed. There were no reportable items from the closed session.

F. Adjourn: With no further business on the agenda, Chair Prichard adjourned the meeting at 4:45 P.M.

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes for February 9, 2024

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a special meeting at 1:00 P.M. on Friday, February 9, 2024, via Zoom.

A. Call to Order: Chair Prichard called the meeting to order at 1:03 P.M.

B. Roll Call: The following members of the PAC were present and quorum requirements were satisfied:

1. Calleguas Municipal Water District – Ian Prichard, Chair
2. Zone Mutual Water Company – John Menne
3. Ventura County WW Districts 1 and 19 – Joseph Pope
4. Commercial – Scott Meckstroth
5. Watermaster (non-voting) – Farai Kaseke
6. East Las Posas Large Agriculture – David Schwabauer
7. East Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Laurel Servin
8. West Las Posas Large Agriculture – Rob Grether, Vice Chair
9. West Las Posas Small Agriculture – Richard Cavaletto
10. West Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Steven Murata

C. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

D. PAC Member Comments: There were no PAC member comments.

E. Closed Session – Public Employee Appointment Pursuant to California Government Code 54957:

- a. The PAC entered a closed session at 1:04 P.M. for the purpose of interviewing candidates for consideration of appointment to the LPV Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee.
- b. The closed session was terminated at 4:26 P.M., and regular session resumed. There were no reportable items from the closed session.

F. Adjourn: With no further business on the agenda, Chair Prichard adjourned the meeting at 4:29 P.M.

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2024

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a meeting at 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 15, 2024, in the Board Meeting Room of the Calleguas Municipal Water District Office and via Zoom.

A. Call to Order: Chair Prichard called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M.

B. Roll Call: All PAC members were present unless otherwise noted:

1. Calleguas Municipal Water District – Ian Prichard, Chair
2. Zone Mutual Water Company – John Menne
3. Ventura County Waterworks District Nos. 1 and 19 – Joseph Pope (via Zoom)
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 – Not Present
8. East Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Laurel Servin (via Zoom)
9. West Las Posas Large Agriculture – Rob Grether, Vice Chair
10. West Las Posas Small Agriculture – Richard Cavaletto
11. West Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Steven Murata

C. Agenda Review: There were no requested changes to the agenda.

D. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

E. PAC Member Comments:

Laurel Servin, representing mutual water companies in the East Las Posas, reiterated her concern that the \$64 per acre foot fee includes items that are excessive and duplicative. Ms. Servin is of the opinion that the only sizable and non-duplicative new expenses for the first year are the cost of the TAC members, the PAC Administrator, and some administrative work by the Watermaster. Ms. Servin would like the entire PAC to have ample opportunity to review and vote on the Watermaster budget and other financial issues using the same method as the nominating committee used, meaning the budget sub-committee reviews and shares results with the full PAC prior to the commencement of billing.

Regarding stakeholder communications, Ms. Servin is concerned that many farmers in the basin, both large and small ag operators, have no knowledge of what the PAC/TAC are doing for them, nor are they expecting additional assessments. Ms. Servin proposes getting some communication out to WMID holders so they understand what is happening as a result of the adjudication and to prepare them for the new assessments coming soon.

F. Regular Agenda

1. **Approve the minutes of the February 1, 2024, Meeting:** Richard Cavaletto made a motion to approve the minutes as stated for the February 1, 2024, meeting; John Menne seconded the motion which passed with unanimous consent.

2. Committee Consultation

- a. Water Year (WY) 2023 Annual Allocation: The PAC reviewed the Watermaster-provided revised (WY) 2023 Annual Allocation schedule. It was approved unanimously.

3. TAC Nominations – Closed Session – Public Employee Appointment

- a. At 3:20 P.M., pursuant to California Government Code 54957, the PAC convened in a closed session to confer regarding the nomination of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members.
- b. The closed session was terminated at 4:25 P.M., and regular session resumed. The PAC nominating subcommittee performed seventeen initial candidate interviews, and narrowed the list to six finalists, who were each interviewed by the PAC panel during the week of February 5, 2024. After discussion and votes for each position, the following TAC nominations were reported after the closed session:
 - i. Selection for TAC Administrator nominee is Chad Taylor – vote was approved unanimously
 - ii. Selection for East LPV TAC member nominee is Tony Morgan – vote was approved unanimously
 - iii. Selection for West LPV TAC member nominee is Bob Abrams – vote was approved unanimously

The PAC Chair will create a letter for delivery to the Watermaster which will name the nominees for consideration and approval by the Watermaster at the next FCGMA Board of Directors' meeting on February 28, 2024.

- G. Future Agenda Items:** Requests were made for future agendas to include: 1) A review of the job duties, salary, and requirements for the PAC Administrator position; 2) Development of method(s) to communicate with the constituents in the LPV regarding Basin Assessments and other topics; and 3) Discussion about the creation of the water market and associated policies, etc.
- H. Adjournment:** Chair Prichard adjourned the meeting at 4:31 P.M., until the next regular meeting, which is scheduled for March 7, 2024.

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

LAS POSAS VALLEY WATERMASTER



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 28, 2024
To: Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee
From: Kudzai F. Kaseke, Assistant Groundwater Manager
Subject: Draft Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan 2024 Annual Report Covering Water Year 2023.

Dear Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee (PAC):

Attached for your review is the Las Posas Valley Watermaster's (Watermaster) Draft 2024 Las Posas Valley Basin GSP Annual Report. The Las Posas Valley Judgment states that, in its role as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), FCGMA shall file an Annual Report and each GSP Update to DWR, and in its role as Watermaster, the FCGMA shall file each Annual Report and each GSP Update with the Court as part of the technical data to be considered and as a material component of the Basin Optimization Yield and all future Reassessments of the Basin Optimization Yield as set forth in the Judgment § 4.9.

The Watermaster plans to bring the 2024 Las Posas Valley Basin GSP Annual Report to the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Board of Directors (acting as the Watermaster Board) for approval at its March 27, 2024, meeting and submission to DWR by April 1, 2024. Please provide feedback via the email below to the Watermaster by March 16, 2024, to enable incorporation of your feedback before presentation to the Watermaster and submission to DWR.

Please contact me at 805 654 2010 or LPV.Watermaster@ventura.org with any questions or concerns.