# LAS POSAS BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 4, 2024, 3:00 P.M.

#### In Person:

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

#### Via Zoom:

 $\underline{https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84816327542?pwd=Y-bN4zt674FOphU6wRyxXw9swYTgvA.9bNuXf3yWWBZyrae}$ 

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, April 4, 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 March 21, 2024 regular PAC meeting.

#### 2. Non-Voting TAC Appointments

The Judgment provides for each PAC member to appoint a non-voting member to the Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Now that the TAC has been established and the voting member nominations made, the PAC will submit its representatives for non-voting members. If a PAC member has not yet designated its non-voting member, the TAC can accept them at any time; this is not the only opportunity to designate.

#### 3. Committee Consultation

On January 12, 2024, the FCGMA Board of Directors approved a scope of work to prepare the LPVB Basin Optimization Plan. The scope of work included six tasks that support development of the Basin Optimization Plan. As outlined in the Judgement and described in the approved scope of work, the first two tasks require committee consultation prior to the development of the remainder of the Basin Optimization Plan. These tasks are: (i) development of Project Evaluation Criteria and (ii) technical evaluation of projects that will be included in the Basin Optimization Plan.

A memo from Watermaster summarizing work on tasks to date and requesting PAC consultation is attached. also attached are the project list, the draft project evaluation

checklist, and the draft project ranking sheet.

## 4. FCGMA Staffing

At its March 27 meeting, the FCGMA voted to authorize the Executive Committee to evaluate the fiscal impacts of alternative staffing options for the agency. These options, as presented by Chair West, include "Independent Direct Staffing," in which the FCGMA Executive Officer and newly created Assistant Executive Officer would be "exclusive" employees of the FCGMA; "Hybrid Indirect Staffing," in which employees of the County and/or United would be subject only to FCGMA direction and management; and "Fully Indirect Staffing," in which the FCGMA's scope of work is entirely outsourced to consultants and contractors. The Deputy General Manager made comments reflecting Board discussion on this item, to the effect that the FCGMA would be best served by maintaining full and direct supervisory control over its Executive Officer and by not rushing a full financial and pro/con analysis of staffing alternatives.

The PAC will discuss how to remain involved in the process.

## 5. PAC Administrator Budget

The nominating subcommittee has continued to meet with prospective PAC Administrator candidates and consider options. Rob Grether, chair of the nominating subcommittee, will present a budget and associated considerations.

#### 6. PAC Administrator: Closed Session

Pursuant to California Government Code 54957, the PAC will enter into closed session to confer regarding the nomination of a PAC Administrator.

#### G. Future Agenda Items

The PAC will consider items for future agendas.

#### H. Adjourn

#### LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

#### Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2024

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a meeting at 3:00 PM on Thursday,

March 21, 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 3:01 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 Not present
  - 4. Commercial Scott Meckstroth
  - 5. Watermaster (non-voting) Farai Kaseke (via Zoom)
  - 6. East Las Posas Large Agriculture David Schwabauer Not present
  - 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, 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: Steven Murata, West LPV mutual water company representative, made a statement that his involvement with Del Norte Mutual Water Company will not in any way affect his participation or his commitment to the PAC. This comment was made in response to Del Norte Mutual Water Company's current involvement in an appeal related to the LPV Adjudication.
- F. Regular Agenda
  - 1. Approve meeting minutes for regular PAC meeting on March 7, 2024: John Menne made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as stated for the March 7, 2024, meeting; Rob Grether seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent.
  - 2. Watermaster/Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) staffing: FCGMA, which provides staff to the Watermaster, received an opinion from the law firm of Rutan & Tucker, LLP which provides alternatives for staffing FCGMA (which will directly affect the staffing of Watermaster). In summary, the opinion states that FCGMA is not limited to use of County of Ventura and United Water Conservation District for its staffing needs.

Chair Prichard made a motion to submit to Watermaster the following PAC recommendation: FCGMA should begin by hiring an independent executive officer and independent counsel (not affiliated with County of Ventura); these individuals would work closely with the FCGMA board to develop future staffing plans; the current Interim Executive Officer would be tasked with hiring temporary consulting staff to manage the most critical tasks of the FCGMA and Watermaster; and that among the critical tasks, the comparative evaluation of the FCGMA and Watermaster budgets should be prioritized. Laurel Servin seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent.

- 3. Watermaster Billing: There was one outstanding issue regarding the handling of late fees for late or non-payment of Basin Assessments. The PAC discussed various options with Watermaster who stated that the mutual water companies should assess late fees as their internal governance rules allow, and Watermaster will assess the mutual water companies as dictated by Section 2.8.2 of the Judgment as follows: "2.8.2 Delinquencies. Assessments become delinquent one month after the date it is due. Delinquent Assessments shall bear interest at the then current real property tax delinquency rate for Ventura County."
- 4. Update on GSP Annual Update: The PAC Chair submitted a Recommendation Report regarding the GSP Annual Report. This included identification of some missing data and a request for an extension on delivery of a final report from the PAC/TAC so the TAC could engage and provide meaningful feedback and oversight. Chair Prichard advised the PAC that Watermaster denied the request for extension as this is a hard date and no exceptions will be granted by FCGMA to submit a late report to Department of Water Resources.
- **5. PAC Administrator:** The PAC discussed the responsibilities of the PAC Administrator and how they want to fill the position. The following points were discussed:
  - a. The PAC Administrator is a high-profile position and should be filled by a highly qualified person with technical skills as this person will interface with the TAC and the FCGMA board.
  - b. There are many portions of the role that are administrative in nature and could be filled by someone whose hourly rate is much lower and these tasks do not require technical skills.
  - c. The Judgment does not allow the TAC Administrator to hold dual roles as both TAC and PAC Administrator within the first three years of Judgment administration, but does not preclude one of the regular TAC members from holding a dual role as TAC member and PAC Administrator.
  - d. Initial discussions were held with both regular TAC members, and they were both receptive to the possibility of acting as PAC Administrator with a support person performing the administrative tasks as appropriate.
  - e. It is important to the PAC that the PAC Administrator can explain things in non-technical terms for the benefit of the PAC members and the FCGMA board.

All members present agreed that the role should be given primarily to a senior-level hydrologist or hydrogeologist with an administrative support person performing the non-technical tasks as a cost-saving measure. The nominating committee will meet before the next PAC meeting and will present candidates for the PAC's consideration at the regular PAC meeting on April 4, 2024.

- G. Future Agenda Items: No future agenda items were requested.
- H. Adjournment: Chair Prichard adjourned the meeting at 5:27 P.M. until the special meeting which is scheduled for March 26, 2024, at 4:00 P.M. via Zoom.

# FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY LAS POSAS VALLEY WATERMASTER



#### **MEMORANDUM**

Date: March 28, 2024

To: Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee

From: Kudzai F. Kaseke, Assistant Groundwater Manager

Subject: Draft Las Posas Valley Basin Project Evaluation Criteria and Technical evaluation of

projects that will be included in the Basin Optimization Plan.

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

As the Watermaster for the Las Posas Valley Basin (LPVB), Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) is responsible for preparing the Basin Optimization Plan for the LPVB. The Judgement in Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency VENCI00509700 (Judgement) requires LPVB committee consultation during development of the Basin Optimization Plan.

On January 12, 2024, the FCGMA Board of Directors approved a scope of work to prepare the LPVB Basin Optimization Plan. The scope of work included six (6) tasks that support development of the Basin Optimization Plan. As outlined in the Judgement and described in the approved scope of work, the first two tasks require committee consultation prior to the development of the remainder of the Basin Optimization Plan. These tasks are: (i) development of Project Evaluation Criteria and (ii) technical evaluation of projects that will be included in the Basin Optimization Plan. Below is a summary of work completed on these tasks as of March 27, 2024.

## **Project Evaluation Criteria:**

Dudek, in coordination with FCGMA staff, has developed a draft set of Project Evaluation Criteria for committee review. These criteria are based on the current FCGMA project evaluation process used in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins (OPV). The draft criteria developed for the LPVB consist of two forms: a project evaluation checklist, which is used to solicit information from the Project proponent, and a project evaluation ranking sheet. These forms will be used to assess the priority and feasibility of each project.

#### Project Evaluation Criteria

The draft set of Project Evaluation Criteria are separated into four distinct categories:

- 1) Water Supply benefits
- 2) Timing / Feasibility
- 3) Cost and Funding
- 4) Additional Project Considerations

The criteria included in categories 1 through 3 are the same as the current FCGMA project evaluation process used in the OPV.

Category 4 – Additional Project Considerations – includes Judgment-specific information, such as a description of collaborations necessary to implement the project and a description of any anticipated material and unreasonable impact, as defined in the Judgement, that cannot be fully mitigated.

## Project Ranking Sheet

The project ranking sheet introduces a set of points associated with each category defined in the draft project evaluation criteria. Using the information provided by individual project proponents, each project will be scored using the proposed ranking sheet. The points awarded for water supply benefits, timing/feasibility, and cost and funding are the same as the current FCGMA project evaluation process used in the OPV.

The proposed points for the Additional Project Considerations are as follows:

- 1) Collaboration / Cooperation requirements do not impact project scoring.
- 2) If a project is anticipated to cause material and unreasonable impact, as defined in the Judgement, that cannot be fully mitigated, twenty-five (25) points will be subtracted from the overall project score.
  - The twenty-five (25) point reduction was selected to be equivalent to the maximum points awarded under the water supply category.

## **Technical Project Evaluation**

Following the development of the Project Evaluation Criteria, Dudek, in coordination with FCGMA, will begin technical review of the projects outlined in the Judgement. The scope of work approved by the FCGMA Board on January 12, 2024, identified nine (9) projects, each of which are identified in the Judgement, for inclusion in the Basin Optimization Plan.

To ensure that each project is appropriately evaluated, Dudek and FCGMA are requesting that LPVB committees:

- 1) Confirm that each project is appropriate for inclusion in the Basin Optimization Plan.
- 2) Confirm that the assumed project proponents are appropriate.
- 3) Provide input on the appropriate project proponent for Project 6.

Please provide feedback via email at <u>LPV.Watermaster@ventura.org</u> or contact me at 805 654 2010 with any questions or concerns.

**Projects Identified in the Judgement for Inclusion in the Basin Optimization Plan** 

		Project Assumptions			
Project No.	Project Title	Project Proponent	Project Type	Project Details	
	Removal, and periodic removal maintenance, of Arundo Donax from the Las Posas Valley watershed in an environmentally safe manner	FCGMA	Water Supply Water	Dudek assumes that the project details and benefits are the same as those developed during FCGMA's application for DWR's SGM Round 2 SGMA Implementation funding opportunity. Dudek will update the project description, as necessary, based on revised project evaluation criteria developed in Task 1.  Dudek assumes that CMWD will develop the project description, cost estimates, and timing for implementation of	
2	2 Importing of surplus water	CMWD	Supply	this project.	
3	Arroyo Las Posas storm water capture and 3 recharge	VCWWD-1	Water Supply	Dudek assumes that the project details and benefits are the same as those provided by VCWWD-1 during the project solicitation undertaken by FCGMA during development of the 2022 GSP Annual Report. Dudek assumes that VCWWD-1 will, as necessary and appropriate, update the project description based on the revised project evaluation criteria developed in Task 1.	
	Constructing desalter(s) to address water quality issues in the Arroyo Simi Creek	VCWWD-1	Water Quality	Dudek assumes that the project details and benefits are the same as those provided by VCWWD-1 during the project solicitation led by FCGMA during development of the 2022 GSP Annual Report. Dudek assumes that VCWWD-1 will, as necessary and appropriate, update the project description based on the revised project evaluation criteria developed in Task 1.	

Simi Valley ("City") wastewater treatm treated effluent, in Creek, which shall and support of the interactions with the Water Quality Con-	include cooperation with City, as necessary, in its ne Los Angeles Regional trol Board ("LA his issue of treated	FCGMA	Water Supply	Dudek assumes that the project details and benefits will be developed in coordination with FCGMA.
recycled water deli Valley users via pip include cooperatio the City, as necessa	eement with the City for everies to Las Posas reline, which shall n with and support of ary, in its interactions poard on this issue of	Unknown	Feasibility Study	Dudek assumes that the project proponent will be identified by the PAC, TAC, and FCGMA during development of the Basin Optimization Plan. The project proponent will be responsible for developing the project description and providing all relevant information to FCGMA.
In Lieu Water to waiter in lieu of Extracted	structing new or cture in order to deliver ater deficit areas for Use Groundwater and to veyance within the	Zone MWC	Water Supply	Dudek assumes that the project details and benefits are the same as those provided by Zone MWC during the project solicitation led by FCGMA during development of the 2022 GSP Annual Report. Dudek assumes that Zone MWC will, as necessary and appropriate, update the project description based on the revised project evaluation criteria developed in Task 1.

8	Developing a program for the least cost acquisition of Allocation Basis or Annual Allocations, or Carryover as an alternative to Replenishment	FCGMA	Water	Dudek assumes that the project proponent will be identified by the PAC, TAC, and FCGMA during development of the Basin Optimization Plan. The project proponent will be responsible for developing the project description and providing the project details and benefits will to the FCGMA.
9	Using Calleguas facilities for Replenishment	CMWD	Water	Dudek assumes that this project will be led by CMWD and that the project description, cost, and benefits will be provided by CMWD as part of the Basin Optimization Plan development.

#### Notes

FOGINIA = FOX Carryon Groundwater Intanagement Agency, City = City of Simil Valley, VCWWD-1 = Ventura County Water Works District No. 1, Zone INWC = Zone Intuitial Water Company CMWD = Calleguas Municipal Water District

<sup>&</sup>quot;Project Benefits" will be characterized by each project proponent in a manner consistent with the Judgement and SGMA, including through an estimate of impact to groundwater levels, groundwater quality, groundwater in storage, interconnected surface water, and material injury

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# **Project Evaluation Checklist**

BACKGROUND INFORM	MATION		
Project Name:	(Please fill in)		
Purpose of Project:	(Please select one)		
Project Type:	(Please select one)		
Sponsoring Agency:	(Please fill in)		
Groundwater Basin:	(Please fill in)		
Location:	(Please fill in)		
Project Description:	(Please fill in)		
Implementation Trigger (if applicable):	(Please fill in)		
Evaluation Criteria	Response (Applicant to Complete)		
Water Supply			
Annual increase in Sustainable Yield (AFY):	(Please fill in)		
Annual increase in supplemental water in lieu of pumping (AFY):	(Please fill in)		
Groundwater demand reduction (AFY):	(Please fill in)		
Sustainability indicators addressed:	(Please fill in)		
Project documentation included?	(Please select one)		
Timing/Feasibility			
Project Implementation Timeframe			
Current Project status:	(Please select one)		
Estimated time to Project completion (years):	(Please fill in)		
Timeline / feasibility documentation included?	(Please select one)		
Environmental			
CEQA/NEPA type:	(Please select one)		
Status of CEQA/NEPA review and permitting:	(Please select one)		
Will the Project likely be permitted?	(Please select one)		
Sensitivity of location:	(Please fill in)		
Permitting			
	(5)		
Permits required:	(Please fill in)		
Status / time required:	(Please fill in)		
Likelihood of Project being permitted:	(Please select one)		

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# **Project Evaluation Checklist**

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# **Project Evaluation Checklist**

Title:	(Please fill in)
Organization:	(Please fill in)
Email:	(Please fill in)
Phone:	(Please fill in)
Date:	(Please fill in)

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# **Project Ranking Sheet**

Project Type
Basin

## 1. Total Sustainable Yield / Supplemental Water / Reduced Demand

Total additional water supplied by the project for the benefit of the basin through increase to sustainable yield, supplemental water to be delivered in lieu of pumping, or reduction in groundwater demand.

AFY increased sustainable y	ield
AFY supplemental water in l	eu of pumping
AFY groundwater demand re	eduction

#### Points Awarded

5	10	15	20	25
<500 AFY	≤500 AFY	≤2,500 to AFY	≤5,000 AFY	≥7,500 AFY
	<2,500 AFY	<5,000 AFY	<7,500 AFY	

## 2. Sustainable Yield / Supplemental Water / Reduced Demand Documentation

Project documentation includes verifiable quantified estimate of increased sustainable yield, supplemental water, and/or reduced groundwater demand.

#### Points Awarded

5	10	15	20	25
Conceptual estimate - no supporting documentation	Conceptual estimate - limited supporting documentation	Initial feasibly study supporting estimate	Preliminary design and/or modeling supporting estimate	Detailed design and/or modeling supporting estimate

## **TIMING / FEASIBILITY**

## 3. Project Implementation Timeframe

What is the project implementation timeframe?

#### Points Awarded

1	5	10	15	20
Cannot be implemented	May be operational by	Can be operational by	Can be operational in 10	Can be operational in 5
prior to 2040	2040, but uncertain	2040	years or less	years or less

#### 4. Development Phase

How far along is the definition, feasibility, design, and development of the project?

#### Points Awarded

1	2	3	4	5
Conceptual – no	Feasibility study	Initial feasibly	30% engineering	60% or greater
feasibility or	in progress,	study completed	design	engineering

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design, project	project well		design
not well defined	defined		

## 5. Status of Approvals, Permits, and Environmental Review

What is the status of NEPA/CEQA review and permitting?

#### Points Awarded

1	2	3	4	5
Permit requirements not identified or unknown	Expected to take >5 years	Underway and approvals expected <3 years	Underway and approvals expected ≤1 year	Permitting and CEQA / environmental review complete

## 6. Project Complexity

How complex is the project? For example, does it require multiple phases of construction; does it use proven technology; does it require land acquisition; is dependent upon other projects; and/or does it require complex permitting?

#### Points Awarded

1	3	5
Very complex,	Moderately	Low complexity,
relies on	complex	uses readily
unproven		available proven
technology		technology

#### 7. Land Acquisition

Does the project require land acquisition or easements, and if so, what is the status?

#### Points Awarded

1	2	3	4	5
Required, not	Process started,	>25% but <50%	More than 50%	Not required or all
started and/or	but less than	complete	complete	acquisitions
potential eminent	25% complete			and/or easements
domain				complete

## 8. Dependency on Other Projects

Is the project dependent upon other projects?

#### Points Awarded

1	3	5
Project is	Project is	Not dependent on
dependent on	dependent on	other unbuilt
other unbuilt and	funded projects	projects
unfunded projects	under	
	construction	

## 9. Project Lifespan

What is the projected lifespan of the project?

## Points Awarded

1	2	3	4	5
≤5 years		10 years		≥20 years

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#### **COST & FUNDING**

#### 10. Water Cost

Projected total cost of water produced, saved, or increase in sustainable yield.

- \$ Total capital cost
- \$ Total annual O&M cost
- \$ Annual O&M cost per AF
- Annual cost (all costs including capital and O&M) per AF

#### Points Awarded

1	5	10	15	20
≥\$3,000 / AF	≤\$2,000 / AF	≤\$1,000 / AF	>\$500 / AF	≤\$500 / AF
	<\$3,000 / AF	<\$2,000 / AF	<\$1,000 / AF	

## 11. Funding Match for Construction

Is the project proponent providing a funding match to construct the project?

#### Points Awarded

1	4	8	12	15
No match	<10% match	10 to 25% match	25 to 50% match	>50% match

## 12. O&M Funding

Is there a funding source other than FCGMA for ongoing operation & maintenance costs?

#### Points Awarded

1	4	8	12	15
No funding identified	25%	50% of funding committed	75%	100% of funding committed

#### ADDITIONAL PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

## 13. Collaboration/Cooperation/Participation

Is it necessary or desirable to collaborate and/or coordinate with FCGMA, Calleguas, WWDs, United Water Conservation District, or the Water Right Holders for project implementation?

#### Points Awarded

#### N/A

Coordination requirements will not impact final project scoring.

## 14. Undesirable Results/Material Injury

Is the project anticipated to cause material and unreasonable impact, as defined in the Judgement, that cannot be fully mitigated?

#### Points Awarded

-25	0
The project is likely to cause material and unreasonable impacts that cannot be mitigated, as defined in the Judgement.	The project is unlikely to cause material and unreasonable impacts as defined in the Judgement.

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Ranked by	Date
Natived by	Date

