

LAS POSAS BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 16, 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, May 16, 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 May 2, 2024 regular PAC meeting

2. FCGMA Fiscal Committee Update

PAC members in attendance at the May 14, 2024 meeting of the FCGMA Fiscal Committee will report on committee proceedings.

3. TAC/PAC Coordination

The PAC will discuss opportunities for coordination with the Technical Advisory Committee.

G. Future Agenda Items

The PAC will consider items for future agendas.

H. Adjourn

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2024

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a meeting at 3:00 PM on Thursday, May 2, 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 3:02 P.M.
- B. Roll Call: All PAC members were present unless otherwise noted:
 - 1. Calleguas Municipal Water District – Iann Prichard, Chair
 - 2. Zone Mutual Water Company – John Menne
 - 3. Ventura County Waterworks District Nos. 1 and 19 – Joseph Pope
 - 4. Commercial – Scott Meckstroth – Not present
 - 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: Chair Prichard announced that Agenda items 2 and 3 would be heard in reverse order to accommodate the schedule of Arne Anselm, Interim Executive Director of FCGMA, who was a guest speaker (via Zoom) at the meeting.
- D. Public Comments: Several members of the public were present at the meeting, and they all delivered similar comments stating that they had not been properly notified of the LPV Adjudication, and as a result they have lost their allocations. They were advised that the PAC cannot issue nor influence the issuance of water allocations, and they should consider seeking legal counsel for assistance.
- E. PAC Member Comments: There were no PAC member comments.
- F. Regular Agenda
 - 1. Approve the Minutes of the April 4, 2024 regular PAC meeting: Joe Pope made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as stated for the April 4, 2024 meeting; Richard Cavaletto seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent.
 - 2. Committee Consultation on new Groundwater Use Reporting Schedule for Water Year 2023: The Las Posas Valley Basin Adjudication Judgment requires that Watermaster adopt a schedule, following Committee Consultation, for deadlines for parties to submit WY 2023 Groundwater Use Reports (Judgment, § 4.10.1.2.). Watermaster proposed that said reporting shall be due June 7 and November 1, 2024, for the current water year only, and for future water years, reporting will return to the dates published in the Judgment.

The Groundwater Use Report is a new web-based reporting tool that is required by the Judgment and will be submitted to Watermaster/FCGMA by Water Right Holders and mutual water companies twice annually in addition to the existing SAES reports. The SAES reports collect wellhead/flowmeter

information to track usage and allocations, and the Groundwater Use Reports collect land-based data which is an integral part of the GSP reporting requirements.

Watermaster has contracted with RGS to create the new Groundwater Use Report. PAC asked Watermaster when the reporting form would be available for review, and asked if RGS can provide a training workshop or video for users to become acquainted with the new reporting requirements. Watermaster believes the site will go live within the next week, but was uncertain about the exact date and the availability of training materials.

Mutual water companies will report in aggregate on behalf of their exclusive shareholders, and hybrids will report independently. The PAC agreed that all users need at least 30 days to learn and complete the new report. The Water Right Holders and mutual water companies had not received any notice of the new reporting requirements as of this date; therefore, the June 7 due date for the first period does not provide ample time for rollout and user training and filing.

John Menne made a motion to have Chair Prichard submit a written recommendation to Watermaster containing specific requests concerning the rollout of the new Groundwater Use Report; Vice-chair Grether seconded the motion which passed with unanimous consent. The requests are as follows:

- Provide workshops and/or video training for users
- Provide a detailed support manual for users
- Ensure that RGS and Watermaster have adequate support staff available to support the rollout and training
- Consider an extension to the June 7 deadline to ensure that users have time to get properly trained which will increase the accuracy of the reported data

3. Watermaster Budget: At its April 24, 2024 meeting, the FCGMA Board discussed the reconciliation of the FCGMA and LPV Watermaster budgets and indicated that the Fiscal Committee will begin the comparison and reconciliation process at its May 14 Fiscal Committee meeting. The PAC is highly committed to participating in this process as the Watermaster budget determines the amount of the Basin Assessments which provide funding for Basin Management Actions and monies available to fund operations of the TAC. The PAC discussed how to engage with Watermaster/FCGMA in this process, and what priorities for that engagement are.

The FCGMA Interim Executive Director joined the meeting to discuss the initial approach and process that will be used for the comparison of the two budgets. The following steps will be taken to identify and eliminate duplicative charges:

- Identify all tasks listed in initial Watermaster Budget document approved by the board on December 15, 2023
- Identify new tasks that are directly and discretely related to LPV Watermaster
- Identify overlapping tasks that are currently performed by FCGMA

The PAC is concerned that there will not be enough time to sort out the duplicative budget items and to create a revised budget before the June 1, 2024 billing date for the second half of the Basin Assessments for the current fiscal year.

4. Las Posas Basin GSP Five-Year Evaluation Workshop: The Five-Year Evaluation of the Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is due January 2025. On April 25, 2024, the FCGMA held a public workshop allowing stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on the progress and contents of the Five Year GSP Evaluation as it develops. This workshop focused on updated modeling and a lot of focus was given as to how OPV issues will be dealt with in connection with LPV issues.

Dudek is expected to deliver its draft report in July 2024. The TAC will be prepared to begin its review and analysis as soon as the report is available.

5. FCGMA Staffing: At its April 24, 2024 meeting, the FCGMA received an update from the Interim Executive Director on progress made to date on the staffing report requested by the Board at its March 27 meeting. FCGMA contracted with Jim Beck and Taylor Blakslee of The Hallmark Group to perform the staffing assessment; they gave a presentation of the work methodology, considerations, and initial findings of their assessment.

The Hallmark Group has conducted initial interviews with the current FCGMA staff members to determine what the required tasks are and how much time is required for each task. They are contemplating one staffing scenario from now until 12/31/2024, and a second scenario from now through the end of the next fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. They will consider using Ventura County contracted staff, full-time regular staff, and outsourced third-party staff or a hybrid of two or more types of employees. They have not spent much time evaluating differences between FCGMA tasks and Watermaster tasks.

An update is anticipated at the May 14 FCGMA Fiscal Committee meeting and the next FCGMA Board meeting on May 22. The PAC is highly interested in understanding the detailed components of all tasks that are being done. Steve Murata made a motion to have Chair Prichard submit a letter to the FCGMA Board of Directors to convey the PAC's concerns over duplicative billing and the need for transparent accounting on the Watermaster budget. Laurel Servin seconded the motion, which passed with unanimous consent.

The PAC inquired about the status of the formal approval of the three TAC members that were nominated in February 2024. Watermaster advised that the TAC members have requested some revisions to their engagement contracts, and those changes are under review and being processed by FCGMA's legal counsel. Once the contracts are approved by both parties, the TAC members should be ready to start their assignments with the PAC in the LPV Basin.

G. Future Agenda Items: None.

H. Adjournment: Chair Prichard adjourned the meeting at 5:13 PM until the next regular PAC meeting on May 16, 2024.