

LAS POSAS BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 6, 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, June 6, 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 16, 2024 regular PAC meeting

2. FCGMA Fiscal Committee Update

PAC members will discuss comments made by the FCGMA/Watermaster Board at the May 22, 2024 Board meeting, looking ahead to the Watermaster and FCGMA Fiscal Committee meetings on June 10 and 11, respectively.

3. TAC/PAC Coordination

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

4. PAC Directors' Liability Insurance

The Judgment, in 2.7.7 of the Watermaster Rules, states: "Watermaster shall be authorized to obtain and maintain such insurance policies as Watermaster deems appropriate. Watermaster may obtain and maintain directors' liability insurance that includes coverage for PAC and TAC members." The PAC Chair has been in conversation with Arne Anselm, Interim Executive Director of the FCGMA, regarding necessary steps to secure and fund directors' liability insurance for PAC members. The Chair will provide an update.

G. Written Communication

Attached please find an email from Bill Miller.

H. Future Agenda Items

The PAC will consider items for future agendas.

I. Adjourn

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2024

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a meeting at 3:00 PM on Thursday, May 16, 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
 - 4. Commercial – Scott Meckstroth – Not present
 - 5. Watermaster (non-voting) – Farai Kaseke – Not present
 - 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
 - 9. West Las Posas Large Agriculture – Rob Grether, Vice Chair – Not present
 - 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: Two members of the public addressed the PAC:
 - 1. Local farmer Darryl Smith noted that the final Judgment lists approximately 1,500 AF of allocations for wells that have been abandoned or are otherwise not in use, while there are farmers who have lost their allocations. He is seeking an allocation now.
 - 2. Local farmer William Smith received FCGMA approval to build two wells in 2010, and only built one of them over an eight-year period. He did not have operational wells during the period when the history of use analysis was performed, therefore he has no allocation on those wells (although he does for others) and is seeking an allocation now.
- E. PAC Member Comments: There were no PAC member comments.
- F. Regular Agenda
 - 1. Approve the Minutes of the May 2, 2024 regular PAC meeting: John Menne made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as stated for the May 2, 2024 meeting; Laurel Servin seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent.
 - 2. FCGMA Fiscal Committee Update: Chair Prichard, Vice-Chair Grether, and several other PAC members attended the FCGMA Fiscal Committee meeting on May 14, 2024, and the following items were noted:

The FCGMA Fiscal Committee has begun its in-depth review of the LPV Watermaster budget for the current fiscal year, and for the 2024/2025 fiscal year. There is a need to accelerate the evaluation of the current year’s budget as it dictates the amount, if any, of the second Basin Assessment payment for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

There was a group discussion about each line item on the budget, and several items were identified as potentially duplicative and/or excessive. Specifically:

- \$218,812 from GSP 5-year Evaluation – Basin Management Actions
- \$54,710 from GSP Implementation – Basin Management Actions
- \$146,980 from Board Meetings and Notices
- \$400,000 from Legal/Judiciary: a large portion is for FCGMA counsel related to the appeal

Chair West asked the interim director and LPV Watermaster to provide additional details on several budget items for further review and discussion at the next FCGMA Board regular meeting scheduled for May 22, 2024, and the next Fiscal Committee meeting in June.

The first Basin Assessment was billed in March 2024, and unpaid assessments became delinquent on May 6, 2024. The total amount of delinquent assessments as of the committee meeting was \$385,393. There was a discussion about collection practices for delinquent payments, and penalties and legal remedies for those who do not pay their assessments.

Watermaster asked the FCGMA Board for direction on the appropriate target amount for reserves in future years' budgets. The initial amount under consideration is 10% of the annual operating budget.

The legal services category will be divided into Advisory Services and Judicial Review sub-categories to ensure that the Watermaster budget only includes items as directed in the LPV final Judgment.

Based on the expected reductions to the budget and the timing of TAC installation and Basin Management Actions in the current fiscal year, the PAC stated a preliminary opinion that there should not be a need to assess water rights holders with an additional Basin Assessment for this fiscal year 23/24.

PAC Response: The PAC found that the Fiscal Committee meeting was productive and many potential cost reductions were identified. With general consensus, it was decided that Chair Prichard will submit a letter to LPV Watermaster expressing its opinion on three specific items:

- All legal fees related to FCGMA's appeal of the LPV adjudication should be restricted to the FCGMA budget and no portion should be charged to the LPV Watermaster budget.
- The PAC continues to advocate for quarterly billing of the Basin Assessments to ease the financial burden on its constituents.
- The PAC supports the LPV Watermaster sending reminder letters to those who have not paid their Basin Assessments, and will recommend that LPV Watermaster follow the terms of the Judgment for additional steps beyond that.

3. TAC/PAC Coordination: The PAC discussed opportunities for coordination with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Chair Prichard has been in communication with TAC Administrator Chad Taylor, and they have agreed that the first TAC meeting will be a joint meeting of the PAC and TAC to receive presentations from consultants on ongoing and upcoming work. Date is to be determined.

G. Future Agenda Items: No future agenda items were requested.

H. Adjournment: Chair Prichard adjourned the meeting at 4:17 PM until the next regular PAC meeting on June 6, 2024.

From: [LPV Watermaster](#)
To: [Ian Prichard](#)
Subject: FW: LAS POSAS BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - May 2, 2024
Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 12:15:16 PM

Good afternoon,

Please see email below for inclusion at the next PAC meeting.

Thank you,

LPV Watermaster

From: Bill Miller <wamsranch@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 9:07 PM
To: LPV Watermaster <LPV.Watermaster@ventura.org>
Cc: Mary Lou AM22Paulson <maryloupaulson@yahoo.com>; Alan AM25-Skobin <askobin@galpin.com>; Beau Boeckmann <beau@galpin.com>; PMI AM23-Maui <pmimaui@aol.com>; Miller, William <Wamsranch@aol.com>
Subject: Re: LAS POSAS BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - May 2, 2024

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

To the PAC,

I am unable to attend the May 2 meeting as I will be out of the state.

I needed to discuss a serious on-going denial of an allocation for my newly drilled well. As did many of your board, I attended the LPUG meetings almost from the beginning. It became obvious in early 2010 that there was going to be a continued moratorium on drilling new wells.

At this time, I don't remember when I first applied for a permit, but I waited a long time before I finally received an approval to drill 2 wells on 2 separate parcels, in November 2012.

Because of mechanical and legal problems associated with the purchase of the drilling rig, we didn't complete the drilling until sometime in 2018. However, during that period of time we installed thousands of feet of pipe and laterals to irrigate approximately 200 acres of raw land. We also built a 7 acre-foot reservoir and installed pumps to irrigate the crops (avocados) we planned to grow.

We obviously had no historic use of the well so, the long and short of it is, that we have been given no allocation.

When my application was approved by the County and the GMA, I paid the fees requested, and signed the agreement to drill the well, that I would eventually use for irrigation purposes.

Both the GMA and the County knew that giving a permit was at the same time giving the permittee an allocation to pump water from the aquifer, probably at the existing allocation

rates then in place, for the type of crop to be planted.

I consider that permit, and the signing by the county, the GMA, and myself, to be a legal and enforceable contract.

I have spoken to a couple of the GMA board members who have told me that I must present my case to the PAC to get started.

Please address my situation at the next meeting that it is appropriate to do so.

I understand that the PAC board is somewhat still in formation, and my issues may not be immediately addressed, but I would appreciate a response, at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely, William A. "Bill" Miller. 805-531-5400

Noteworthy: The first testicular guard was used in Hockey in 1874. The first helmet was used in 1954. Thus, it took almost 100 years for men to realize that their brain was also important.