

LAS POSAS BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

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, September 5, 2024**.

The meeting will be **REMOTE ONLY** with access via Zoom at the following link:

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

Webinar ID: 848 1632 7542 | Passcode: 400774

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 August 15, 2024 Regular Meeting

2. Committee Consultation: LPV 5-Year Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Update

On August 26, 2024, Watermaster submitted the attached Committee Consultation request regarding the Draft 2025 GSP 5-Year Update for the Las Posas Valley Basin. Watermaster requests a Recommendation Report by October 7, 2024.

Also attached is the PAC's March 26, 2024 letter regarding changes to the Important Dates of Basin Management Actions. That letter conveys the PAC's request that all due dates in Section 2.10.1 of Exhibit A of the Judgment should be changed from specific dates to a specific number of days from the date that Watermaster submits the Committee Consultation.

G. Written Communication

None.

H. Future Agenda Items

The PAC will consider items for future agendas.

I. Adjourn

ITEM F-1

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for August 15, 2024

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a meeting at 3:00 PM on Thursday, August 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 3:01 PM.

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

1. Calleguas Municipal Water District – Ian Prichard, Chair – Via Zoom
2. Zone Mutual Water Company – John Menne
3. Ventura County WW Dist. Nos. 1 & 19 – David Fleisch – Via Zoom
4. Commercial – Seat is vacant
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 – 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 comments or requests related to the agenda.

D. Public Comments:

Three members of the public made comments regarding their ongoing pursuits to obtain water allocations from FCGMA post-Adjudication.

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

F. Regular Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the August 1, 2024 Regular Meeting: John Menne moved to approve the minutes as stated for the August 1, 2024 meeting; Josh Waters seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 8-Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Absent.

2. Committee Consultation: Del Norte Assessment Protest

As follow up to Watermaster's July 17, 2024, Committee Consultation request regarding the Del Norte Mutual Water Company (Del Norte) assessment protest, the PAC reviewed and discussed the draft recommendation report. Vice-Chair Grether recused himself from the discussion as a Del Norte landowner.

Del Norte's protest is based on Section 7.9 of the Judgment, which contemplates potential basin assessment reductions for activities that are duplicative with United Water Conservation District (UWCD) assessments. They stated that their past and ongoing assessments paid to United Water Conservation District (UWCD) are sufficient to support basin management and Del Norte's pumping capacity, therefore they should not be assessed by Watermaster/LPV for additional basin assessments.

Any reductions or the elimination of Del Norte's payment of LPV Watermaster basin assessments would affect the Watermaster budget and therefore require review and recommendation by the PAC.

Chair Prichard prepared a draft recommendation report to Watermaster for review by the PAC. The report refers to Section 6.4 of the Judgment which allows the PAC to request Watermaster to assign issues to the TAC for their review and recommendation.

David Schwabauer made a motion to make two small edits to the recommendation report and submit it to Watermaster; John Menne seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 6-Ayes, 0-Nays, 2-Abstentions (Vice-Chair Grether and Steve Murata abstained as Del Norte landowners).

Once the TAC has researched these issues and provided its recommendation report to the PAC, the PAC will discuss policy implications and provide its recommendation report to Watermaster as soon as possible.

3. Committee Consultation: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Watermaster Budget

The PAC reviewed and discussed the draft recommendation report concerning the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Watermaster budget.

Three items were presented in the report to reflect the PAC's position as stated during the PAC meeting on August 1, 2024. In summary:

- Administrative fees from the Allocations & Record Keeping section should be removed and the costs should be borne at the transaction level by the landowners during the application process.
- Directors and Officers liability insurance should be provided for all PAC members, ideally as an add-on to FCGMA's existing policy.
- Legal Services fees related to FCGMA's appeal of the Judgment should be borne by FCGMA and not by Watermaster through its collection of basin assessments from LPV landowners. This is supported by Section 12.4 of the Judgment regarding costs.

Richard Cavaletto made a motion to submit the recommendation report to Watermaster; Steven Murata seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 8-Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Absent.

4. PAC Subcommittee Report

Richard Cavaletto and Laurel Servin gave a brief report on the FCGMA Fiscal Committee meeting held on August 9, 2024. During the Fiscal Committee meeting, Director West confirmed that the PAC will be provided coverage with Directors & Officers liability insurance whether as an add-on to their existing policy or as a separate policy; and the next FCGMA budget meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2024, where there will be additional discussion about the legal fees related to FCGMA's appeal to the Judgment.

G. Written Communication: No new written communication items were presented to the PAC.

H. Future Agenda Items: No future agenda items were presented.

I. Adjournment: Chair Prichard adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM until the next regular PAC meeting on September 5, 2024.

ITEM F-2

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

LAS POSAS VALLEY WATERMASTER



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 26, 2024
To: Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee
From: Kudzai F. Kaseke, Assistant Groundwater Manager
Subject: Committee Consultation for the Draft Las Posas Valley Basin – 5 Year Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Evaluation

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

Pursuant to Section 4.9.1 of the Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition, et al. v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Santa Barbara Sup. Ct. Case No. VENC100509700 (Judgment), Watermaster shall share a draft GSP Update with the PAC and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) before Watermaster submits the GSP Update to the Court and Department of Water Resources. In addition, Watermaster shall consider and respond in writing to any recommended edits to the draft GSP Update by PAC and TAC before finalizing the GSP Update. (Watermaster Rules, § 2.7.3).

Watermaster has developed a draft version of the Las Posas Valley – 5 Year Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Evaluation, and in compliance with the provisions of the Judgment, refers said draft for committee consultation. Access to the draft is available through the following link: [Draft Las Posas Valley - 5 Year Groundwater Sustainability Plan](#). Please provide feedback via the email below to the Watermaster by October 07, 2024.

Please contact me at 805 654 2010 or LPV.Watermaster@ventura.org with any questions or concerns or if you fail to access the file.

Gene West, Chair
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency/Las Posas Basin Watermaster
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

March 26, 2024

RE: Changes to Important Dates of Basin Management Actions

Chair West:

At its March 26, 2024 special meeting, the Las Posas Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) met to review the changes proposed by Watermaster counsel to the due dates and review periods for Basin Management Actions (BMAs) specified in Section 2.10.1 of Exhibit A of the Judgement. Watermaster counsel, Elizabeth Ewens of Stoel Rives, joined the meeting to help the PAC understand Watermaster's perspective and constraints.

For five of the six BMAs, there was broad consensus among the PAC that the modest changes proposed by the Watermaster to the important dates were reasonable and acceptable. The only amendment the PAC was unable to endorse was the proposal by the Watermaster to reduce the PAC and TAC review period of the Watermaster Budget from the 60 days stipulated in the Judgement to only 30 days.

Ultimately, the PAC voted to recommend that the FCGMA work with stakeholder counsel to incorporate changes to the "BMA - Important Dates" table that match the important dates specified in the table attached. For your convenience, there are three key changes in the PAC's proposed table:

1. For WY 2024, the PAC recommends that the PAC and TAC should have 42 days to prepare Recommendation Reports for the Watermaster. This is down from 60 days stipulated in the Judgement and up modestly from the 30 days proposed by the Watermaster. The PAC feels it cannot complete this work with fewer than 6 weeks.
2. For subsequent water years, the PAC recommends that the PAC and TAC should have 46 days to prepare Recommendation Reports. This meets the Watermaster halfway between the 60 days stipulated in the Judgment and the 30 days proposed by the Watermaster.
3. All Due Dates for the PAC and TAC should be changed from specific *dates* to a specific *number of days* from receipt of a report or plan from the Watermaster. This will give the Watermaster and the PAC and TAC more flexibility as they work through BMAs.

The PAC greatly appreciates your interest in seeking our feedback on this issue. We are especially grateful for the groundwork done by Watermaster counsel Ewens to bring us close to the finish line.

Please let me know if the PAC can be of any assistance in this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ian Prichard". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Ian Prichard, Chair, Las Posas Basin PAC

Las Posas Basin PAC Recommended Basin Management Actions - Important Dates

2.10.1 Important Dates. The table below presents important dates related to Basin Management Actions.¹

Item	Subtask	Approval or Due Date
Annual Report (§ 5.2.4)	Groundwater Extraction & Use Reports (§ 4.10.1.2)	November 1
	Draft to PAC & TAC	January 15
	PAC & TAC Recommendation Reports to Watermaster	31 Days from Receipt of Draft
	Recommendation & Response Reports Discussed by Watermaster	February Board Meeting
	Watermaster Board Adoption	March Board Meeting
	Final Submitted to DWR	By April 1
WY 2024 Only Watermaster Budget (§ 7.5)	Draft Referred to PAC & TAC	June 15, 2024
	PAC & TAC Recommendation Reports to Watermaster	42 Days from Receipt of Draft
	Recommendation & Response Reports Discussed by Watermaster	August 2024 Board Meeting
	Watermaster Board Adoption	September 2024 Board Meeting

Las Posas Basin PAC Recommended Basin Management Actions - Important Dates

Item	Subtask	Approval or Due Date
Watermaster Budget (§ 7.5)	Draft Referred to PAC & TAC	March 15
	PAC & TAC Recommendation Reports to Watermaster	46 Days from Receipt of Draft
	Recommendation & Response Reports Discussed by Watermaster	May Board Meeting
	Watermaster Board Adoption	June Board Meeting
Initial Basin Optimization Plan (§ 5.3.3)	Draft Referred to PAC & TAC	April 26, 2024
	PAC & TAC Recommendation Reports to Watermaster	63 Days from Receipt of Draft
	Recommendation & Response Reports discussed by Watermaster	July 2024 Board Meeting
	Watermaster Board Adoption	August 2024 Board Meeting
Calleguas ASR Project Operations Plan (§ 8.4)	Draft Plan Referred to PAC & TAC	October 1, 2024
	PAC & TAC Recommendation Reports to Watermaster Draft Plan Referred to PAC & TAC	75 Days from Receipt of Draft
	Recommendation & Response Reports discussed by Watermaster PAC & TAC Recommendation Reports to Watermaster	January 2025 Board Meeting
	Watermaster Board Adoption of ASR Project Operations Plan Recommendation & Response Reports discussed by Watermaster	February 2025 Board Meeting
GSP Update (§ 4.9.1)	Draft Referred to PAC & TAC	June 7, 2024
	PAC & TAC Recommendation Reports to Watermaster Draft Referred to PAC & TAC	77 Days from Receipt of Draft
	Recommendation & Response Reports Discussed by Watermaster	November Board Meeting
	Watermaster Board Adoption	December Board Meeting
	Final Submitted to DWR	By December 31, 2024

Las Posas Basin PAC Recommended Basin Management Actions - Important Dates

Item	Subtask	Approval or Due Date
2025 Basin Optimization Yield Study (§ 4.10.1)	Draft Scope of Work & Budget for Study Referred to PAC & TAC	April 15, 2024
	PAC & TAC Recommendation Reports to Watermaster	42 Days from Receipt of Draft Scope
	Recommendation & Response Reports Discussed by Watermaster	July 2024 Board Meeting
	Approval of Scope of Work & Budget for Study	August 2024 Special Board Meeting
	Draft Study Discussed by Watermaster Board	January 2025 Board Meeting
	Draft Study Referred to PAC and TAC	Immediately following January 2025 Board meeting, above
	PAC & TAC Recommendation Reports to Watermaster	70 Days from Receipt of Draft Study
	Recommendation & Response Reports Discussed by Watermaster	April or May 2025 Board Meeting
	Watermaster Adoption of Study and 2025 Basin Optimization Yield	May or June 2025 Board Meeting