

# FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Eugene F. West, Chair**, *Director, Camrosa Water District*  
**David Borchard, Vice Chair**, *Farmer, Agricultural Representative*  
**Michael W. Mobley**, *Director, United Water Conservation District*  
**Carmen Ramirez**, *Supervisor, County of Ventura*  
**Tony Trembley**, *Councilperson, City of Camarillo*

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Jeff Pratt, P.E.**

## NOTICE OF MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) will hold a **VideoConference Executive Committee Special Meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2021.**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE STAY AT HOME ORDER AND THE COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH OFFICER DECLARED LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY AND BE WELL AT HOME ORDER RESULTING FROM THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, THE HALL OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. TO FIND OUT HOW YOU MAY ELECTRONICALLY ATTEND THE MEETING AND PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT PLEASE REFER TO "NOTICES" ON PAGE 2 OF THIS AGENDA**

## FCGMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

**February 16, 2021**

**Members:** Chair Eugene F. West  
Vice Chair David Borchard

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Introductions**
- C. Approval of Minutes** – Approve the Minutes of the January 21, 2021 Executive Committee Special Meeting
- D. Public Comment** – Audience members may speak about FCGMA-related matters not on today's Agenda.
- E. OPV Stakeholder Engagement** – Update on ongoing stakeholder engagement in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley (OPV) Basins including discussions of initial basin allocation; sustainable yield; and minimum allocations and ramp-down.
- F. OPV "One Water" Proposal** – Receive a presentation regarding a "One Water" concept of an in-lieu water accounting method for sharing project costs and benefits among all uses in the basins; identify policy issues associated with the One Water proposal and provide feedback and recommendations.
- G. Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date**
- H. Adjourn the Executive Committee Meeting**

### **NOTICES**

*The following information is provided to help you understand, follow, and participate in the meeting:  
Public Comments – Public comment is the opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing one or more agenda or non-agenda items.*

*The following options allow for public participation:*

*1. Join the Zoom Meeting as an Attendee*

*Please click the link below to join the webinar:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87966812220?pwd=eDZGbDIUStBMINubHRSZUkrVFE3dz09>

*Password: **066033***

*With this option you will be able to raise your hand, and the Clerk of the Board will give you speaking abilities to make a public comment.*

*2. Call-In to listen to the meeting:*

*Telephone: 1 669 900 6833*

*Conference ID: 879 6681 2220*

*Password: **066033***

*Option 2 will not allow you to make direct speaking comments. If you wish to make a comment please follow the steps below.*

*2. If you wish to make a comment please submit your comment to the Clerk of the Board at [fcgma@ventura.org](mailto:fcgma@ventura.org). Please indicate in the Subject Line, the Agenda item number (e.g., Item No. 9). Your email will be read and placed into the record.*

*The FCGMA Board strives to conduct accessible, orderly, and fair meetings where everyone can be heard on the issues. The Board Chair will conduct the meeting and establish appropriate rules and time limitations for each item. The Board can only act on items designated as Action Items. Action items on the agenda are staff proposals and may be modified by the Board as a result of public comment or Board member input. Additional information about Board meeting procedures is included after the last agenda item.*

**Administrative Record:** *Material presented as part of testimony will be made part of the Agency's record, and 10 copies should be left with the Board Clerk. This includes any photographs, slides, charts, diagrams, etc.*

**ADA Accommodations:** *Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual, or other disability in order to review an agenda or to participate in the Board of Directors meeting per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), may request such accommodation in writing addressed to the Clerk of the FCGMA Board, 800 So. Victoria Avenue, Location #1610, Ventura, CA 93009-1610, or via telephone by calling (805) 654-2014. Any such request should be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting so staff can make the necessary arrangements.*

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**Availability of Complete Agenda Package:** *A copy of the complete agenda package is available for examination at the FCGMA office during regular working hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday) beginning Three days before the Board meeting. Agenda packet contents are also posted on the FCGMA website as soon as possible, and left there for archival retrieval in case reference is needed on previously considered matters. Questions about specific items on the agenda should be directed to the Agency's Executive Officer.*

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**Continuance of Items:** *The Board will endeavor to consider all matters listed on this agenda. However, time may not allow the Board to hear all matters listed. Matters not heard at this meeting may be carried over to the next Board*

*meeting or to a future Board meeting. Participating individuals or parties will be notified of the rescheduling of their item prior to the meeting. Please contact the FCGMA staff to find out about rescheduled items.*

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**Electronic Information and Updates:** Our web site address is <http://www.fcgma.org>. Information available online includes the Board's meeting schedule, a list of the Board members and staff, general information, and various Agency forms. If you would like to speak to a staff member, please contact the FCGMA Clerk of the Board at (805) 654-2014.

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**Jeff Pratt, P.E.**

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency's (FCGMA) Executive Committee Special Meeting held **Thursday, January 21, 2021** through **Video Conference Via Zoom** in the Hall of Administration, Main Plaza Level, Ventura, CA 93009.

### **A. Call to Order**

Chair West called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

### **B. Introductions**

Attendees were: (1) Eugene West, Chair; (2) David Borchard, Vice Chair; (3) Kim Loeb, FCGMA; (4) Keely Royas, FCGMA; (5) Glenn Shephard, WPD; (6) Kathleen Riedel, FCGMA; (7) Greg Lewis, Duda Farms; (8) Martin Gramckow, Southland Sod; (9) Jurgen Gramckow, Southland Sod; (10) Bryan Bondy, Alta MWC; (11) E.J. Remson, The Nature Conservancy; (12) Dan Detmer, United Water Conservation District (UWCD); (13) Jared Bouchard, PVCWD; (14) Ian Pritchard, Camrosa; (15) Jennifer Tribo, Ventura Water; (16) Jim Beck, Hallmark; (17) Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark; (18) James DuBois, Self; (19) Paul Early, Self; (20) John Lindquist, UWCD; (21) Jill Weinberger, Dudek; (22) Peter Nelson, Self; (23) Robin Baral, Self; (24) Henry Graumlich, CMWD; (25) Ann Cooluris, Self; (26) Mary Amb, Self.

### **C. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **D. OPV Stakeholder Engagement**

Kim Loeb presented a PowerPoint that gave an overview of the OPV Stakeholder Group including the summary of work done, current work plan tasks, and a meeting schedule and process forward. He presented a chart that had a summary of the 12 meetings the Stakeholder Group held with CBI.

Mr. Loeb stated that the current workplan consists of the OPV starting allocation, sustainable yield review, and the ramp-down/minimum allocations.

Mr. Loeb introduced a new consultant group, Hallmark. Glenn Shephard introduced Jim Beck and Taylor Blakslee with the Hallmark Group.

Before Mr. Beck and Mr. Blakslee introduced themselves Chair West asked Mr. Loeb what the plan was with respect to projects and replenishment fees. Mr. Loeb said that the plan was to take the projects back to the Operations Committee and the Agency will be bringing an item to the full Board with a plan for replenishment fees.

Mr. Beck and Mr. Blakslee introduced themselves and gave descriptions of their professional backgrounds and what their plan was moving forward to facilitate the OPV Stakeholder Group meetings.

Mr. Loeb asked the Clerk of the Board to move the OPV Stakeholder Group members to Panelists.

Jurgen Gramckow asked how large the Hallmark Group is. Mr. Beck said that there are about 10 consultants, with other project managers focusing on their specific specialties.

E.J. Remson stated that he was surprised that the OPV starting allocation was back on the agenda as it has been discussed numerous times over the past few years.

Jared Bouchard stated that there is a broad spectrum of issues to be discussed and the schedule might not be sufficient.

Greg Lewis said that most every one of the Stakeholder Group members is part of a Legal Group that is working on tackling the issues. He said that he was also surprised the the starting allocation was on the agenda as they have been working on it already. He asked if the Stakeholder group is working alongside of the Legal Group? Chair West said that the OPV Stakeholder Group was structured to be a collaborative group where the issues would be discussed. He said that the Legal Group is not what he had envisioned and that he is focused on what comes out of the Stakeholder group discussions.

Bryan Bondy asked what the proper means are for stakeholders that are not one of the official Stakeholder Group members. Mr. Loeb said that the meetings are open to all stakeholders. Chair West also said that he welcomes calls from stakeholders if they have specific questions.

Greg Lewis asked if there is another consultant who is acting as the "rate consultant"? Chair West said that there is another group that they are working with.

Kim Loeb went over the tentative meeting schedule. Chair West asked if there is anything about the previous process that was liked or disliked.

Mr. Graumlich welcomed Mr. Beck and Mr. Blakslee. He said that the interviews with stakeholders were helpful.

**E. Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date**

There was no discussion.

**F. Adjourn the Executive Committee Meeting**

Chair West adjourned the Executive Committee meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Submitted by:

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Keely Royas  
Clerk of the Board

# E. OPV Stakeholder Engagement



FCGMA Executive Committee  
Special Meeting  
February 16, 2021

# OPV Stakeholder Group Work Plan

	January				February				March					April				
	1/4	1/11	1/18	1/25	2/1	2/8	2/15	2/22	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	3/29	4/5	4/12	4/19	4/26	
<b>Core Stakeholder Group</b>																		
Facilitation Consultant		[Blue bar from 1/11 to 4/26]																
Core Stakeholder Group			1/21		2/2		2/16		3/2		3/16		3/30		4/15			
Executive Committee			JM				2/16				3/18				JM			
Operations Committee														TBD				
Agency Board				1/27													4/28	
<b>Work Plan</b>																		
Starting Allocation			[Blue bar from 1/18 to 2/1]															
Sustainable Yield					[Blue bar from 2/1 to 2/22]													
Ramp-down/Min Allocation									[Blue bar from 2/15 to 3/29]									
<b>Project Committee</b>																		
UWCD Modeling*									[Green bar from 2/8 to 3/29]									
Projects Committee**														4/8		4/22		
Operations Committee														TBD				
<b>Replenishment Fees</b>																		
Fiscal Committee*											TBD							

Report to Board

Initial Model Results\*

\* Tentative  
 \*\* As needed based on status of UWCD modeling  
 JM = Joint meeting  
 TBD = To be determined  
 Executive Committee:  
 Starting Allocation, Ramp-down/Min Allocation, Replenishment Fees policy issues  
 Operations Committee:  
 Projects/Basin Optimization  
 Fiscal Committee:  
 Replenishment Fees fiscal issues

# OPV Basins Initial Allocation

<b>2005-2014 Avg Extraction</b>	<b>AFY</b>
Oxnard Basin	76,800
Pleasant Valley Basin	13,400
<b>OPV Combined</b>	<b>90,200</b>
Projected Net Conejo Creek Allocation	2,300
<b>Total OPV Basins</b>	<b>92,500</b>

AFY: Acre-Feet per Year

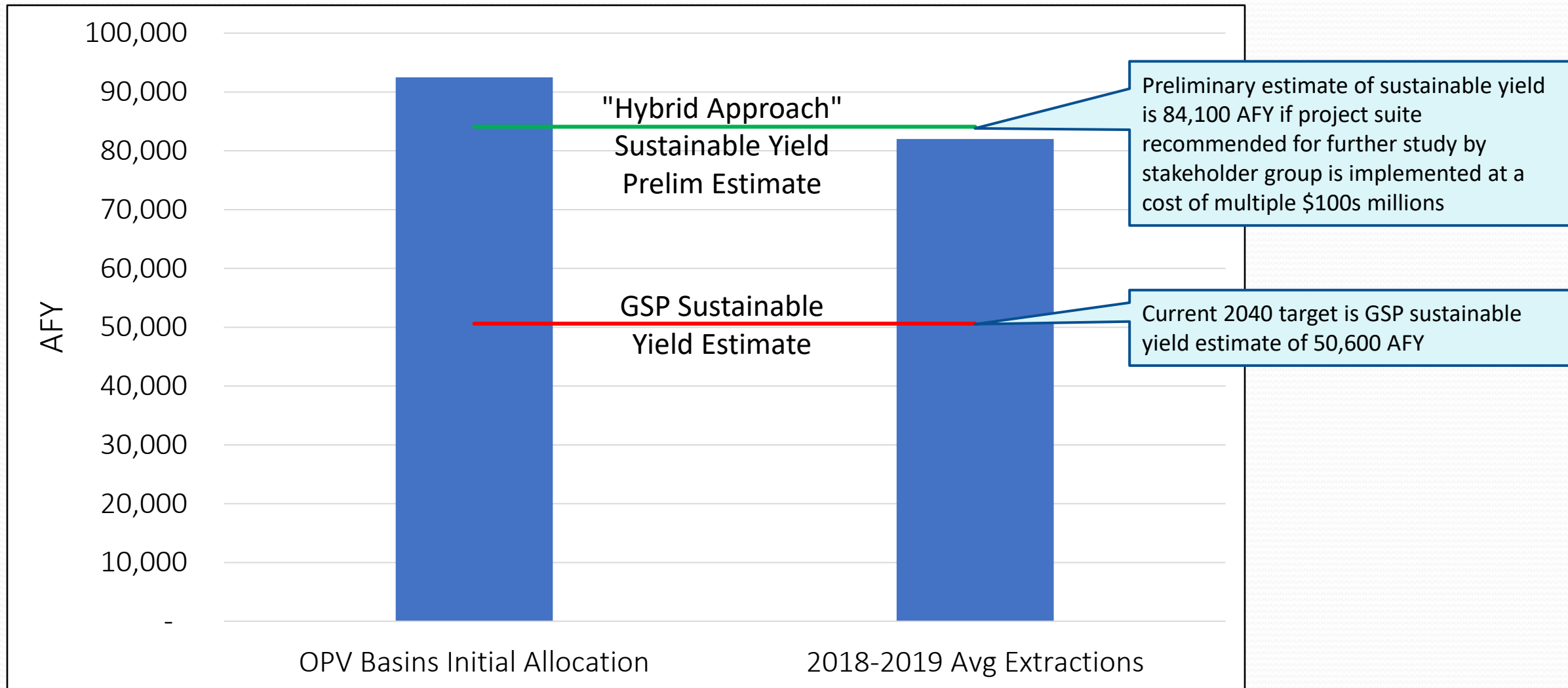
Based on sum of initial well allocations per OPV allocation ordinance



# OPV Initial Allocation & Variances

- “Standard” – approx. 1,000 AFY requested
  - Adjustment to base period due to unusual circumstances during base period
  - Additive to total basin allocation
- “Non-Reporting” – approx. 2,800 AFY requested
  - Bring unreported extractions into compliance
  - Additive to total basin allocation
- “New Water” – approx. 21,700 AFY requested
  - Additional allocation due to change in operations or desire to extract water previously provided by purveyor (*will not include allocation transferred by purveyor*)
  - Not additive to total basin allocation
  - Subject to review and recommendation by Variance Review Committee and Board approval

# OPV Basins Sustainable Yield



# Ramp-Down and Minimum Allocations

- Minimum Allocation
- Ramp-Down Allocations  
(individual well allocations in 2040)
- Ramp-Down Path  
(straight-line, stair-step, variable, etc.)

# Minimum Allocation – OPV Allocation Ordinance

## OPV Allocation Ordinance – Section 10.2

*It is the intent of the Board to establish a minimum allocation for agricultural operators based on the sustainable yield and to exempt minimum allocations from the reductions contemplated in section 10.1 until such time as the Board determines that a reduction of the minimum allocation is necessary in order to facilitate implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan.*

# Minimum Allocation – Basis & Options

- Minimum AF/acre groundwater allocation for Ag operators based on sustainable yield of the basins and area of irrigated farmland
- Potential options and considerations:
  - Base out of Ag portion of sustainable yield
  - Establish a maximum AF/acre cap (“floor and ceiling”)
  - Minimum allocation by ET zone
  - Adjust minimum allocation to correspond with 5-year GSP updates of sustainable yield and project implementation

# Ramp-Down Allocation (Year 2040)

- Ending allocations under sustainable yield
- Alternatives and options:
  - Percent reduction for all operators (to minimum allocation)
  - Reduction to flat AF/acre
  - Middle approach (e.g., OPV Landowners' "hybrid" ramp-down)
  - Different consideration for tree crops

# Stakeholder Group Ramp-Down Decision Criteria

*From “Topic Framing – Ramp Down” CBI 11/13/2020:*

- Decision Criteria What variables does the Core Stakeholder Group use to evaluate or weigh ramp down options?
  - Feasibility of administering the system
  - Legally defensible / durable
  - Burden sharing
  - Adaptive management, tied to certainty (vs. optimism) of projects or ability to create new supply and climatic variability (scale and refinement)
  - Predictability to plan investments and business decisions
  - Support diversity of crop types recognizing water use efficiency
  - Economic analysis of impacts

# Ramp-Down Path (to Year 2040)

- Options:
  - Linear
  - Stair step
  - Variable
- OPV stakeholder group consensus on linear ramp-down path
  - Adjusted based on 5-year GSP updated sustainable yield estimate



# OPV Stakeholder Engagement

- Discussion
- Executive Committee feedback and recommendations