FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY



Jeff Pratt, P.E.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eugene F. West, Chair, Director, Camrosa Water District David Borchard, Vice Chair, Farmer, Agricultural Representative Steve Bennett, Supervisor, County of Ventura Charlotte Craven, Councilperson, City of Camarillo Robert Eranio, Director, United Water Conservation District

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) will hold an **Executive Committee Meeting** at **6:30 p.m.** on **Wednesday**, **July 12**, **2017**, in the **Ventura Room** of the Oxnard Performing Arts and Convention Center, at **800 Hobson Way**, **Oxnard**, **CA 93030**.

FCGMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA July 12, 2017

- Members: Chair Eugene F. West Co-Chair David Borchard
- A. Call to Order
- B. Introductions
- C. Public Comment Audience members may speak about FCGMA-related matters not on today's Agenda.
- D. SGMA, Sustainable Yield, and Pumping Allocation Agency staff will present an overview of the relationship between the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and sustainable yield with development of a new pumping allocation system.
- E. Discussion on Development of New Pumping Allocation System in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins 1) Staff will present a framework for development of a new pumping allocation system; 2) Executive Committee will receive comments and suggestions from stakeholders and staff; and 3) Executive Committee will provide comments and feedback.

F. Adjourn the Executive Committee Meeting

NOTICES

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.

<u>Administrative Record</u>: 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.

<u>ADA Accommodations</u>: 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

FCGMA Executive Committee Agenda July 12, 2017 Page 2 of 2

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.

<u>Availability of Complete Agenda Package</u>: 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 five 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.

<u>Continuance of Items</u>: 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.

<u>Electronic Information and Updates</u>: Our web site address is <u>http://www.fcgma.org</u>. 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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MINUTES

Minutes of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency's (FCGMA) Executive Committee Meeting held **Thursday**, **June 15**, **2017** in the Multipurpose Room of the Rio Del Mar Elementary School, 3150 Thames River Drive, Oxnard, CA 93036

A. <u>Call to Order</u>

Chair West called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

B. Introductions

In attendance were: (1) Eugene West, Chair; (2) David Borchard, Vice Chair; (3) Kim Loeb, FCGMA; (4) Keely Royas, FCGMA; (5) Mark McKee, Farmer; (6) Jane Donlon Waters, Grower; (7) Bryan Bondy, CMWD; (8) Neal Maguire, Alta Mutual/Del Norte; (9) Keith Fond, Ocean Breeze; (10) Greg Lewis, Duda; (11)Terry Doran, PVMWC; (12) Tony Morgan, UWCD; (13) Bruce Dandy, UWCD; (14) Susan Mulligan, CMWD; (15) Bob Coultas, Coultas Ranch; (16) Steve Hickox, PHWA; (17) Terri Ferro, Vineyard Mutual Water; (18) Paul DeBusschere, OPV; (19) Maria L. Victoria, Nunes Vegetables; (20) Jennifer Lindquist, Self; (21) John Lindquist, Self; (22) Sally Molenhouse, GusMaulhardt Assoc.; (23) John Grether, Grether Farming Co.; (24) Craig Kaihara, AMS Craig LLC.; (25) Lynn Jensen, VC COLAB; (26) Martin Gramckow, Southland Sod; (27) Hank Laubacher, Laubacher Farms; (28) William Terry, Terry Farms; (29) Joan Broome, Rancho Guadalasca; (30) Dave Souze, PVCWD; (31) Kathleen Riedel, FCGMA; (32) Dina Ontiveras, Nyeland Acres; (33) Nancy Broschart, Farm Bureau; (34) Chris Malejan, Water Systems Consulting; (35) Edgar Cano, Berry Land Mngnt; (36) Tony Stafford, Camrosa; (37) Ken Tanaka, K. Tananka Ranch, Inc.; (38) Jeanette Lombardo, CWA, CFAA; (39) Jeff Douglas, Shozi Brothers; (40) Daniel Naumann, UWCD, Naumann Family Farms; (41) Donald Reeder, C+R; (42) Bob Nast, CIBCSD; (43) Ryan Coultas, Coultas Farms; (44) Daniel Coultas, Coultas Farms; (45) Bill Coultas, Coultas Farms; (46) Jim Lloyd-Butler, LBMWC; (47) Jason Vis, LBMWC; (48) John Ferro, Seacoast Cooling; (49) Steve Nash, Self; (50) Tom Deardorff, DFF; (51) Alden Broome, Broome Ranches; (52) Curtis Hopkins, HGC/M&I/TAG; (53) Mark Satterburg, Farm Credit West; (54) Ken Hasegawa, Sorrento Berry Farm; (55) Carol Schoen, Alta Mutual; (56) Jurgen Gramckow, OPV; (57) Matt Bryant, AMS Craig, LLC; (58) Danny Pereira, Rio Farms; (59) Ed McFadden, UWCD; (60) Jeff Pratt, FCGMA; (61) Glenn Shephard, FCGMA; (62) Eric Humel, City of Oxnard; (63) Alex Davis, OPV; (64) Fred Ferro, Seacoast Cooling; (65) Steve Dodge, Dodge Ranch; (66) Gordon Kimball, Kimball Ranches; (67) Cathy & Gordon Anderson (68) Vanessa Ramirez, Reiter Affiliated Co.; (69) Omar Castro, Oxnard; (70) John Mathews, PVCWD; (71) David Martinez, ; (72) Mike Vandergoes, FCGMA; (73) Beverly Gutierrez, HV&W; (74) Fred Vela, Self; (75) Jennifer Tribo, Ventura Water; (76) Fred Van Wingerden, Pyramid Flowers; (77) Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard; (78) Amanda Fagan, NBVC; (79) Sevada Hacobian, Hacobian Ranch; (80) Dave White, Plaza Development.

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C. <u>Public Comments</u>

No public comments were made.

D. Overview of Past and Current Pumping Allocation and Groundwater Management

Kim Loeb started his presentation by giving a background of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA). He described that the FCGMA is a California Special District and showed a map with the GMA boundaries. He stated that the first pumping allocation systems were established in 1990 and they identified the three types of well operators as agricultural, municipal & industrial, and domestic. The first system established was called a historical allocation system and that was based on the annual average pumping from 1985 through 1989. He also explained that there were five steps of reduction that totaled a 25% reduction by 2010.

Mr. Loeb gave a brief overview of Emergency Ordinance E. He stated that in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins that there is still an increase in pumping since Emergency Ordinance E was enacted. He showed the amount of pumping per water use for the 2015-2016 water year. Daniel Naumann from the United Water Conservation District (UWCD) asked Mr. Loeb where the surface water deliveries were represented. A question was asked if this included unreported pumping. Mr. Loeb stated that the numbers did not include surface water deliveries and represented reported pumping. He showed two maps, the Fall 2016 Upper Aquifer and Fall 2016 Lower Aquifer System Potentiometric Surface maps.

Mr. Loeb gave an overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). He went over a couple of important terms that SGMA introduced, Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). He described that SGMA identified the FCGMA as the GSA for the area within the Fox Canyon boundaries. He also described the undesirable results identified under SGMA. He went over key dates that are underlined under SGMA including the date that the GSP is due.

Mr. Loeb then gave a brief overview of the GSPs being developed and what they entail. He stated that every five years after the GSPs are adopted there is a required review. The plans have to be flexible so if new and/or better data becomes available during a review period you would use adaptive management to make changes to the plan. He described that the FCGMA's approach to developing the plans used a seven person Board appointed Technical Advisory Group (TAG) including hydrogeologists that are reviewing all of the elements of the GSP with the FCGMA consultant. The SGMA states that the GSPs have to include water supply projects and management actions to achieve sustainable goals within 20 years. He stated that the TAG and the consultant are working to establish a sustainable yield for the basins. Pumping allocations are management action to address how to divide the available water between pumpers. The projects will address the supply side of the water balance to help bring more supply in or develop a way to use the supply we are not using now to benefit the different water users in each basin. He explained the larger the supply, then less reductions on using it and still keeping it sustainable. There was a question as to how a sustainable yield can be identified while there are outstanding data gaps. Mr. Loeb answered that by using the best information available you have to identify what the uncertainty is, have a range, begin managing with the understanding that you do not know everything, develop plans with how to reduce the uncertainty and get as close as you can with the information you have available. He also identified how as the public and stakeholders they can get involved.

Steve Nash, Oxnard resident, asked when the clock starts ticking on the 20 year timeline. Mr. Loeb stated that there is not a clear answer if it starts clicking once the GSP is adopted or the 2020 deadline.

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> Chair West stated that this is the first time that the state has ventured into the groundwater field and California is one of only a few states in the west that does not have a statewide groundwater management system. The state can and will step in if the required tasks are not being achieved. This is an opportunity to develop plans where the control stays local. This is encouragement to get it done and get it done right.

E. Updates from Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins Stakeholder Groups

Jurgen Gramckow gave a brief description of the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins (OPV) group and an update on progress that has been made and some details that they still need to agree on. He stated that the OPV group is made of land owners in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins and he estimated about 70% of Oxnard land owners are involved. The group was started to develop an allocation system for the basins.

The first step in the allocation process was to divide between Agriculture (Ag) and Municipal & Industrial (M & I) users. He described that they have come close on a number of occasions of how to allocate the water between the two users and fundamentally it will be on a historical use basis. He stated that historical use has to incorporate multiple hydrological cycles and one of the challenges they are facing is which cycles to use. Mr. Gramckow stated that Dr. Steve Bachman, whom they are using as a consultant, suggested that they use a cycle period no earlier than 1997 because the infrastructure has not changed much since then. Mr. Gramckow stated that looking at the cycles between 1997 and 2014 the water pumping shows 61% going towards Ag and 39% towards M & I. If you count surface water as ground water the percentages change to 67% Ag and 33% M & I. He stated that one of the issues that the group is having is what counts and what doesn't when it comes to water supply. He did make a point that one thing that all group members agreed on is that the allocations will go to the land owners and not the well head and that trade permissions will come from land owners only. Another issue that they agreed on is that money needs to be generated for supply projects. The idea was to impose a replenishment fee of \$100 per acre foot. He stated that they also need to have a flexibility mechanism. Because there are varying wet and dry periods they came up with a banded ramp down that allows pumpers to exceed allocations by 50% in one year and pay it back overtime, and once payed back can use it again at another time if need be. He described it as a credit line approach. Director Borchard asked if both groups thought that was a good idea, to which Mr. Gramckow answered that he believes so.

Daniel Naumann, UWCD, asked why the replenishment fee is \$100. Mr. Gramckow responded that they were looking for a number that makes them credible without asking for too much, but can produce enough money to make something happen in regards to supply projects.

Chair West commented that the idea is a paradigm shift. Since the beginning the GMA has been trying to manage demands by imposing cuts, which is the only tool that the GMA has had. Now the state has given us more tools and made more demands, but given us more rules on how we use them. He stated that the state is now giving the GMA access to the supply side and seeing what we can do. Chair West said that he sees a lot of supply opportunities available, but they take money. He believes it can be done, but it will take a good amount of money and that is what replenishment fees are about.

Steve Nash, Oxnard resident, wants to make sure that all extractors are required to pay the replenishment fee and there will not be a hierarchy. If also stated that he does not think that the GMA is the proper administrator to control the market.

There was discussion between an attendee and Chair west regarding the Arroyo Santa Rosa Valley Basin and how that basin differs from the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins.

Dina Ontiveras, Nyeland Acres Mutual, asked where they would go as a mutual water company to participate in this process.

Chair West stated that the GMA did not appoint these groups and they came together on their own. He stated that besides the meetings that Mr. Loeb mentioned earlier in the meeting, Mr. Gramckow could explain the best way.

Mr. Gramckow stated that the Ag interest as well as the M&I interests are being represented by hydrologists that are carefully looking at the data and negotiating on their behalf. Once the allocations are separated by Ag and M&I, then will come the time for mutual water companies to come in and decide how it gets divided and who gets what.

Sally Molenhouse, Gus Maulhardt Associates, with regard to the replenishment fee, where will the supply water be coming from. Chair West explained that there have already been different projects proposed that will enhance existing water supplies.

Chair West emphasized that the goal of these meetings and the development of these new allocations systems is to reach a goal that will benefit everyone. He also explained the water market pilot project that is taking place right now.

John Ferro, Seacoast Cooling, expressed a concern on how the tax assessor will treat the replenishment fee. Chair West stated that he didn't know the answer to that.

Greg Lewis, Duda Farms, asked that if we agree that we want to write this policy on good info, why are we not taking extra time to try and close some of the data gaps before developing a plan with the sustainable yield when the deadline for completion is not until 2020.

Vice Chair Borchard stated that he tends to agree with the concept that we need to get it right the first time, rather than getting it done faster with more errors. The other side of that is, the longer we wait the less water there will be for supply projects and we cannot engage is supply projects until we have an approved GSP.

Chair West explained that it is better to be proactive and not wait until the 2020 deadline is approaching before making things happen. It is important to continue with the process do there is ample time to work things out to make a quality plan.

Mr. Loeb reminded everyone that the plan will be looked at every five years and that with adaptive management, aspects can be changed in these five year review periods as new data becomes available.

John Matthews, PVCWD, commented that we are all going to have to work together to solve the problem of what water is available and how supply projects are going to be done.

Alden Broome, Broome Ranches, asked if a group has been identified to deal with the replacement water supply. Chair West answered that a group has not been established yet, but that there has been a large amount of discussion.

Mr. Gramckow commented that there are so many layers of complexity that the OPV groups have not yet attempted to go into the details that if everyone pays the same replenishment fee, does everyone get the same benefit.

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Chair West stressed that now is the time to make plans at the local level while we have the opportunity. Now is the time to create the infrastructure that will be in place for future generations.

Carol Schoen, Alta Mutual, asked now that we are approaching the end of the reporting cycle, what should we expect in terms of allocation for the next year and how to plan for the new cycle starting August 1, 2017.

Chair West stated that he hasn't heard anything different and an alternate system has not been presented at the Board level.

F. <u>Discussion on Development of New Pumping Allocation System in the Oxnard and Pleasant</u> Valley Basins

Item E converted to include this item.

G. Adjourn the Executive Committee Meeting

Chair West adjourned the Executive Committee meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

Keely Royas Clerk of the Board

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CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

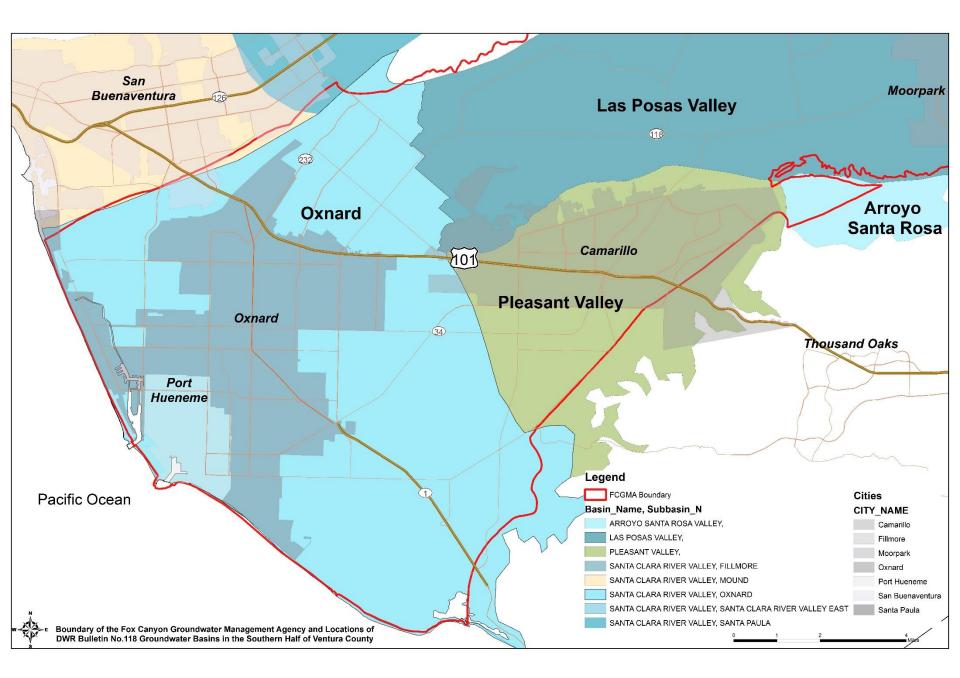
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SGMA, Sustainable Yield, and Pumping Allocation

Kim Loeb Groundwater Manager Fox Canyon GMA Executive Committee Meeting July 12, 2017



Past Pumping Allocation Systems

- Pumping allocation first implemented in 1990
- Three types of well operators
 - Agricultural
 - Municipal and Industrial (M&I)
 - Domestic
- Historical Allocation (HA) based on 1985 1989 avg. pumping
- Five steps to 25% reduction by 2010
- Baseline Allocation if no HA or new/changed land use after 1989
- Efficiency Allocation option by crop for Agricultural land
- Surcharges imposed for exceeding allocation

Emergency Ordinance E

- Adopted April 11, 2014
- Municipal & Industrial Well Operators
 - Temporary Extraction Allocation (TEA) based on 2003 2012
 - Reduced by 20% in three steps by July 1, 2015
- Agricultural Well Operators
 - Annual Efficiency using Irrigation Allowance Index (IAI)
 - 25% reduction of irrigation allowances effective Aug. 1, 2014
- Use of credits suspended
- Surcharges imposed for exceeding allocation or >1.0 IAI

SGMA Overview

- Passed Sept. 2014, effective Jan. 2015
- No modification of water rights or priorities
- Strengthens local control & management of basins
- State will step in if locals don't comply
- GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- GSP = Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- FCGMA deemed exclusive GSA within FCGMA boundary
- FCGMA Board GSA resolution Jan. 2015

Sustainable Groundwater Mgmt

"Sustainable groundwater management" means the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.

Water Code § 10721

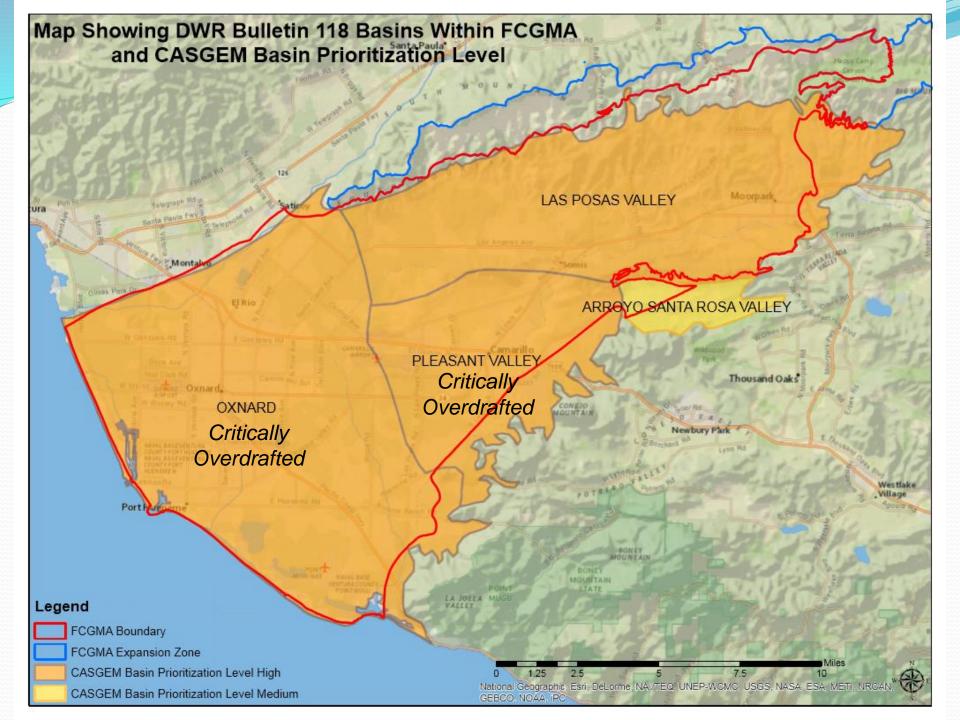
Sustainable Yield

"Sustainable yield" means the maximum quantity of water, calculated over a base period representative of longterm conditions in the basin and including any temporary surplus, that can be withdrawn annually from a groundwater supply without causing an undesirable result.

Water Code § 10721

Undesirable Results

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant & unreasonable depletion of supply
- Significant & unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage
- Significant & unreasonable seawater intrusion
- Significant & unreasonable degraded water quality
- Significant & unreasonable land subsidence that substantially interferes with surface land uses
 - Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant & unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water



Groundwater Sustainability Plan

- Includes physical description of the basin including groundwater levels, quality, historical and projected demands, monitoring and management, etc.
- Establishes sustainability indicators and sets measureable objectives and interim milestones to achieve sustainability
- Based on best available science
- Identifies data gaps and plan to address them

Sustainability indicator – any effects caused by groundwater conditions in the basin that, when significant and unreasonable, cause undesirable results

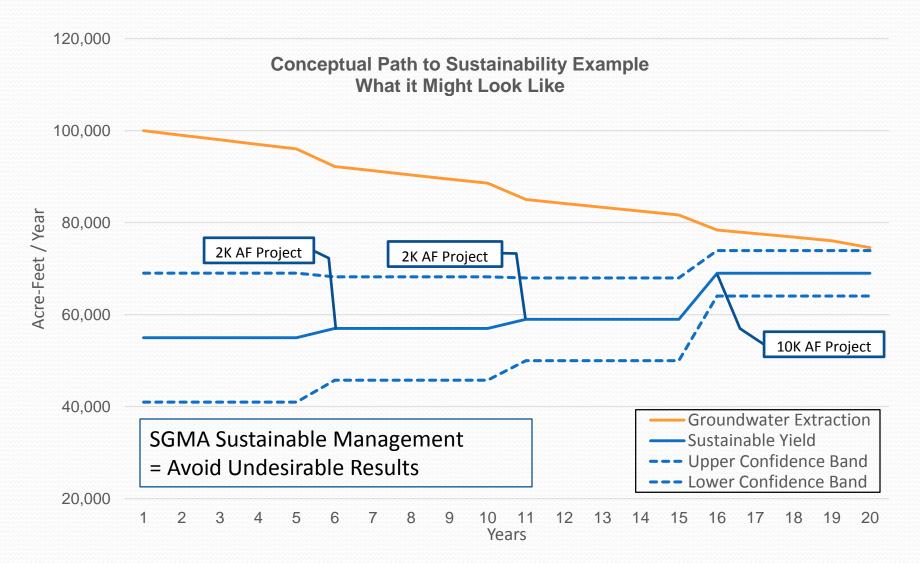
Measurable objectives – specific, quantifiable objectives for each sustainability indicator to achieve sustainability goal within 20 years

Interim milestones – 5-year targets to achieve measurable objectives

SGMA & Allocation

- SGMA requires GSPs to include projects and "management actions" to achieve sustainability goals within 20 years
- GSP consultant and the FCGMA Technical Advisory Group are working to establish sustainable yield for the basins – the size of the "pie"
- Pumping allocations are management actions to address demand side of water balance – how to divide "pie"
- Projects address supply side of water balance how to increase size of "pie"

Path to Sustainable Yield







www.fcgma.org

gsp-fcgma@ventura.org



Framework for Development of New Pumping Allocation System in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins

Kim Loeb Groundwater Manager Fox Canyon GMA Executive Committee Meeting July 12, 2017

	Allocation Issue	Comments
1.	Sustainability achieved in 20 years	Ag and M&I agree
2.	Initial basin allocation at roughly current total pumping (100K AF)	Ag and M&I agree
3.	Allocation based on reported extractions	Process needed for addressing allocation for unreported Ag pumpers (historical doc., penalties, no impact to existing pumpers)

	Allocation Issue	Comments
4.a.	Division of pumping allocation: 60% Agriculture / 40% M&I	Ag and M&I agree
4.b.	Basis of allocation division: consideration of Ag use of surface water and M&I use of imported water	Consensus methodologies under discussion
4.c.	Other pools?	None currently identified

	Allocation Issue	Comments
5.a.	Mandatory annual reductions – need year-to-year flexibility	Ag and M&I agree
5.b.	Allocation carryover	Agreed in concept to Rolling average or banded ramp-down methodology needs more development and testing

	Allocation Issue	Comments
6.a.	Individual operator allocations within Ag and M&I	Under discussion; based on historical use
6.b.	Allocation assignment	Ag and M&I desire parcel-based allocation system; potential concern if not wellhead; likely hybrid system
7.	Special projects and storage credits	Need to be reviewed on a case- by-case basis

	Allocation Issue	Comments						
8.	Water market transfers and AMI	Ag and M&I agree with adequate tracking of use						
9.	Management Areas	Need to be defined						
10.	Variance procedures	Needs to be developed						
	Other Issues							
11.	Replenishment Fee to augment supply	Ag and M&I strongly agree; needs to be on separate track from allocation development						
12.	Voluntary supplemental supply projects	Ag and M&I agree						