

Las Posas Valley Groundwater Basin Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

Tuesday January 7, 2025, 2:00 PM

Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84168071218?pwd=Kv42H0XegH4TthbvJUgzTrzACgXM8b.1>

Webinar ID: 841 6807 1218

Passcode: 150451

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Las Posas Basin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will hold a regular meeting via Zoom at **2 PM on Tuesday January 7, 2025**.

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Agenda Review

D. Public Comments

E. TAC Member Comments

F. Regular Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the December 17, 2024 TAC Regular Meeting (attached)

2. 2025 TAC Calendar

Regular meetings of the TAC are scheduled for the first and third Tuesday of every month at 2 PM. Meetings are held only virtually through Zoom.

The TAC will discuss the frequency, day, time, and duration of regular meetings for 2025.

3. Presentation – Basin Optimization Yield Draft Model Scenarios

Dudek, the Watermaster's groundwater consultant for the preparation of the Las Posas Valley (LPV) Basin Optimization Yield Study (BOYS), will present draft model scenarios for the assessment of optimized yield from the Las Posas Valley Basin to the TAC for feedback and discussion.

The scope of work approved by the Watermaster included numerical groundwater flow modeling to characterize the Basin Optimization Yield and rate of Rampdown required to achieve Sustainable Groundwater Management by 2040. The TAC requested opportunities for review and feedback on Basin Optimization Yield model scenarios when reviewing the scope of work for the Basin Optimization Yield Study.

Trevor Jones will present Dudek's planned numerical groundwater flow modeling technical approach, including:

- Baseline groundwater extraction rates

- Hydrologic Period
- Discharges from the Simi Valley Water Quality Control Plant and Dewatering Wells to Arroyo Simi-Las Posas
- Basin Optimization Projects included in the modeling
- Methods for simulating Rampdown
- Methods for characterizing Sustainable Groundwater Management of the LPV Basin

Trevor Jones, PhD, of Dudek will provide a presentation that describes the proposed scenarios. The TAC will discuss the proposed scenarios and provide feedback to Dudek and the Watermaster verbally during the meeting and consider preparation of a Recommendation Report regarding the scenarios. Should the TAC decide to prepare a Recommendation Report, the Watermaster requests it be submitted no later than January 21, 2025.

4. Committee Consultation – Basin Optimization Yield Study Schedule

The Las Posas Valley Basin Adjudication Judgment requires the Watermaster to prepare a Basin Optimization Yield Study (BOYS) to set the Basin Optimization Yield for the LPV Basin (LPVB) and in turn the Operating Yield and Rampdown Rate through Water Year 2039. The Watermaster has submitted a consultation request to the TAC (attached) indicating that exigent circumstances necessitate an extension of the schedule for the BOYS. The Watermaster has indicated these circumstances require revision not only of the original schedule, but also the recently amended schedule. The Watermaster estimates completion of the BOYS by the end of 2025, including committee consultation required by the Judgment and additional consultation requested by the TAC.

The Watermaster's provided a revised schedule for completion of the BOYS with specific dates for completion of individual tasks to the TAC in the attached consultation request via email on December 23, 2024. The Watermaster requests the TAC review the proposed schedule for completion of the BOYS.

The Watermaster notes that the revised schedule for preparation of the BOYS assumes United Water Conservation District (UWCD) provides Watermaster access to certain model(s) and/or modeling services. If Watermaster is unable to obtain access to UWCD's model(s) and/or modeling services, Watermaster must rely on alternative model(s) and/or technical services to characterize future groundwater conditions within the West Las Posas Management Area (WLPMA) and complete preparation of the BOYS. Watermaster has asked its professional consultant, Dudek, to identify options for developing or obtaining replacement model(s) and/or modeling services, which are included in the attached consultation request. The Watermaster also requests the TAC review these optional alternative approaches.

The TAC will discuss the proposed schedule for completion of the BOYS and the alternative approaches to assessing WLPMA Basin Optimization Yield and Rampdown identified by Dudek. TAC comments on the schedule and alternative approaches are requested to be submitted to the Watermaster by January 31, 2025.

5. Ongoing Committee Consultation– Draft Basin Optimization Plan

The TAC will continue to discuss comments on the Draft Basin Optimization Plan (DBOP) for the Las Posas Valley Basin (LPVB), which was originally distributed to the TAC in the agenda for the December 17, 2024 regular meeting. TAC members will provide their comments and discuss the preparation of a Recommendation Report to the Watermaster by February 13, 2025.

6. Report on December 20, 2024 Basin Tour Provided by Bryan Bondy for Chad Taylor and Watermaster staff

TAC member Bryan Bondy provided a tour of the Basin to TAC Chair Chad Taylor and Watermaster representatives Farai Kaseke and Robert Hampson on Friday December 20, 2024. Mr. Taylor will provide a brief report on the tour.

7. Update on Committee Consultation Review Schedule

The TAC will receive an update on the schedule for upcoming committee consultations from the Watermaster Representative. Known current and upcoming consultation are summarized in the table below:

Consultation Description	Expected Request Date	Expected Review Due Date
Draft Basin Optimization Plan	12/12/24	2/13/25
Basin Optimization Yield Study Schedule and Alternatives to UWCD Modeling for WLPMA	12/23/24	1/31/25
Presentation of Basin Optimization Yield Study Model Scenarios by Dudek	1/7/25 Regular Meeting	During meeting, Recommendation Report by 1/21/25
Calleguas ASR Project Operations Plan	TBD	TBD

8. Schedule for Completing Committee Consultations and Related Recommendation Reports

The TAC will discuss the schedule for completing the current reviews requested by the Watermaster and approaches for meeting the requested delivery dates.

G. Items for Future Agenda

Potential items for future agenda will be considered by the TAC

H. Adjourn

Attachment 1

Minutes of the December 17, 2024 TAC Regular Meeting

Las Posas Valley Groundwater Basin Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes
for
December 17, 2024

A. Call to Order

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm by Chair Chad Taylor.

B. Roll Call

Voting TAC members present (via Zoom):

- Chair Chad Taylor - Present
- Vice Chair Tony Morgan - Present
- Bob Abrams - Present

All non-voting TAC members were present (via Zoom):

- Bryan Bondy – Present
- Kimball “Kim” Loeb – Present

Mr. Taylor indicated the TAC had a quorum as the three voting members were all present.

C. Agenda Review

Mr. Taylor reminded the TAC and public attendees that the meeting agenda was published by the Watermaster in advance of the meeting. He asked for comments on the agenda or requests to add items from TAC members. Mr. Loeb noted that Item 1 in the Regular Agenda identified the draft *Basin Optimization Plan* as the draft *Basin Optimization Yield Plan*, which is incorrect. He indicated that the *Basin Optimization Yield Study* is underway, but the item submitted to the TAC for consultation was the *Basin Optimization Plan*. Mr. Taylor acknowledged this error and asked the TAC and attendees to refer to the document referenced in Item 1 of the Regular Agenda as the *Basin Optimization Plan*, or BOP.

No additional items were raised by TAC members.

Mr. Taylor asked for public comments or requests for additional items on the agenda and no comments were provided.

D. Public Comments

Chair Taylor opened the floor to public comments on items not on the agenda and none were received.

E. TAC Member Comments

Mr. Taylor offered an opportunity for TAC members to provide comments on items not on the agenda. No discussion of additional items was provided.

F. Regular Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting

Chad asked the TAC members for discussion and/or comments on the draft minutes for the October 15, 2024 regular TAC meeting. Mr. Abrams noted that the minutes indicated he was absent, but he was in attendance and his comments are included later in the minutes. Mr. Taylor informed the TAC that he would amend the minutes to reflect this correction and submit a final version to the Watermaster, pending approval by the TAC.

MOTION: Mr. Abrams made a motion to approve the October 15, 2024 TAC Meeting minutes as amended

SECOND: Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion

VOTE: Unanimously approved

2. Committee Consultation– Draft Basin Optimization Plan

Mr. Taylor advanced to discussion of the draft *Basin Optimization Plan* (dBOP) committee consultation request the TAC received from the Watermaster, which was included in the meeting agenda packet. Recognizing that the review period for this consultation request continues through February 13, 2025, Mr. Taylor asked the TAC to focus on developing a plan and schedule for review of the draft document and preparation of a Recommendation Report. He noted that he would have his coworker Arden Wells circulate and Excel template for TAC members to use for recording comments.

Regarding the schedule, Mr. Taylor noted that the regular TAC schedule for early 2025 prior to the comment due date includes meetings on January 7th, January 21st, and February 4th. The TAC discussed the steps required to collect, review, and compile comments for inclusion in a Recommendation Report then allow for TAC review of the Recommendation Report prior to adoption and submittal to the Watermaster. The following schedule for submittal of TAC member comments and preparation of a Recommendation Report was developed:

- January 7, 2025 – Discussion of initial review dBOP review in regular TAC meeting
- January 15, 2025 – TAC member comments submitted to the TAC Administrator in Excel template format
- January 21, 2025 – Discussion of combined TAC member comments in regular TAC meeting
- February 4, 2025 – Review of draft Recommendation Report on dBOP and consideration of a motion to finalize and submit to Watermaster by February 13th

Mr. Taylor asked TAC members to provide any initial comments on the dBOP. Mr. Loeb asked that as TAC members review the document, they pay attention to and provide feedback on the schedule of implementation, projected costs, and ranking of individual projects. He also asked that special consideration be given to the existence of feasibility studies for projects, noting that the dBOP includes a review of the status of the feasibility evaluation for each identified project and preliminary scores were assigned accordingly.

No other TAC members provided comments on the dBOP.

Mr. Taylor opened the discussion to public attendees and no public comments were received.

3. Watermaster Response Report – TAC Recommendation Report, Draft Las Posas Valley Basin 5 Year Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Evaluation

Mr. Taylor advanced to discussion of Watermaster Response Reports, noting that Watermaster Staff presented reports in response to the TAC Recommendation Report on the Draft Las Posas Valley Basin 5 Year Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Evaluation in a recent Watermaster Board meeting. The Response Report was attached to the meeting agenda for TAC member review and provided responses to individual TAC comments in addition to the version of the GSP evaluation with tracked changes.

Mr. Loeb indicated that the Watermaster appreciated TAC comments on the Draft Las Posas Valley Basin 5 Year Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Evaluation and thanked TAC members for their review.

No public comments were provided on this item.

4. Update on Committee Consultation Review Schedule

Chair Taylor asked Mr. Loeb for an update on upcoming Committee Consultation requests.

Mr. Loeb indicated that the Watermaster does not plan to update the LPV GSP at this time so there will not be an amended GSP for the TAC to review. That item can be removed from the schedule table in the TAC meeting agenda. He did not have additional information regarding the Calleguas ASR Study Group formation of the ASR Project Operations Plan.

Mr. Loeb informed the TAC that the Watermaster's consultant for the Basin Optimization Yield Study (BOYS), Dudek, will be prepared to provide a presentation on the development of model scenarios for that study in the regular TAC meeting on January 7, 2025. Mr. Bondy asked if the presentation would include information from United Water Conservation District and Mr. Loeb indicated it will not as the agreement between the Watermaster and United to perform that modeling work has not been finalized. Mr. Loeb indicated that if the TAC has thoughts about the logistics of model scenario development between the Watermaster, Dudek, and United and the two models used in the Las Posas Valley Basin (LPVB) they can be discussed.

Mr. Loeb indicated that Watermaster staff and Dudek hope that the TAC can provide comments and thoughts on the proposed yield optimization model scenarios during the meeting on January 7th. Mr. Taylor asked if the presentation materials could be provided in time to be included in the agenda for the January 7th meeting to allow the TAC time to review and consider prior to commenting during the meeting. If not, it may be necessary for TAC members to provide additional comments to the Administrator by January 15th in conjunction with comments on the dBOP.

Mr. Loeb told the rest of the TAC that the Watermaster Staff would request any comments on the BOYS model scenarios not provided in the meeting on January 7th to be submitted in a Recommendation Report by January 21st. He added that Watermaster Staff hope TAC recommendations on this matter won't require a significant amount of work after the January 7th meeting so that the schedule for completion of the BOYS can be maintained.

Mr. Taylor reflected that preparing a recommendation report for TAC review within the available time may not be possible, but if there are TAC comments following the January 7th meeting perhaps they could be provided in a tabular format prior to completion of a Recommendation Report. Mr. Morgan provided that if there is sufficient opportunity for

discussion on January 7th, Dudek and the Watermaster Staff should understand the TAC's recommendations.

No additional TAC or public comments were provided.

5. Schedule for Completing Committee Consultations and Related Recommendation Reports

Mr. Taylor reviewed the schedule for review and Recommendation Report preparation for the dBOP and BOYS model simulation presentation.

No other TAC member or public comments were provided.

G. Items for Future Agendas

Mr. Taylor turned to discussion of items for future TAC agendas and asked if TAC members were interested in a standing agenda item the TAC would hear reports on Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings. As Mr. Morgan is the Administrator of the PAC, he could provide brief summary reports. While these are not technical topics, there may be items before the PAC that would be meaningful for the TAC to be aware of.

Mr. Morgan provided that the PAC meetings are focused on policy discussions and technical topics do not typically arise. He expressed willingness to provide reports and also noted that the PAC agendas are fairly detailed, so TAC members could alternatively review the agendas and minutes of PAC meetings.

The TAC members did not believe that routine summaries of PAC meetings would provide value to the TAC.

Mr. Bondy asked if the PAC request that the Watermaster assign the Del Norte Water Company Basin Assessment Protest for Water Year 2023 review to the TAC was discussed by the Watermaster Board. Mr. Taylor reported that recent Watermaster agenda indicated the Watermaster Staff and Board chose not to refer this matter to the TAC because they did not consider it to be a technical item.

Mr. Bondy informed the other members of the TAC and the public attendees that he would provide a tour of the Basin to Mr. Taylor and Watermaster representatives on Friday December 20, 2024.

Mr. Taylor provided an opportunity for public comments on future TAC agenda items, and none were received.

H. Adjourn

Mr. Taylor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 PM.

MOTION: Mr. Morgan moved to adjourn

SECOND: Mr. Taylor seconded

VOTE: Unanimously approved

Attachment 2

Committee Consultation Request –Basin Optimization Yield Study Schedule

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

LAS POSAS VALLEY WATERMASTER



MEMORANDUM

To: Las Posas Valley Technical Advisory Committee

From: Kudzai F. Kaseke, Assistant Groundwater Manager

Date: December 23, 2024

RE: Basin Optimization Yield Study Schedule

Dear Las Posas Valley Technical Advisory Committee Members:

Section 4.10 of the judgment entered in *Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition, et al. v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, et al.*, Santa Barbara Sup. Ct. Case No. VENCI000509700 (Judgment) requires the Watermaster to prepare a Basin Optimization Yield Study (BOYS), which will set the Basin Optimization Yield for the Las Posas Valley Basin (LPV Basin), and in turn the Operating Yield and the Rampdown Rate for Water Years through Water Year 2039. (Judgment, § 4.10.1.4.)

Exigent circumstances necessitate an extension of the schedule included in the Judgment, originally and as amended, for preparation of the BOYS. Currently, Watermaster estimates completion of the BOYS, consistent with the committee consultation required by the Judgment and inclusive of additional consultation requested by the LPV Technical Advisory Committee, by the end of December 2025. Watermaster's revised schedule for completion of the BOYS, including dates for completion of specific tasks and work, is attached as Exhibit A. Pursuant to Section 6.3 of the Judgment, Watermaster requests Committee Consultation with the Las Posas Valley Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), including specifically TAC's technical recommendations and comments, on the revised schedule for preparation of the BOYS as set forth in Exhibit A.

The revised schedule for preparation of the BOYS assumes United Water Conservation District (UWCD) provides Watermaster access to certain model(s) and/or modeling services. If Watermaster is unable to obtain access to UWCD's model(s) and/or modeling services, Watermaster must rely on alternative model(s) and/or technical services to characterize future groundwater conditions within the West Las Posas Management Area (WLPMA) and complete preparation of the BOYS. Watermaster has asked its professional consultant, Dudek, to identify options for developing or obtaining replacement model(s) and/or modeling services. Dudek has prepared the following alternatives to obtaining UWCD model(s) and/or modeling services:

1. Estimation of Basin Optimization Yield and Rampdown Using GSP Evaluation Model Simulations

- a. This alternative would utilize model results presented in the LPV Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation and may require additional technical analyses to characterize the impacts of allocation distributions on the WLPMA yield.
- b. Estimated Schedule Impacts: Additional 3 to 6 months to the schedule set forth in Exhibit A.

2. Estimation of Basin Optimization Yield and Rampdown Using Historical Groundwater Elevation Measurements and Extraction Reports

- a. This alternative would consider the relationship between groundwater levels and pumping to estimate the WLPMA yield.
- b. Estimated Schedule Impacts: Additional 3 to 6 months to the schedule set forth in Exhibit A.

3. Development of a New Numerical Groundwater Flow Model for the West Las Posas Management Area

- a. This approach would cover the development of a new model for the WLPMA that is distinct from UWCD's Updated Coastal Plain Model. The model would be developed and maintained by FCGMA.
- b. Estimated Schedule Impacts: Additional 18 to 24 months to the schedule set forth in Exhibit A.

Pursuant to Section 6.3 of the Judgment, Watermaster requests Committee Consultation with TAC, including specifically TAC's technical recommendations and comments, on each of the above alternatives and the additional amounts of time to be added to the revised schedule for preparation of the BOYS as set forth in Exhibit A.

Watermaster requests TAC's Recommendation Report, including its technical recommendations and comments, on the Committee Consultation requests discussed in this memorandum by January 31, 2025.

Please contact me at (805) 654-2010 or LPV.Watermaster@ventura.org with any questions or concerns.

Basin Optimization Yield Study Schedule

Description	Duration (days)	Date
Draft scope of work & budget for study referred to TAC		7/16/2024
PAC & TAC Recommendation Reports to Watermaster	42	8/27/2024
Watermaster Board direction on TAC recommendations / response reports & approval of SOW and budget	57	10/23/2024
Draft Basin Optimization Plan completed	47	12/9/2024
Development of the draft BOY Study ¹		
UWCD Model File Submittal ²		1/1/2025
Task 1 - Model Scenario Development ³	29	1/7/2025
TAC Recommendation Report	14	1/21/2025
Watermaster Response Report	14	2/4/2025
Recommendation & Response Reports discussed by WM Board at special meeting.	10	2/14/2025
Task 2 - Numerical Modeling		
Task 2.1 - Baseline Scenario	21	2/25/2025
Task 2.2 - Projects Scenario	28	3/25/2025
TAC review of Baseline and Projects for 4/1/25 TAC meeting	7	4/1/2025
TAC Recommendation Report	21	4/22/2025
Watermaster Response Report	21	5/13/2025
Recommendation & Response Reports discussed by WM Board	15	5/28/2025
Task 2.3 - Model Alternative Pumping Scenarios	30	6/27/2025
Task 4 - Basin Optimization Yield Study		
Task 4.1 - Draft BOY Study	45	8/11/2025
PAC & TAC Recommendation Reports	60	10/10/2025
Watermaster Response Report & revised draft BOY Study	21	10/31/2025
Recommendation & Response Reports discussed by WM Board, Board provides direction on revised draft BOY Study	8	11/8/2025
Task 4.2 - Final BOY Study development following Watermaster Board review	28	12/6/2025
Watermaster Board approval of final BOY Study	6	12/12/2025
Total Days from Authorization to Proceed:		415