

# Las Posas Valley Groundwater Basin Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes  
for  
January 21, 2025

## A. Call to Order

Chair Chad Taylor called the Las Posas Valley Groundwater Basin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to order at 2:02 pm.

## B. Roll Call

Voting TAC members present (via Zoom):

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

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

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

Chair Taylor reported the TAC had a quorum with all three voting members were all present.

## C. Agenda Review

Mr. Taylor asked for comments from TAC members or the public on the agenda, which was published by the Watermaster on January 17, 2025. No members of the TAC or public attendees were made.

## D. Public Comments

Chair Taylor provided an opportunity for public comments on items not on the agenda. Steve Murata, Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) member representing West Las Posas Mutual Water Company asked if someone from the TAC could attend a PAC meeting and explain the technical difference between a dedicated monitoring well and an active production well that is used for monitoring. Vice Chair Tony Morgan volunteered to provide this information to the PAC in his capacity as the PAC Administrator. No other comments were received.

## E. TAC Member Comments

Mr. Taylor asked TAC members for comments on items not on the agenda and none were raised.

## F. Regular Agenda

### 1. Approve the Minutes of the January 7, 2024 Regular Meeting

Mr. Taylor asked for TAC member discussion and/or comments on the minutes for the January 7, 2024 regular TAC meeting. There was discussion and no changes or corrections were identified.

**MOTION:** Dr. Abrams moved to approve minutes of the January 7, 2024 TAC Meeting

**SECOND:** Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved

## **2. Recommendation Report Review – Basin Optimization Yield Study Schedule**

Mr. Taylor invited the TAC to provide comments and discussion on the draft Recommendation Report for the Basin Optimization Yield Study Schedule included in the meeting agenda. TAC members asked if a specific period for additional review should be added to the recommendation that the schedule allow for flexibility in the TAC model simulation result review. The text of this recommendation was modified to request the TAC have the option to request additional review time. The TAC also discussed the statement of support for the Watermaster in securing an agreement with United Water Conservation District to model Basin optimization with the existing Coastal Plain groundwater model. The TAC decided to modify this language and remove reference to potential problems with multiple models of the same area. Mr. Taylor shared his computer screen to show the TAC members the changes to the Recommendation Report as they discussed them.

Mr. Taylor asked for public comment on the Recommendation Report and Richard Cavaletto asked about the potential for disagreement between multiple models and the veracity of the existing Coastal Plain Model and the confidence in that model. Mr. Loeb answered that United Water Conservation District and their independent panel of modeling experts review the model and found it to be an appropriate tool for simulating groundwater conditions in the Coastal Plain. Mr. Loeb further stated that for the Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) an uncertainty analysis was completed that showed reasonable results. While all models are imperfect, Mr. Loeb stated that the existing Coastal Plain Model is the best tool available for simulating the West Las Posas Management Area. Mr. Morgan further explained that when there are two models of the same area it would be expected that the results be similar without producing exactly the same numerical results in all cases.

No additional public comments were made.

Mr. Taylor asked the TAC members if they were comfortable voting on the Recommendation Report on the Basin Optimization Yield Study Schedule and if there were any dissenting opinions that should be added to the report. No discomfort or dissenting opinions were raised.

**MOTION:** Mr. Taylor moved to approve the Recommendation Report – Basin Optimization Yield Study Schedule Consultation Request as amended during the meeting

**SECOND:** Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved

## **3. Recommendation Report Review – Basin Optimization Yield Study Modeling Approach**

Chair Taylor advanced to review and discussion of the draft Recommendation Report on the Basin Yield Study modeling approach. He reminded meeting attendees that Dudek provided a presentation on this topic at the previous TAC meeting and TAC members made comments at that time. The Recommendation Report captures those comments, which were:

1. Consider iteratively adjusting in lieu deliveries when simulating projects that supply alternative water supplies to specific areas of the Basin
2. Include in lieu deliveries to northern east Las Posas Management Area in modeling approach
3. Track and report changes in outflow to pleasant valley basin for all simulations

4. Use recent historical trends in Moorpark water reclamation facility percolation rates to develop model inputs
5. Consider assessing effects of variable pumping reduction across the Basin
6. Consider running additional simulations for West Las Posas Management Area with the Oxnard Extraction Barrier Brackish Water Treatment Project

TAC members agreed the Recommendation Report captures the comments and recommendations on the modeling approach.

Mr. Bondy and Mr. Morgan provided limited specific text edits to recommendations 2 and 5 that Mr. Taylor made during the meeting.

Mr. Taylor asked for public comments on this Recommendation Report; none were received.

**MOTION:** Dr. Abrams moved to approve the Recommendation Report – Basin Optimization Yield Study Modeling Approach Consultation Request as amended

**SECOND:** Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved

#### **4. Committee Consultation - Draft Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan 2025 Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024**

Mr. Taylor turned to the new committee consultation request submitted to the TAC, review of the draft Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024. This document was sent to the TAC January 15, 2025 and a Recommendation Report is due to the Watermaster by February 15<sup>th</sup>. The draft annual report is incomplete and is missing tabulated water use by party to the Judgment, which the Watermaster is still working on, and financial auditing information. This information is not likely to be provided to the TAC prior to the review deadline.

The TAC discussed the review period and developed a plan for developing comments, recommendations, and a Recommendation Report. In this discussion the TAC decided to schedule a special meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup> to allow for more time for TAC members to review the draft and provide comments and then have the Administrator prepare a Recommendation Report for review in the special meeting. To meet these deadlines, the TAC will discuss comments on the draft Annual Report in the regular meeting February 4<sup>th</sup>, TAC member comments will be due to the Administrator in tabular format by February 6<sup>th</sup>, and a draft Recommendation Report will be prepared by February 10<sup>th</sup> for inclusion in the special meeting agenda. Mr. Taylor asked the Watermaster staff to prepare to assist by publishing the special meeting agenda.

Mr. Loeb informed the other TAC members that much of the water year 2024 annual report is similar to previous annual reports. Changes in the water year 2024 annual report were made to reflect requirements of the Judgment, which were not technical in nature.

No public comments were received.

#### **5. Ongoing Committee Consultation– Draft Basin Optimization Plan**

Chair Taylor went on to the ongoing discussion of the Draft Basin Optimization Plan (dBOP), thanking the other TAC members for providing their comments. Those comments were included in the agenda.

Mr. Taylor indicated that the comments will be incorporated into a Recommendation Report for review in the next regular TAC meeting.

No public comments were received.

## **6. Discussion of Watermaster Response to TAC Recommendation Report on Draft Las Posas Valley Basin 5 Year Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Evaluation**

The TAC advanced to discussion of the Watermaster-prepared Response Report replying to the TAC Recommendation Report on the draft Las Posas Valley Basin 5 Year Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Evaluation. The Response Report was presented to the Watermaster Board on December 13, 2024. The TAC initially discussed this Response Report on December 17, 2024 and requested further discussion in a later meeting.

Mr. Loeb reiterated that the Watermaster appreciated the TAC's thoughtful review. The Watermaster attempted to provide self-explanatory responses line-by-line to the TAC's comments and recommendations.

Mr. Bondy indicated that some of the comments and recommendations were not comprehensively addressed because there was not sufficient time. Mr. Bondy relayed a specific question from stakeholders who ask what the incremental effect of WLPMA pumping is on seawater intrusion. He noted this will continue to be a point of concern and confusion for stakeholders and other items that the TAC raised that the Watermaster did not have time to address may have similar concern for stakeholders.

Mr. Loeb responded that the Watermaster would like to address more of these items in the future when there is more time.

Mr. Bondy asked the Watermaster to consider how the TAC can be engaged earlier in the process. He stressed this was not a criticism, but perhaps the TAC could help earlier in the evaluation process in the future. Other TAC members agreed.

No public comments were provided on this item.

## **7. Update on Committee Consultation Review Schedule**

Mr. Loeb informed the TAC that the items on the schedule table in the agenda are all correct and that the only additional upcoming consultation is the Basin Optimization Yield Study, anticipated to be presented April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Morgan noted that the Calleguas ASR study group is still being formed and that the PAC is planning to reach out to potential candidates.

No public comments.

## **8. Schedule for Completing Committee Consultations and Related Recommendation Reports**

Mr. Taylor reviewed the plan for completing current consultations. He noted two consultations:

1. Draft Basin Optimization Plan: A Recommendation Report is due February 13th. TAC members have provided comments that will be incorporated into a draft Recommendation Report for review in the February 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.
2. Draft Water Year 2024 Annual Report: Discussion will take place on February 4<sup>th</sup>, comments in tabular form using the Microsoft Excel format previously circulated due

February 6<sup>th</sup>, draft Recommendation Report for review in a special meeting February 11<sup>th</sup>.

No public comments received.

#### **G. Items for Future Agenda**

TAC members had no items for future meeting agenda.

Richard Cavaletto made a public comment in the meeting chat requesting page numbers with references to attachments or some other means of locating attached documents when the agenda is long. Mr. Taylor indicated he will consider the best way to assist readers in locating items in the agenda, potentially including hyperlinks or pdf page numbers.

#### **H. Adjourn**

Mr. Taylor moved to adjourn at 3:37 PM

**MOTION:** Chair Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting

**SECOND:** Vice Chair Morgan seconded the motion

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved