

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 HYBRID meeting at 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 6, 2025.

In Person:

Calleguas Municipal Water District, 2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

via ZOOM:

<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 February 20, 2025 Regular Meeting

2. 2024 Draft Annual Report Committee Consultation

The PAC will consider the attached draft Recommendation Report on the 2024 Draft Las Posas Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report. Due to their size, the annual report and all supporting documents are available at <https://fcgma.org/annual-report/>. Watermaster requests feedback by March 7, 2025.

3. FY2025-26 FCGMA/Watermaster Budget

The PAC will discuss the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 FCGMA/Watermaster budget currently under development. Topics will include, but not be limited to, whether costs that are generated by individuals—transfers, well applications, enforcement—should be borne by those individuals or funded from the basin assessment; whether landowners should be supporting the FCGMA appeal via the basin assessment; whose responsibility annual and quintennial GSP updates are; and how the FCGMA's portion of the ASR Study Group should be funded.

4. CMWD Background

Ian Prichard, Deputy General Manager of Calleguas Municipal Water District, will provide information on the history, operations, and water resource development plans for the District.

G. PAC Subcommittee Reports

PAC representatives on subcommittees will provide reports

1. Operations Subcommittee
2. Executive Subcommittee
3. Fiscal Subcommittee
4. TAC Subcommittee

H. Written Communication

None

I. Future Agenda Items

The PAC will consider items for future agendas.

J. Adjourn

Attachments:

- 1. F-1 PAC 2025-02-20 Meeting Minutes**
- 2. F-2 PAC Recommendation Report – 2025 Draft Annual Report**

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for February 20, 2025

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a regular hybrid meeting at 3:00 PM on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at Calleguas Municipal Water District, 2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, CA, and via Zoom.

A. Call to Order: Chair Ian Prichard called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

B. Roll Call:

The following PAC members were present:

1. Calleguas Municipal Water District – Ian Prichard, Chair
2. West Las Posas Large Agriculture – Rob Grether, Vice-chair (via Zoom)
3. Commercial – Arturo Aseo (via Zoom – joined the meeting at 3:30 PM)
4. Watermaster (non-voting) – Farai Kaseke (via Zoom)
5. Zone Mutual Water Company – John Menne
6. East Las Posas Large Agriculture – David Schwabauer (via Zoom)
7. West Las Posas Small Agriculture – Richard Cavaletto
8. West Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Steven Murata

The following PAC members were absent:

1. Ventura County Waterworks District Nos. 1 and 19 – Jeff Palmer
2. East Las Posas Small Agriculture – Josh Waters
3. East Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Laurel Servin

C. Agenda Review: No changes to the agenda were requested or noted.

D. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

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

F. Regular Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2025, Regular PAC Meeting

Richard Cavaletto moved to approve the minutes as stated for the February 6, 2025, meeting; John Menne seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstentions; 4-Absent.

2. Status Report on Appointment of TAC member to ASR Study Group

Public notice was posted to identify nominees for the ASR study group to represent the LPV landowners. Vice-chair Grether identified Bob Abrams, TAC member and senior quantitative hydrogeologist, as a candidate for the role. The PAC discussed his qualifications and determined

that Mr. Abrams would be a strong addition to the study group due to his extensive modeling skills and his knowledge of the LPV Basin.

John Menne made a motion to recommend Mr. Bob Abrams as the ASR study group representative for the landowners; Richard Cavaletto seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 6-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstentions; 4-Absent.

Watermaster/FCGMA will be notified that the PAC supports the appointment of Bob Abrams as the ASR Study Group representative on behalf of the LPV landowners.

3. 2024 Draft Annual Report Initial Comments

The PAC had an initial discussion about the Draft GSP Annual Report with a focus on the monitoring wells and their importance in accurately determining the sustainability of the Basin. Two existing monitoring wells are showing declining water levels, but otherwise groundwater levels look good. The language in the report, however, implies something significantly worse. The PAC would like the tone of the text to match what takeaways from the data.

4. Watermaster Budget

The PAC discussed how to engage in the budgeting efforts and identify priorities for engagement with Watermaster/FCGMA. Watermaster provided a draft annual budget and draft annual workplan for Fiscal Year 2025-26 for the PAC's consideration and committee consultation in accordance with Section 7.5 of the Judgment.

The FCGMA Fiscal Committee provided notice of their upcoming Las Posas Valley budgetary meeting on February 27, 2025, where the budget and workplan will be reviewed in detail; participation from the PAC and from members of the public is encouraged. Refinement of the budget and workplan will continue in collaboration with Watermaster/FCGMA, the PAC and the TAC.

5. BOYS Modeling

The PAC discussed modeling efforts associated with the Basin Optimization Yield Study (BOYS), and the status of the pending contract with United Water Conservation District (UWCD) to provide modeling services. The current projected completion date for the BOYS report is December 2025, assuming the modeling data is available today; if Watermaster is unable to secure a contract with UWCD to obtain the required services, they will be forced to develop new or alternative models, incur additional expenses, and delay the completion of the study by as much as 36 months.

As of February 20, 2025, FCGMA had not secured an agreement with UWCD to perform the modeling necessary for completion of the BOYS. An inability to have United perform the necessary modeling would create a lengthy and costly delay in completing the BOYS, which will impact determination of the basin optimization yield, the operating yield, and the rampdown rate for the Basin.

Chair Prichard and Vice-chair Grether concurred that a letter from the PAC to the Watermaster could be helpful to encourage the expeditious signing of an agreement with UWCD to perform the modeling necessary for the BOYS. A draft letter was presented to the PAC for review and comments. After review of the letter and a few minor enhancements were suggested, John Menne made a motion to authorize Chair Prichard to submit the revised letter to Watermaster; Richard Cavaletto seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 7-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstentions; 3-Absent.

6. **CMWD Background** – *This item was deferred to a future meeting.*

Ian Prichard, Deputy General Manager of Calleguas Municipal Water District, will provide information on the history, operations, and water resource development plans for the district.

G. PAC Subcommittee Reports:

1. Operations Subcommittee: No meeting; nothing to report.
2. Executive Subcommittee: No meeting; nothing to report.
3. Fiscal Subcommittee: No meeting; nothing to report.
4. TAC Subcommittee: No report was given.

H. Written Communication: None.

I. Future Agenda Items: Ian Prichard, Deputy General Manager of Calleguas Municipal Water District, will provide a presentation on the history, operations, and water resource development plans for the district.

J. Adjournment: Chair Prichard adjourned the meeting at 4:43 PM, until the next regular hybrid PAC meeting which is scheduled for March 6, at 3:00 PM.

TO: Las Posas Valley Watermaster

FROM: Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee

RE: Recommendation Report – 2025 Draft Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024 (dated March 2025)

DATE: March 6, 2025

Dear Las Posas Valley Watermaster,

The Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) provides this Recommendation Report on the **Draft 2025 Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024 dated March 2025**.

Recommendation:

See memo below for recommended changes/additions to the **Draft 2025 Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024 dated March 2025**.

Policy Rationale for Recommendation:

See memo below for rationale.

Summary of Facts in Support of Recommendation:

See memo below for complete summary of facts.

Tally of Committee Member Votes:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ian Prichard, Callegaus MWD				
Jeff Palmer, VC WWD No. 1 & 19				
John Menne, Zone MWC				
Rob Grether, West LPV Large Ag				
David Schwabauer, East LPV Large Ag				
Josh Waters, East LPV Small Ag				
Richard Cavaletto, West LPV Small Ag				
Laurel Servin, East LPV MWC				
Steven Murata, West LPV MWC				
Arturo Aseo, Commercial				

Report of Bases for Majority and Minority Committee Member Positions:

PAC Recommendation Report Regarding the 2025 Draft Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024 (dated March 2025)

In accordance with the Judgment entered in Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency VENC100509700 (Judgement), the Las Posas Valley Watermaster (Watermaster) has prepared a 2025 Draft Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Annual Report. The PAC has reviewed and discussed the 2025 Draft Annual Report at the February 20, 2025 and March 7, 2025 regularly scheduled meetings in response to the Las Posas Valley Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) committee consultation request. Annual reporting of groundwater conditions and progress toward sustainability are required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the Judgment.

The PAC recommendation for this Annual Report focused on a singular topic as presented below.

Recommendation 1: Provide clarification on relationship between basin sustainable yield, groundwater levels, and overall groundwater conditions in eastern portion of WLPMA and northern portion of ELPMA

The PAC had an initial discussion about the Draft GSP Annual Report with a focus on the monitoring wells and their importance in accurately determining the groundwater conditions and ultimately the sustainability of the Basin. The Annual Report focuses attention on two monitoring wells that are showing declining water levels and downplays the general groundwater level trends prevalent across both the WLPMA and ELPMA.

The 2025 Draft Annual Report (Section 3.1.1) concludes that:

- “Groundwater elevations in the eastern portion of the WLPMA and northern portion of the ELPMA declined between water year 2015 and water year 2024. Elsewhere in the LPV Basin, where measured, *groundwater elevations were either stable or increased between water years 2015 and 2024*” (emphasis added).
- “Undesirable Results occurred in the eastern portion of the WLPMA, where groundwater elevations at well 02N20W06R01S were consistently measured below the minimum threshold between water year 2019 and water year 2024.”

The monitoring well hydrographs for the WLPMA (Figures 2-11) do not depict the dire conditions intimated by the Annual Report language. Well 02N20W06R01S in the eastern WLPMA is reported to

have a water level below the Minimum Threshold but the hydrograph shows how the well has rebounded with wetter conditions. This well's low water level is the sole well used to contour a groundwater depression in the eastern WLPMA, despite the existence of a nearby unmonitored well completed in the same aquifer that could be used to cross-check the validity of the 06R01S water level values and provide insights on the areal extent of the presumed water level depression.

Similarly, the monitoring well hydrographs for the ELPMA (Figures 2-12a, b, c) show groundwater conditions where the water levels are at or above the Minimum Threshold and for several wells are at or above the Measurable Objective. A single well (03N19W19J01S) located along the extreme northern edge of the basin shows a long-term declining water level trend with current water levels near the Measurable Objective.

The PAC recommends that the tone of the Annual Report text be revisited to emphasize that the basin-wide groundwater conditions are stable or slightly improved with only one isolated well showing water levels near the Minimum Threshold.

This recommendation is consistent with the conclusionary statements presented in Section 3.1.1 of the Draft Annual Report and more clearly communicates that neither the WLPMA nor ELPMA displayed basin-wide declines in water levels.