

Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency

Post-Meeting
AGENDA PACKAGE

Board Regular Meeting
of
March 26, 2025



Annual reports are available online; links are included

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) Board of Directors will hold a **Board Hybrid Meeting** at **12:30 P.M.** on **Wednesday, March 26, 2025**, in the **Board of Supervisor's Hearing Room and via Zoom**, at the Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Administration, Main Plaza Level at **800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California.**

FCGMA BOARD REGULAR MEETING REVISED AGENDA

**March 26, 2025
12:30 P.M.**

Welcome to the meeting of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Board of Directors, also sitting as watermaster for the Las Posas Valley Basin and the groundwater sustainability agency for the Las Posas Valley Basin, the Pleasant Valley Basin, and the Oxnard Subbasin. For more information, full agenda packets, or past meeting information, visit www.fcgma.org.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all possible accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities so they may attend and participate in meetings. If special assistance is needed, please call (805) 654-2014 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so proper arrangements may be assured. If requested, and as possible, agendas will be provided in alternative formats.

Agenda items are numbered for identification purposes only and may not necessarily be considered in this order. Agenda items are grouped under Las Posas Valley Watermaster (LPV Watermaster) or under Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA), if the item directly applies only to that entity. The Board reserves the right to limit each speaker to five (5) minutes per subject or topic if necessary. The public portion of every public meeting of the Board of Directors is recorded. Please see the "STANDING NOTICES" section at the end of this Agenda for more information, including options for hybrid attendance and public participation.

OPENING

- 1. Call to Order** – The Board Chair will call the meeting to order.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance** – A Board member will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Roll Call** – Attending Board members, alternates, and staff will be recorded by the Board Clerk.

4. **Agenda Review** – Consider and approve by majority vote, any minor revisions to Board Agenda items and/or attachments and any item(s) added or removed from this Agenda.
5. **Public Comments** – Audience members may speak about Agency-related matters not on today's Agenda. California State law does not allow any response or action from the Board concerning non-agenda topics at this time; however, topics can be placed on future agendas or referred to staff. Please come to the podium and state your name and affiliation for the record before commenting on any particular subject.
6. **Executive Officer's Comments** – Brief announcements and administrative report on Agency workforce activities.
7. **Board Member Comments** – An opportunity for Board Members to make comments or to communicate with other directors, staff, and/or the public regarding non-agenda topics.

CONSENT AGENDA

Routine items are placed under the Consent portion of this Agenda and need only be reviewed and approved by one single motion. Consent Agenda items are grouped under LPV Watermaster or under FCGMA, if the item directly applies only to that entity. Consent items generally require no discussion; however, they may be debated or voted on by moving them to the "Regular Agenda" portion at the Board's discretion.

8. **Approval of Minutes – (New Item) RECOMMENDATION:** Approve minutes of the January 22, 2025, Board Regular meeting.
9. **Approval of Minutes – (New Item) RECOMMENDATION:** Approve minutes of the February 12, 2025, Board Special meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA – FCGMA Items

10. **FCGMA Budget to Actual Report for February 2025 – (New Item) RECOMMENDATION:** Receive and file the monthly financial report.
11. **Approval of Annual Reports for the Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Basin for Water Year 2024 – (New Item) RECOMMENDATIONS:** (1) Approve and authorize Agency staff to submit the Water Year (WY) 2024 Annual Reports for the Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Basin to the Department of Water Resources (DWR); and (2) Receive and file this staff report.

CONSENT AGENDA – LPV Watermaster Items

12. **LPV Watermaster Budget to Actual Report for February 2025 – (New Item) RECOMMENDATION:** Receive and file the monthly financial report.

13. **Nomination of Watermaster Representative to Calleguas ASR Study Group – (New Item) RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the nomination of Robert Hampson as Watermaster Representative to the Calleguas ASR Study Group.
14. **Approve and Authorize the Interim Executive Officer to Execute a Professional Services Contract with Regional Government Services to Provide Groundwater Extraction and Use Reporting Services – (New Item) RECOMMENDATION:** Approve and authorize the Executive Officer to execute a professional services contract with Regional Government Services (RGS) to administer the Las Posas Valley Adjudication Groundwater Extraction and Use Reporting requirements and related administrative services.

CONSENT AGENDA – CORRESPONDENCE Items

Correspondence Agenda items are presented to the Board for information under the Consent Agenda. These items require no action or are not ready for Board consideration.

15. **Receive and file correspondence** from Ian Prichard, Chair of LPV PAC, regarding the draft Basin Optimization Plan and its role in the Watermaster budgeting process, dated February 7, 2025.
16. **Receive and file correspondence** from Ian Prichard, Deputy General Manager of Calleguas Municipal Water District regarding the existing Calleguas well-monitoring program in the West Las Posas Management Area, dated February 13, 2025.
17. **REVISED - Receive and file correspondence** from Ian Prichard, Chair of LPV PAC, regarding the PAC review of the 2/21/2025 Draft FY 2025-2026 LPV Watermaster Budget, dated March 13, 2025. **Item revised to include this correspondence.**

REGULAR AGENDA

Regular Agenda items are heard at the Board's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting. Regular Agenda items are grouped under LPV Watermaster or under FCGMA, if the item directly applies only to that entity.

18. **Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors and Board Member Committee Assignments – (Returning Item) RECOMMENDATIONS:** (1) Select a Board Member to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for Calendar Year 2025; and (2) Assign Board Members to serve as members on the Agency's Executive Committee, Fiscal Committee, and Operations Committee.

REGULAR AGENDA – FCGMA Items

19. **John K. Flynn Groundwater Stewardship Award Nominating Ad-Hoc Committee – (Returning Item) RECOMMENDATION:** Select two Agency Board

members to serve on an ad hoc committee to consider nominees and select a recipient of the John K. Flynn Groundwater Stewardship Award for 2025.

20. **Approve and Authorize the Interim Executive Officer to Execute a Professional Services Contract Modification with Peckham & McKenney for Recruitment of an Agency Executive Officer Increasing the Not-To-Exceed Limit to \$30,000 – (New Item)** **RECOMMENDATIONS:** (1) Receive a presentation from Agency staff on the recruitment of an Agency Executive Officer, (2) Approve and authorize the Interim Executive Officer to execute a professional services contract modification with City Management Advisors, LLC (dba Peckham & McKenney) for recruitment of an Agency Executive Officer, increasing the not-to-exceed limit to \$30,000.

REGULAR AGENDA – LPV Watermaster Items

21. **Approval of an Annual Report for the Las Posas Valley Basin for Water Year 2024 – (New Item)** **RECOMMENDATIONS:** (1) Approve and authorize Agency staff to submit the Water Year (WY) 2024 Annual Report for the Las Posas Valley Basin to the Department of Water Resources (DWR); and (2) Receive and file this staff report.

CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

Discussions of Closed Session Agenda items are closed to the public. The Chair will announce when the Board is going into closed session. Closed session items may be heard at any time during the meeting.

22. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Gov. Code, §54956.9) PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9, SUBDIVISION (d), PARAGRAPH (1): NAME OF CASE:** City of Oxnard v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 20STCP00929
23. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Gov. Code, §54956.9) PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9, SUBDIVISION (d), PARAGRAPH (1): NAME OF CASE:** Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Santa Barbara County Superior Court Case No. VENC10059700
24. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Gov. Code, §54956.9) PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9, SUBDIVISION (d), PARAGRAPH (1): NAME OF CASE:** OPV Coalition et al v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Santa Barbara County Superior Court Case No. VENC100555357
25. **Adjourn Board Meeting.**

STANDING 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.

Public Comment: Public comment is the opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing the Fox Canyon Board of Directors in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items.

The following options allow for public participation:

1. Join the Zoom Meeting as an Attendee:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88546442381?pwd=HPauvBtW3fvJrjvjlZiZymWBICD9oB.1>
Webinar ID: 885 4644 2381
Passcode: 236753
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. If you experience technical difficulties during Zoom meeting attendance that impact your ability to hear or see meeting proceedings, please contact the host via chat, or raise your hand for Q&A inside the Zoom Client. If you are unable to contact the host via the Zoom Client's chat or Q&A features, please call (805) 654-2014 and report the issue, then consider submitting written comment according to option 4, below. Should the technical issue persist on Zoom, please consider option 2, below.
2. Observe the Board of Directors meeting streaming live by navigating to the "Current and Upcoming Meetings" section of our website and clicking on the video icon button next to the meeting listing at: <https://fcgma.org/board-agendas-broadcasts-minutes/>
3. Call in to listen to the meeting:
+1 669 444 9171 US
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 689 278 1000 US
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 305 224 1968 US
+1 309 205 3325 US
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 360 209 5623 US
+1 386 347 5053 US
+1 507 473 4847 US
+1 564 217 2000 US
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
+1 646 931 3860 US
Webinar ID: 885 4644 2381
Passcode: 236753
Options 2 and 3 will not allow you to make direct speaking comments. If you wish to make a written comment, please follow the steps below.
4. If you wish to make a written comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Board regular meeting. Please submit your comment to the Clerk of the Board at FCGMA@ventura.org. Please indicate

in the subject line of your email the agenda item number (e.g., Item 9). Your comment will be read by the Board of Directors and placed into the record.

5. If you are watching the live stream of the Board meeting and would like to make either a general public comment (Item 5) for items not on the day's agenda or to comment on a specific agenda item as it is being heard, please submit your comment via email to the Clerk of the Board at FCGMA@ventura.org. Please indicate in the email subject line, the agenda item number (e.g., Item No. 9). Every effort will be made to read your comment into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting.

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 memos, presentations, maps, etc. If possible, in advance of the meeting, email a PDF of your materials to FCGMA@ventura.org.

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, via emailing FCGMA@ventura.org 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.

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 72 hours before the regular 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.

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 Agency Clerk to find out about rescheduled items.

The Ralph M. Brown Act: It is the intent of the law that the actions of this Board be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly. Read about the Ralph M. Brown Act via this link: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?chapter=9.&division=2.&lawCode=GOV&part=1.&title=5.

Agency Information and Updates: Our website address is <https://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 be added to our email notification list, or to speak to a staff member, please contact the FCGMA Clerk of the Board at (805) 654-2014 or via email at FCGMA@ventura.org.

March 26, 2025

Board of Directors
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1600

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report – (Returning Item)

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file this informational report.

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2025 FLYNN AWARD

In 2003, a Groundwater Stewardship Award was established to honor long-time County Supervisor and Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Director John K. Flynn for his many accomplishments and contributions to the Agency. The annual award is meant to recognize an individual or entity that contributed the most to protecting groundwater, enhancing water quality, or assisting the Agency in efforts to manage water resources in this area of the County. An Item requesting the Board form an ad hoc Selection Committee to review nominations and select the 2025 award recipient is listed in this meeting's Regular Agenda.

Stakeholders are encouraged to submit nominations for 2025 recipients of the Flynn Award by March 31st; send an email to fcgma@ventura.org with "Flynn Award Nominee" in the subject line. Include a contact email or phone number for your nominee. Staff will update the Ad Hoc Selection Committee as nominations are received. Read more about the Flynn Award at: <https://fcgma.org/john-k-flynn-award/>.

MONTHLY BUDGET TO ACTUAL ACCOUNTING:

The FCGMA and LPV Watermaster monthly budget reports for February 2025 are listed in the Consent Agenda. Variances of note are included in the footnotes of each report.

**LPV WATERMASTER ASSESSMENTS:
WY 2024 BASIN ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

On September 25, 2024, the Watermaster Board adopted a Basin Assessment for Las Posas Valley Basin for Water Year (WY) 2024 of \$64.58 to be invoiced quarterly at \$16.145. Two quarterly Basin Assessment (BA) invoices have been sent to water right holders as of March 20, 2025. Payments not received within a month of the due date are

considered delinquent and shall bear interest at the current real property tax delinquency rate for Ventura County per the Judgment.

First quarterly Basin Assessment (BA) invoices for Water Year 2024 were sent to water right holders via email on October 2, 2024, with payments due November 1, 2024. Two notices of delinquency were sent to delinquent Water Management Identifications (WMIDs) on December 11 and December 21, 2024. A list of delinquent 2024-1 WMIDs, as of March 20, 2025, is available on the Watermaster website at: https://s42135.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/LPV-Basin-Assess-Delinq-Report-2024-1_2025-03-21-1.pdf.

On January 6, 2024, Watermaster released the second quarterly BA invoice with a due date of January 30, 2025. Two notices of delinquency were sent to delinquent Water Management Identifications (WMIDs) on March 10 and March 20, 2025. A list of delinquent 2024-2 WMIDs, as of March 20, 2025, is available on the Watermaster website at: https://s42135.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/LPV-Basin-Assess-Delinq-Report-2024-2_2025-03-21-1.pdf.

Adopted Annual Allocations for WY 2024 and the schedule of quarterly installments are available on the Watermaster website at: <https://fcgma.org/annual-allocations-wy-2024/>.

2023-1 DELINQUENT BASIN ASSESSMENTS

As of March 10, 2025, staff have processed \$1,287,217.90 from LPV Basin Assessments for WY 2023. Delinquent payments for WY 2023 as of March 10, 2025, amount to \$21,747.08 from 8 WMIDs. Staff is taking the next steps consistent with its enforcement authorities to collect remaining amounts.

MEETINGS

BOARD MEETINGS

Staff have scheduled an additional Special Meeting on Friday, May 23, which is planned to be largely closed session, for the Board to conduct final interviews of candidates in the Executive Officer recruitment.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on Monday, March 17, and discussed the recruiting process and schedule for filling the Executive Officer position. Agency staff is working closely with the Ventura County Executive Office - Human Resources (CEO HR) department in creating the position for a full-time Executive Officer. The County Board of Supervisors approved the ordinance creating the position and it will become effective on April 16, 2025. This topic is discussed in further detail in another Item in this agenda.

The Executive Committee recommends forming a selection panel to allow stakeholder involvement for the first round of interviews. The Committee suggests that the selection panel consist of representatives from the Las Posas, Oxnard, and Pleasant Valley Basins,

and that it includes a range of stakeholders including agriculture, municipal and local water agency representatives with guidance provided by FCGMA and CEO HR.

Stakeholders are invited to suggest names for the selection panel. Please email your nominations and their contact information to FCGMA@ventura.org with “EO Selection Panel Nominee” in the email subject line at your earliest convenience.

The Executive Committee also discussed priorities for the FY 25/26 budget. Topics included variances, rampdown, projects and groundwater monitoring. It was recommended staff work on streamlining the allocation variance process, and the initiation of basin specific stakeholder groups to begin the discussions of allocation rampdown with the goal to eventually develop recommendations and options for Board consideration. The importance of the Agency not being a barrier for getting projects moving was emphasized as key to the Agency’s goal of reaching sustainability per its Groundwater Sustainability Plans. Lastly, data gaps in the groundwater monitoring network should be identified and a plan initiated to fill those gaps.

The next Executive Committee meeting has been rescheduled to Friday, April 18, at 1:30 PM in the Lower-Plaza Assembly Room.

The Fiscal Committee

The Fiscal Committee met on Tuesday, March 18, and discussed the development of the LPV Watermaster Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Budget, and the Board’s priorities for the development of the FCGMA FY 2025-26 Work Plan and Budget.

LPV Watermaster Budget

The committee appreciated the refinement to the LPV Watermaster Budget since first discussed at the February 27, 2025, committee meeting and understands the accuracy of future budgets will improve with the Watermaster gaining more experience implementing the judgement. The committee requested more information and detail on fiscal time tracking, legal costs, and fee schedule development and understands policy decisions are needed for the operating reserve, and how funds from any surplus in FY24/25 will be handled.

FCGMA Budget

The committee stated efforts the Agency should budget for are a robust public outreach program and leading basin specific discussions on allocation rampdown. The early rampdown discussion is to avoid surprises from reductions in allocation if rampdown is needed to achieve sustainability. The Agency’s public outreach efforts should focus on both reaching stakeholders, especially those who are not aware of the Agency’s efforts, to learn their concerns and thoughts on Board priorities, and identifying and promoting projects to improve sustainability. The discussion on priorities and objectives for 2025/26 concluded with there is a greater need for in-depth discussions on strategic goals and objectives than could be completed for this budget cycle and recommended future committee work.

Future Committee Work

The Committee recommended it spend its meetings, post budget development, on developing Fiscal Policies for both LPV Watermaster and the Agency, through the end of the calendar year with frequent meetings tackling one policy matter at a time to support the Board's effort to develop a high-level roadmap towards a strategic plan.

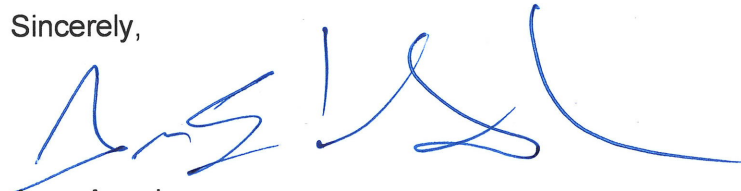
The Fiscal Committee will next meet Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the Multi-Purpose Room.

For more information about Board and Committee meetings, please see the list of Scheduled Meetings for Calendar Year 2025 (attached as Exhibit 6A).

CONCLUSION:

This letter has been reviewed by Agency Counsel. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 654-3942.

Sincerely,



Arne Anselm
Interim Executive Officer

Attachment:

Item 6A – Scheduled Meetings for Calendar Year 2025

Board Regular Meetings

Fourth Wednesday, Monthly

Date	Start Time	Room
Wednesday, January 22	12:30 PM	BOS
Wednesday, February 26	12:30 PM	BOS
Wednesday, March 26	12:30 PM	BOS
Wednesday, April 23	12:30 PM	BOS
Wednesday, May 28	12:30 PM	BOS
Wednesday, June 25	12:30 PM	BOS
Wednesday, July 23	12:30 PM	BOS
Wednesday, August 27	12:30 PM	BOS
Wednesday, September 24	12:30 PM	BOS
Wednesday, October 22	12:30 PM	BOS
Wednesday, December 10	12:30 PM	BOS

Board Special Meetings

Typically, Second Friday, Monthly, As Needed

Wednesday, February 12	12:30 PM	BOS
Friday, April 11	12:30 PM	LPAR
Friday, May 9	12:30 PM	LPAR
Friday, May 23 – Closed Session	9:30 AM	MPR
Friday, June 13	12:30 PM	MPR
Friday, July 11	12:30 PM	LPAR
Friday, August 8	12:30 PM	LPAR
Friday, September 12	12:30 PM	MPR
Friday, October 10	12:30 PM	LPAR
Friday, November 14	12:30 PM	MPR

Executive Committee Meetings

As Needed

Thursday, January 9	1:30 PM	LPAR
Monday, March 17	10:00 AM	LPAR
Friday, April 18	1:30 PM	LPAR
Thursday, July 10	1:30 PM	LPAR
Thursday, September 4	1:30 PM	MPR
Thursday, November 6	1:30 PM	MPR

Fiscal Committee Meetings

As Needed

Thursday, February 27	9:00 AM	ACR
Tuesday, March 18	10:00 AM	LPAR
Tuesday, April 15	10:00 AM	MPR
Tuesday, May 6	10:00 AM	MPR
Tuesday, June 17	10:00 AM	MPR
Tuesday, July 15	10:00 AM	MPR
Tuesday, August 19	10:00 AM	MPR

Operations Committee Meetings

As Needed

Monday, February 3	1:30 PM	MPR
Monday, April 7	12:30 PM	MPR
Monday, June 2	1:30 PM	MPR
Monday, August 4	1:30 PM	MPR
Monday, October 6	1:30 PM	MPR

ABOUT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- All meetings will be held at the Ventura County Government Center, Administration Building, at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California, unless otherwise noted.
- **Special meetings and committee meetings are subject to necessity and may be rescheduled or may not be noticed to occur.**
- When a meeting is officially noticed per the Ralph M. Brown Act, it is confirmed to occur.
- To stay up to date, contact FCGMA@ventura.org to subscribe to our notification list.
- Alterations of the time or room are possible, so please check for facility or start time changes each month.
- Meeting schedules are online at <https://fcgma.org/events/>.

Key	
"As Needed"	Subject to Necessity
Row is Gray	Already Occurred
Strikethrough	Meeting Not Held
ACR	Atlantic Conference Room
BOS	Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
LPAR	Lower Plaza Assembly Room
MPR	Multi-Purpose Room

MINUTES

Minutes of the Wednesday, January 22, 2025, hybrid Regular meeting of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Board of Directors, also sitting as watermaster for the Las Posas Valley Basin and the groundwater sustainability agency for the Las Posas Valley Basin, the Pleasant Valley Basin, and the Oxnard Subbasin. The meeting occurred via Zoom and in-person in the Board of Supervisors Boardroom at the Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Administration, at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California.

1. Call to Order

12:32 P.M.

Chair Eugene F. West called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Director Maulhardt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Directors Present

Chair Eugene F. West
Director Kelly Long
Director Tony Trembley
Director Michael Craviotto
Director Lynn Maulhardt

Alternate Director Bert Perello attended as a member of the public.

Agency Staff Present

Alberto Boada, Agency Counsel
Jason Canger, Agency Counsel
Arne Anselm, Interim Executive Officer
Farai Kaseke, Groundwater Manager
Elka Weber, Clerk of the Board

Robert Hampson, Groundwater Specialist
Kathy Jones, Staff Services Specialist
Fatima Perez, Management Assistant
Erin Ware, Administrative Assistant

4. Agenda Review

12:33 P.M.

No changes were made to the agenda during review.

5. Public Comments

12:34 P.M.

Public comment was given by:

Paul McDaniel of Strickland Mutual Water Company, concerning the reporting issue also presented in Item 12 of this meeting's Correspondence Agenda, and

Barbara Brenner of Del Norte Mutual Water Company, concerning deferring Item 17 on this meeting's Regular Agenda. Ms. Brenner was asked to hold her request once the Board arrived at the Item on the Agenda.

6. Executive Officer's Comments

12:38 P.M.

Interim Executive Officer Arne Anselm referred the Board to the administrative report attached to Item 6 as an exhibit and provided a brief presentation on the Agency's accomplishments and challenges during calendar year 2024 and noted how much progress staff have been able to make towards Board priorities throughout.

Chair West asked for comment from the Board. Director Long noted the Agency's updated organizational chart which reflected progress on addressing the staffing shortage that has impacted the Agency in recent years, and pointed out that recruiting, hiring, onboarding, and training new people is a lot of work on top of the Agency's given tasks. Director Long thanked the Agency and its Interim Executive Officer for their hard work and dedication to this organization and its stakeholders. Director Maulhardt commented that the workflow is massive at present, with the level of complexity in reporting and ongoing litigation taken into account, and he also thanked staff for their improvement and growth over the years. Director Trembley agreed with Directors Long and Maulhardt and thanked the staff for their teamwork.

7. Board Member Comments

12:49 P.M.

Director Long thanked all the mutuals for collaborating with our agencies and water districts on solutions during the fires, especially regarding access to backup power and generators in light of the power shutoffs that accompanied recent fire events. Director Long wanted the public to be aware that the County has been working very hard to try to keep power on, especially now, in light of recent growth of the current Hughes Fire in our region that is very concerning. Director Long is proud of how communicative and collaborative the community is in response to fires.

Director Maulhardt noted that the Hughes Fire Director Long mentioned, currently burning in Santa Clarita, is part of the United Water Conservation District watershed, water which

fills the region's aquifers so the fire will have a direct impact on the Oxnard Plain watershed.

CONSENT AGENDA

12:52 P.M.

8. Approval of Minutes of the December 13, 2024, Board Special meeting.

9. Approve and Authorize the Executive Officer to Execute a Professional Services Contract with Hallmark Group for Additional Services and Support Related to Agency Staffing Analysis

CONSENT AGENDA – FCGMA Items

10. FCGMA Budget to Actual Report for December 2024

CONSENT AGENDA – LPV Watermaster Items

11. LPV Watermaster Budget to Actual Report for December 2024

CONSENT AGENDA – CORRESPONDENCE Items

12. Receive and file correspondence from Paul McDaniel of Strickland Mutual Water Company regarding meter calibration records, dated January 1, 2025.

13. Receive and file correspondence from Kristine McCaffrey of Calleguas Municipal Water District regarding the draft Las Posas Valley Basin Optimization Plan (BOP), dated January 15, 2025.

Chair West asked for a motion to approve and adopt the Consent Agenda, Items 8 through 13 inclusive, as presented.

Director Trembley asked to be heard on Items 8 and 10, and noted that, with respect to Item 8, the motion that Director Trembley brought forth, that the Board approved at the December 13, 2024 meeting, asked that there be a paragraph added to the Periodic Evaluations for both the Oxnard Subbasin and the Pleasant Valley Basin, and that this is not reflected accurately in the minutes for the meeting, as drafted and included in this meeting's consent agenda as Item 8.

Director Trembley noted that, in the draft minutes as currently presented, staff framed the prior motion approving the Periodic Evaluation for the Oxnard Subbasin as separate from the motion Director Trembley proposed shortly thereafter, which is incorrect. Director Trembley's motion not only applied to the Periodic Evaluation for the Pleasant Valley Basin, but also for the Periodic Evaluation for the Oxnard Subbasin.

Director Trembley requested, as a matter of courtesy and of correction for the record, that staff bring back a reaffirmance of that particular motion to the next meeting as an Agenda Item and provide an amendment document with the referenced language in the motion

as approved by the Board on December 13, 2024, to the Periodic Evaluation for the Oxnard Subbasin and submit it to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).¹

Regarding Item 10, the FCGMA Budget to Actual Report for December 2024, Director Trembley asked for clarification with respect to the footnotes in the report, regarding the variances noted from month to month, and he asked for staff to follow up with him to provide context.² Director Trembley noted that this request comes with his appreciation for the monthly reports and recognition for the work involved to produce them.

Motion: Director Trembley moved to adopt the Consent Agenda subject to requested amendments as stated. Director Maulhardt seconded the motion. Director Long stepped away and was not present for the roll call vote. The motion passed with all present in favor at 12:56 P.M.

REGULAR AGENDA - FCGMA Items

14. Agency Executive Officer Position

12:57 P.M.

Interim Executive Officer Arne Anselm presented the Item and reminded the Board that this recruitment will be a first for the Agency, which has never recruited a full-time dedicated Executive Officer (EO) in the past, and that the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget includes funding for a full-time Agency EO. Draft job qualifications and duties for the EO position have been discussed at the December 13, 2024, Board meeting, and at the January 9, 2025, Executive Committee meeting. At the Executive Committee's recommendation, a requirement of five years of executive-level management experience has been added to the job qualifications. The Executive Committee also discussed and made recommendations for revising the compensation comparison prepared by the County Executive Office Human Resources (CEO HR) department, which compared salary, compensatory leave, and other employer-paid benefits such as deferred compensation, health benefits, and retirement. Revisions include adding additional points of comparison against comparable water agencies; clarifying the position's "at-will" status, and how it is exempt from the civil service system, serving at the pleasure of the Board; flexible merit increases; executive annual leave, and a revised salary range of \$198,500 - \$258,000 annually.

Mr. Anselm noted that there are parallel paths being taken to create and fill the position of the Executive Officer. FCGMA will prioritize finding the ideal finalist candidates with an Executive Recruitment firm for selection that will include stakeholder input and ultimately

¹ To review redline revisions to the December 13, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes, and to review the revision and subsequent Adoption of the Revised Periodic Evaluation for the Oxnard Subbasin, please see **Item 8 and its Exhibits 8A through 8C, from the February 12, 2025 FCGMA Board Agenda**, at <https://ventura.primegov.com/portal/item?id=274401>.

² See **attached Exhibit 8A for requested follow-up**. View the updated month over month variance footnotes at https://fcgma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Item-10-FCGMA_FY-2024-25_Monthly-Balance-Report-as-of-December-2024_Updated-20250210.pdf.

rest with the Board's decision, while CEO HR will create the County position according to the position description deliverable discussed for approval by the Board at today's meeting and will then bring the position to the County Board of Supervisors for approval of the new position. Mr. Anselm estimated that the timeline would be approximately 20 weeks, depending on the search for and vetting of ideal candidates.

Chair West asked for Board comments at 1:01 P.M. He thanked CEO HR for preparing and revising the compensation comparison study. Director Trembley asked that the language in the introduction of the position description be grammatically clarified; Director Long expressed appreciation to the Office of the CEO, CEO HR, and to stakeholders who provided comments at the Executive Committee meeting in order to provide needed feedback and expanded perspective on the position description. Director Craviotto seconded Director Long's statements and added that the salary range seems reasonable, but that the Board will need to consider hiring someone at the upper end of the salary range to find a candidate of appropriate caliber. Director Craviotto then compared the hourly rate of the EO role to a blended rate he stated was paid to County for all PWA staff and noted that the Board has a fiduciary duty to rate payers to provide the best possible rates that the Agency can, and part of that means that the Board should have some transparency on what the County is expecting to receive.

Interim Executive Officer Arne Anselm responded that the blended rate may be what was used in the past to calculate the LPV Watermaster budget; on the FCGMA budget, Mr. Anselm continued, staff used the full encumbered cost and noted that there is no profit to Public Works or the County; all costs go to health care and overhead such as facilities, IT systems and the like. Mr. Anselm then agreed to provide transparency into what goes into the overhead rate.

Director Long noted that salary is one element in the figurative envelope that is total compensation and noted that the other benefits associated with this role are also a factor for candidates to consider.

Director Maulhardt expressed concern that the longstanding arguments over County influence on this Agency will not be addressed by this structure. Director Maulhardt stated that independence is the fundamental problem that the Agency must face.

Chair West responded to Director Maulhardt's comments, noting that the process he addressed with his comments is running on a separate track out of necessity; Arne Anselm is retiring, and the Agency needs an Executive Officer. We have no other option other than to replace him. Chair West reminded the Board that the cost implications were the first phase to address regarding staffing the Agency, and the staffing analysis conducted by Hallmark, to be presented to the Board in a meeting in the near future, is the first step on that second track, which will provide the needed information to the Board before recommending a cash needs analysis against the scope of work Hallmark has prepared. Chair West noted that the analysis will consider whether alternative staffing options, such as full independence or partial County contracting, are financially viable in

comparison to how the Agency is currently staffed. But regarding this Agenda Item, there is an imminent need for an EO.

Director Maulhardt asked stakeholders to provide feedback to the Executive Committee to help guide them in the process. Director Long directed stakeholders to look at the structure of this Agency at present – regardless of who does the work, we need the structure of the work to be clear and understood. She continued, stating that the Agency needs the structure of the work to be sound in order to best serve our stakeholders, and echoed Chair West's reminder about the Staffing Analysis to be presented by Hallmark Group, noting that the analysis will be eye opening in terms of how much time and how many people it takes to complete the work required to run this Agency.

Regarding the draft Request for Qualifications Exhibit included with this Agenda Item, Director Trembley asked for clarification regarding the process of selecting a recruitment firm to conduct the search for ideal candidates. Interim Executive Officer Anselm responded that the process would move forward with more speed if he were empowered pursuant to his existing authority to select the recruitment firm. The Board could then focus on the recruitment itself. He noted that a contract for the selected firm would be coming back to the Board.

Chair West asked for public comment at 1:21 P.M.

Public comment was given by:

Greg Lewis, Vice President, Duda Farm Fresh Foods

Bert Perello, Councilmember, City of Oxnard, and Alternate Director, FCGMA

The Board agrees that the stakeholders deserve information and can provide baseline guidance on how the Agency can be more effective and accountable.

Motion: Chair West asked for a motion to approve the draft description of duties, qualifications, and compensation of the Agency Executive Officer position. Director Long so moved. Director Craviotto seconded the motion. Chair West asked for those in favor. The motion passed with all in favor, and none opposed, at 1:24 P.M.

Chair West noted that the Executive Committee brought up what the selection process will look like once candidates are selected and pre-screened by the recruiter and noted that further discussion is needed. It was suggested, he continued, that the final pool of qualified candidates be interviewed in the first round of final interviews by a screening panel comprised of stakeholders, a representative from CEO HR, and from Agency staff. Chair West noted that nominations for the screening panel are suggested to come from the Board engaging with their constituents in order to select stakeholder representatives to fully and broadly reflect the interests in this Agency, and to find nominations willing to provide this service. The Board would then conduct final interviews. Director Maulhardt

stated that he agreed with that roadmap. Chair West suggested having the screening panel appointments on the next Board Agenda and noted that screening panel nominations will work with CEO HR and the recruitment firm for guidance and structure in this process.

Comment was given by Matt Escobedo, CEO HR regarding a contract for the individual selected to serve as Executive Officer. Chair West agreed and expressed interest in a termed contract with open-ended reviews.

As noted in the Executive Officer's Administration Report included with this meeting's Agenda, stakeholders are invited to suggest names for the selection panel. Please email your nominations and their contact information to FCGMA@ventura.org with "EO Selection Panel Nominee" in the email subject line at your earliest convenience.

REGULAR AGENDA – LPV Watermaster Items

15. Presentation on Las Posas Valley Basin Optimization Yield Study Preparation Schedule and Extension of Current Las Posas Valley Basin Operating Yield 1:31 P.M.

Assistant Agency Counsel Jason Canger presented the Item, providing an overview of the Basin Optimization Yield Study, which determines Las Posas Valley (LPV) Basin operating yields and rampdown amounts and rates for each Water Year (WY) through WY 2039 so that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) sustainable yield and the LPV Basin operating yield are the same by 2040. The study is also used to determine each Water Right Holder's annual allocation.³

Mr. Canger stated that this iteration of the Basin Optimization Yield Study cannot be completed until December 2025 at the earliest, due to factors such as the delay caused by lack of a contract with United Water Conservation District (United) for performing modeling services in the West Las Posas Management Area. Without the modeling data to complete the study, and due to other factors, staff and Agency contractors Dudek have prepared a new schedule for the completion of the study, with the caveat that no additional delays due to modeling issues further impact the timeline. Mr. Canger's presentation noted that FCGMA notified the Court of updated schedule for completion of the Study in its December 4, 2024, Status Conference Statement, and that the Court is expected to address the updated schedule at its February 2025 status conference. PAC and TAC were informed via memos sent on December 23, 2024, to review and provide recommendations on alternative approaches to modeling if the Agency is unable to contract with United for the needed services, as developed by Dudek, by January 31, 2025.

The delay of the initial Basin Optimization Yield Study and subsequent updated schedule marks its completion in December 2025 (at the earliest), which is after the start of WY

³ Review Item 15 and its materials at <https://ventura.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=19853>.

2025, which begins October 1, 2025. The Judgment set an initial operating yield of 40,000 Acre-Feet for WY 2023 and 2024; Dudek is preparing an analysis of impacts to the LPV Basin and to the Agency's sustainable yield goal if the initial operating yield is extended through WY 2025.

Mr. Canger concluded his presentation by asking the Board to approve FCGMA recommending to Court that the initial operating yield of 40,000 AF be extended through Water Year (WY) 2025, if Agency contractor Dudek's analysis demonstrates no adverse effect to the Agency's ability to achieve sustainability by 2040.

Chair West asked for public comment at 1:46 P.M. Public comment was given by:

John Lindquist, United Water Conservation District,

Rob Grether, Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), and

Russel McGlothlin, Las Posas Farming Group.

Director Trembley asked when the Agency will hear back from United regarding the pending contract. Mr. Lindquist and Director Trembley agreed that 2 weeks is an assumed reasonable time frame for which the Agency can then expect to hear a response. Director Maulhardt stated that, as re-elected President of United, he will follow up.

Director Long expressed her agreement with PAC's support of the motion, hopes that United will reach an agreement with the Agency, and comments regarding adequate time for review of modeling. Director Long noted that the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency, of which Director Long is Chair, has submitted a letter of support regarding United's modeling services.

Director Long then asked Agency Counsel about Mr. McGlothlin's assertion that this can be cast as an extension under § 5.2.8 of the Judgment⁴. Mr. Canger agreed that Mr. McGlothlin is technically correct because appeals are pending, and that the Agency will follow up with outside counsel accordingly.

Motion: Director Maulhardt moved to approve the Agency recommending to the Court that the initial operating yield of 40,000 AF be extended through Water Year 2025 per Section 5.2.8 of the LPV Judgment, if Agency contractor Dudek's analysis demonstrates no adverse effect to the Agency's ability to achieve sustainability by 2040. Director Long seconded the motion. Via a roll call vote at 1:56 P.M. the motion passed with all in favor.

⁴ "Deadlines for Exigent Circumstances. Watermaster may shorten or extend any deadline set forth in this Judgment where appropriate for exigent circumstances."

16. Approve a Contract with Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation for Certified Financial Audit and Review Services for the Las Posas Valley Watermaster
1:56 P.M.

Assistant Groundwater Manager Dr. Farai Kaseke presented the Item to the Board, providing an overview of the request for proposals and the selected firm's proposal, which is included in Exhibits to this Item. Dr. Kaseke noted that the contract is for a three-year period, covering two years of a review of financial statements, and one year of a full certified audit, per § 7.7 of the LPV Judgment⁵.

During Board comments at 2:02 P.M., Director Trembley asked whether staff are confident that the timeline can be met as proposed so that the delivered report can be appended to the LPV Annual Report for submittal to DWR by April 1. Dr. Kaseke responded that yes, staff are confident.

Motion: At 2:03 P.M., Chair West asked for a roll call vote on the motion to approve the contract with Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation for Certified Financial Audit and Review Services for the Las Posas Valley Watermaster as presented. Director Trembley so moved; Director Craviotto seconded. With all in favor, the motion passed.

17. Del Norte Water Company (WMID 3500) Basin Assessment Protest and Request for Refund
2:04 P.M.

Chair West asked for Public Comment. Barbara Brenner of Del Norte Mutual Water Company gave comment concerning the deferral of Item 17 of this meeting's Regular Agenda for 30 days. The Board agreed without objection.

Motion: Director Maulhardt moved for deferral of the Item to a future Agenda. Director Long seconded the motion. Via roll call vote at 2:04 P.M., the motion passed with all in favor.

CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

2:05 P.M.

Chair West asked for public comment regarding the two matters agendized in closed session. Hearing none, Chair West recessed into closed session at 2:05 P.M.

⁵ "Audit. The finances of Watermaster shall be subject to an annual audit by a certified public auditing firm. A full certified audit shall be accomplished every three years. An audit review shall be accomplished in the other two years."

Agency Counsel Jason Canger noted that the Board was likely to adjourn the meeting from closed session.

18. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Gov. Code, §54956.9) PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9, SUBDIVISION (d), PARAGRAPH (1): NAME OF CASE: City of Oxnard v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 20STCP00929

19. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Gov. Code, §54956.9) PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9, SUBDIVISION (d), PARAGRAPH (1): NAME OF CASE: Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Santa Barbara County Superior Court Case No. VENCI0059700

20. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Gov. Code, §54956.9) PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9, SUBDIVISION (d), PARAGRAPH (1): NAME OF CASE: OPV Coalition et al v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Santa Barbara County Superior Court Case No. VENCI00555357

21. Adjournment

Chair West adjourned the meeting from closed session.

Submitted by:



Elka Weber
Clerk of the Board

From: [FCGMA](#)
To: [T Trembley](#)
Cc:
Subject: Updated December 2024 edition of the FCGMA FY 24-25 Monthly Balance Report
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 1:19:00 PM
Attachments: [Item 10 - FCGMA_FY 2024-25_Monthly Balance Report as of December 2024_Updated 20250210.pdf](#)

Good afternoon, Tony,

Attached ([linked](#)) please find the updated December 2024 edition of the FCGMA FY 24-25 Monthly Balance Report. We've clarified the variances of note narrative (see page 2) for your review. It's also pasted below.

Variances of note include revenue decreasing by \$79,131.94 (49%) in December from November, due to decreases in collected Pumping charges, GEMES Reserve fees, Penalties and Sustainability fees. In addition, no Interest Earnings were allocated from County Pooled Investment Fund this month. Expenses decreased by \$876,546.36 (65%) in December due to work performed by WildHeron Drilling, LLC on monitoring wells in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins nearing its end, and due to the holiday schedule, the Dudek invoice did not process this month.

Please let me know if you have additional feedback and we'll take it into account.

Thank you,
Elka

Elka Weber
Administrative Assistant III, Clerk of the Board
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 S. Victoria Ave. L#1610, Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 654-2014 | elka.weber@ventura.org
www.FCGMA.org | www.FCGMAonline.org

MINUTES

Minutes of the Wednesday, February 12, 2025, hybrid Regular meeting of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Board of Directors, also sitting as watermaster for the Las Posas Valley Basin and the groundwater sustainability agency for the Las Posas Valley Basin, the Pleasant Valley Basin, and the Oxnard Subbasin. The meeting occurred via Zoom and in-person in the Board of Supervisors Boardroom at the Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Administration, at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California.

1. Call to Order

12:31 P.M.

Chair Eugene F. West called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair West led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Directors Present

Chair Eugene F. West
Alternate Director Vianey Lopez
Director Tony Trembley
Director Michael Craviotto

Alternate Directors Bert Perello and Reddy Pakala attended as members of the public.

Agency Staff Present

Jason Canger, Agency Counsel
Arne Anselm, Interim Executive Officer
Farai Kaseke, Groundwater Manager
Elka Weber, Clerk of the Board

Robert Hampson, Groundwater Specialist
Kathy Jones, Staff Services Specialist
Fatima Perez, Management Assistant
Erin Ware, Administrative Assistant

4. Agenda Review

12:32 P.M.

No changes were made to the agenda during review.

5. Public Comments

12:32 P.M.

Public comment was given by:

Reddy Pakala, alternate representative for Small Water Districts, FCGMA. Mr. Pakala introduced himself to Board and stakeholders in his new capacity as Alternate Director.

6. Executive Officer's Comments

12:33 P.M.

Interim Executive Officer Arne Anselm referred the Board to the administrative report attached to Item 6 as an exhibit.

7. Board Member Comments

12:35 P.M.

Chair West reminded the Board and public in attendance that the Agency needs to start discussing rampdown in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins – the first discussions of their kind the Agency will have had since the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in 2015 – and he emphasized the importance of stakeholder consultation in the process. Chair West suggests a series of robust discussions on the subject.

CONSENT AGENDA

12:37 P.M.

- 8. Approval of Revised First Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Oxnard Subbasin**
- 9. FCGMA Budget to Actual Report for January 2025**
- 10. LPV Watermaster Budget to Actual Report for January 2025**
- 11. Appointment of Ventura County Waterworks District Nos. 1 & 19 Representative to the Las Posas Valley Policy Advisory Committee**
- 12. Receive and file correspondence** from Ventura County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors regarding reappointment verification for the Board of Supervisors representative, dated January 17, 2025.
- 13. Receive and file correspondence** from Rob Bonta, State of California Attorney General, regarding Opinion 24-101 concerning staffing the Agency, issued January 22, 2025.
- 14. Receive and file correspondence** from Ian Prichard, Deputy General Manager of Calleguas Municipal Water District, regarding election results for the Small Water Districts representative, dated February 3, 2025.

- 15. Receive and file correspondence** from Director Kelly Long via the California Department of Water Resources regarding Executive Order N-16-25, dated February 3, 2025.

Motion: Director Trembley moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Craviotto seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor at 12:37 P.M.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 16. Resolution of Appreciation for Agency Counsel Alberto Boada** 12:37 P.M.

Chair West presented the Item and praised retiring lead Counsel Alberto Boada for his calm approach to the Agency's legal work over the course of his tenure. The Board agreed, with Alternate Director Lopez and Director Trembley expressing their gratitude for having known and worked with Mr. Boada.

Motion: Alternate Director Lopez moved to adopt Resolution 2025-01 honoring Agency Counsel Alberto Boada for 18 years of Agency service. Director Trembley seconded the motion. Via roll call vote, the motion passed with all in favor at 12:42 P.M.

- 17. County of Ventura Water Resource Mapping Presentation** 12:45 P.M.

Interim Executive Officer Arne Anselm introduced the Item, and the Item was presented by Spencer Waterman, Water Systems Consulting, contractor to the County of Ventura Public Works Agency.

As the Item was to receive and file a presentation from the County of Ventura Public Works Agency regarding the development of a Countywide water mapping database, no Board action was taken.¹

- 18. Calleguas Water Resources Implementation Strategy Presentation** 1:56 P.M.

Interim Executive Officer Arne Anselm introduced the Item, an in-depth presentation on the Water Resources Implementation Strategy (WRIST) project, contextualized within the recent history of Calleguas, which was then presented by Kristine McCaffrey, General Manager, and Ian Prichard, Deputy General Manager, of Calleguas Municipal Water District.

¹ Review all informational presentations and materials presented at the February 12, 2025, Board special meeting, including a recording of the meeting, at <https://ventura.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=20288>.

Mr. Prichard agreed to follow up on a question posed by Director Trembley regarding whether Calleguas's existing well-monitoring program in the West Las Posas Management Area (WLPMA); a letter reflecting this response is listed in the March 26, 2025, FCGMA Board Agenda under Correspondence.

As the Item was to receive and file a presentation on the background and water resource development plans of the Calleguas Municipal Water District, no Board action was taken.

19. City of Oxnard Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment Program Presentation 2:04 P.M.

Interim Executive Officer Arne Anselm introduced the Item, and the Item was presented by City of Oxnard's Michael Wolfe, Director of Public Works, and Tim Beaman, Assistant Public Works Director.

As the Item was to receive and file a presentation from the City of Oxnard Public Works Agency regarding an overview of the City's current water projects and an update on the Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment (GREAT) Program, no Board action was taken.

20. Agency Staffing Analysis Report Presentation 2:01 P.M.

Interim Executive Officer Arne Anselm introduced the Item, and the Item was presented by Jim Beck, Senior Water Resources Manager of Hallmark Group Capital Program Management.

During Board comments, Director Trembley suggested that the staffing report be analyzed to develop a fiscally responsible interim plan to prioritize and evaluate staffing tasks as a first step before developing a longer-term strategic staffing implementation plan.

As the Item was to receive and file a presentation by Hallmark Group on the Agency Staffing Needs Analysis, no Board action was taken.

21. Legislative Proposal to Amend Section 10726.6 of the Water Code 2:39 P.M.

Interim Executive Officer Arne Anselm presented the Item and recommended that the Board approve their support of a Legislative Proposal to Amend SGMA to provide that Section 10726.6, Action to Determine Validity of Plan, sets forth the sole process for challenging a groundwater sustainability plan, and to authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support for the proposal.

Chair West asked for public comment at 2:44 P.M. Comment was given by:

Kyle Brochard, RWG Law

John Grether, farmer

Russell McGlothlin, O'Melveny & Meyers LLP

Jason Simonetti, Capitol Core

Motion: Director Trembley moved to approve the Board's support of the Legislative Proposal to Amend Section 10726.6 of SGMA, and to authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support for the proposal, as presented. Alternate Director Lopez seconded the motion. Via roll call vote at 3:08 P.M., the motion passed with three in favor. Director Craviotto voted against the motion.

22. Legal Services Agreement with Alana Rotter of Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland, LLP to Represent the Agency in *City of Oxnard v. FCGMA Appeals and Cross-Appeals*
3:09 P.M.

The Item was presented by Assistant Agency Counsel Jason Canger. Mr. Canger recommended that the Board approve, and ratify the Interim Executive Officer's execution of, a legal services agreement with Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland, LLP (GMSR) for Ms. Alana Rotter's representation of the Agency in *City of Oxnard v. FCGMA* appeals and cross-appeals.

Motion: Director Trembley moved to approve and ratify the agreement as recommended. Alternate Director Lopez seconded the motion. At 3:10 P.M., the motion passed with all in favor and none opposed.

CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

3:10 P.M.

Chair West asked for public comment regarding the two matters agendaized in closed session. Hearing none, Chair West announced that the Board intended to adjourn the meeting from closed session.

23. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Gov. Code, §54956.9) PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9, SUBDIVISION (d), PARAGRAPH (1): NAME OF CASE: City of Oxnard v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 20STCP00929

24. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Gov. Code, §54956.9) PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9, SUBDIVISION (d), PARAGRAPH (1): NAME OF CASE: Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Santa Barbara County Superior Court Case No. VENCI0059700

25. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Gov. Code, §54956.9) PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9, SUBDIVISION (d), PARAGRAPH (1): NAME OF CASE: OPV Coalition et al v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Santa Barbara County Superior Court Case No. VENCI00555357

26. Adjournment

Chair West adjourned the meeting from closed session.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elka Weber', written over a horizontal line.

Elka Weber
Clerk of the Board

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1													
2	FUND: 0170 UNIT: 5795		EXPENDITURES BY ACCOUNTING PERIOD										
3	FCGMA	OBJ	PROGRAM	TOTAL	AP 01/ July	AP 02/ August	AP 03/ September	AP 04/ October	AP 05/ November	AP 06/ December	AP 07/ January	AP 08/ February	AP 09/ March
4	CASH BALANCE 07-01-24			6,988,697.31	6,988,697.31	7,779,349.81	6,644,333.02	5,493,290.11	5,213,793.63	4,034,911.42	3,653,443.78	6,108,135.23	8,516,606.26
5	REVENUE:												
6	PUMP CHARGES	9790	P6020901	501,720.87	123,574.42	16,147.94	25,446.70	52,388.37	31,042.51	8,667.97	40,202.30	204,250.66	
7	SURCHARGES	9790	P6020903	1,049,976.58	34,464.25						9,166.86	1,006,345.47	
8	INTEREST/ PENALTIES	9790	P6020904	85,037.68	2,624.31	4,151.14	1,550.00		8,433.83	8,100.00	10,723.44	49,454.96	
9	GEMES RESERVE FEE	9790	P6020907	1,404,405.72	359,428.58	18,816.00	84,781.06	172,664.55	34,904.40	28,893.34	67,635.32	637,282.47	
10	SUSTAINABILITY FEE	9790	P6020908	2,001,768.58	492,364.19	27,714.27	122,932.79	253,189.35	48,025.45	41,895.34	93,709.94	921,937.25	
11	FCGMA TECH SERVICES -GRANT	9708	P6020852	46,472.00			46,472.00						
12	INTEREST EARNINGS	8911	-	80,207.62	(88,564.50)		44,282.25		44,282.25		40,103.81	40,103.81	
13	GRANT REVENUE	9790	P6020872/6020874	2,541,830.03							2,541,830.03		
14	OTHER REV	9790	-	0.00									
15	TOTAL REVENUE			7,711,419.08	923,891.25	66,829.35	325,464.80	478,242.27	166,688.44	87,556.65	2,803,371.70	2,859,374.62	0.00
16													
17	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			14,700,116.39	7,912,588.56	7,846,179.16	6,969,797.82	5,971,532.38	5,380,482.07	4,122,468.07	6,456,815.48	8,967,509.85	8,516,606.26
18	EXPENDITURES:												
19	SUPPORT												
20	PUBLIC WORKS CHARGES	2205	-	1,518,901.89	121,253.89	205,268.99	182,529.79	211,276.59	332,417.44	184,744.02	128,598.73	152,812.44	
21	MANAGEMENT AND ADMIN SURVEY ISF	2199	P6020901	175,850.00				118,950.00		118,950.00		(62,050.00)	
22	FCGMA ONLINE SUPPORT	2202	P6020850	67,717.24		11,666.00	3,989.00	5,663.17	13,080.99	10,140.69	10,302.10	12,875.29	
23	BOARD MEMBERS INSURANCE	2072	P6020850	4,085.00	4,085.00								
24	BI-ANNUAL AUDIT	2199	P6020850	4,950.00			4,950.00						
25	WPD -SCR Coordinator	2199	P6020850	0.00									
26	CONTRACT												
27	CONSULTANT CONTRACT (DUDEK) - Implementation	2183	P6020858	530,124.04			122,414.64	108,002.39	189,199.93		163,613.33	(53,106.25)	
28	CONSULTANT CONTRACT (DUDEK) - Annual reports	2183	P6020858	42,187.50					7,835.00		34,352.50		
29	CONSULTING CONTRACT (UNITED WATER)-GSP modeling	2183	P6020858	0.00									
30	CONSULTING CONTRACT (RINCON CONSULTANT)- AMI Data support	2199	P6020852/70	36,627.04	4,355.21	5,920.79	2,365.11	7,814.89	4,311.52	2,208.15	9,651.37		
31	CONSULTING CONTRACT (HALLMARK)	2199	P6020850	11,441.81				5,164.34		3,714.97		2,562.50	
32	CONSULTING CONTRACT (PADRE ASSOCIATES)	2183	P6020872/74	3,795.00				1,897.50		1,897.50			
33	LEGAL												
34	COUNTY COUNSEL	2185	P6020850	0.00									
35	COUNTY COUNSEL	2185	P6020853	77,736.75			11,534.25	23,955.75		12,285.00		29,961.75	
36	COUNTY COUNSEL (GEMES) - LPV Basin Adjudication	2185	P6020864	9,213.75			2,934.75	2,320.50		1,160.25		2,798.25	
37	COUNTY COUNSEL (GEMES) - City of Oxnard v FCGMA	2185	P6020866	11,670.75			819.00	1,365.00		2,866.50		6,620.25	
38	COUNTY COUNSEL (GEMES) - OPV Coalition v FCGMA	2185	P6020867	36,445.50			8,531.25	11,943.75		6,483.75		9,486.75	
39	OTHER LEGAL FEES (Jarvis Fay)	2185	P6020850	1,976.00				1,976.00					
40	OTHER LEGAL FEES (Rutan & Tucker LLP)	2185	P6020853	11,573.50		11,573.50							
41	OTHER LEGAL FEES (Stoel)(GEMES) - LPV Basin Adjudication	2185	P6020864	332,784.14		8,134.20	26,165.00	94,508.48			112,875.60	91,100.86	
42	OTHER LEGAL FEES (Stoel)(GEMES) - City of Oxnard v FCGMA	2185	P6020866	288,335.14		44,163.52	70,954.51	78,846.71			54,172.14	40,198.26	
43	OTHER LEGAL FEES (Stoel)(GEMES) - OPV Coalition v FCGMA	2185	P6020867	0.00									
44	OTHER LEGAL FEES (Stute Mihaly)(GEMES) - OPV Coalition v FCGMA	2185	P6020867	348,843.98		104,254.96	33,207.96	50,591.53	47,164.56	58,177.77	33,904.10	21,543.10	
47	LEGAL EXPENSE COST SHARE - LPV WATERMASTER	2185	P6020853	(200,000.00)							(200,000.00)		
48	OTHER LEGAL FEES (Greines Martin Stein & Richland LLP) (GEMES) - City of Oxnard v FCGMA	2185	P6020866	4,930.00								4,930.00	
49	GRANT												
50	KENNEDY JENKS	2199	P6020852	84,272.50		6,492.50	9,452.50	29,867.50		18,747.50		19,712.50	
51	WILDHERON DRILLING - FOX24-01 OXNARD BASIN MONIT WELLS	4114	P6020872	1,379,486.70		401,925.86	494,794.82		374,121.88	23,742.72		84,901.42	
52	WILDHERON DRILLING - FOX24-01 PV BASIN MONIT WELLS	4114	P6020874	1,379,486.67		401,925.85	494,794.80		374,121.87	23,742.72		84,901.43	
53	GSA CHARGES												
55	GRAPHICS CHARGES ISF	2166	P6020850	1,120.35								1,120.35	
56	GIS - ISF	2203	P6020850	1,203.84		300.96	150.48	150.48	150.48	150.48	150.48	150.48	
57	SPECIAL SVCES ISF	2206	P6020850	6,392.48			4,144.84		1,853.32		208.32	186.00	
58	OTHER MAINTENANCE ISF	2116	P6020850	833.28				833.28					
59	VOICE DATA ISF	2032	P6020850	49.08					12.27	12.27	12.27	12.27	

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1													
2	FUND: O170 UNIT: 5795	EXPENDITURES BY ACCOUNTING PERIOD											
3	FCGMA	OBJ	PROGRAM	TOTAL	AP 01/ July	AP 02/ August	AP 03/ September	AP 04/ October	AP 05/ November	AP 06/ December	AP 07/ January	AP 08/ February	AP 09/ March
60	MAIL CENTER ISF	2164	P6020850	3.61							3.61		
61	<u>SPECIAL</u>												
62	LAFCO FUNDING	2159	P6020850	3,510.00	3,510.00								
63	OXNARD WELL DESTRUCTION	2199	P6020854	0.00									
64	FRUIT GROWERS LAB - Annual GW Monit - Oxnard/ PV Basin Monit Wells	2199	P6020872/74	4,895.00			2,612.00	1,306.00	977.00				
65	<u>OTHER</u>												
66	PUBLIC NOTICE	2221	various	855.07				855.07					
67	CONFERENCES / SEMINARS	2273	P6020850	0.00									
68	PRINTING AND BINDING NON ISF	2162	P6020872/74	0.00									
69	HYDROLOGY SUPPLIES	2103	P6020852	0.00									
70	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES AND PARTS	2104	P6020872/74	340.40				286.81				53.59	
71	SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTIONS NON ISF (ZOOM)	2236	P6020850	1,075.44		163.01	163.01	163.01	163.01		325.79	97.61	
72	MISC OFFICE EXPENSE	2169/79	P6020850	486.06	34.65	56.00			161.38		179.91	54.12	
73	ASSN OF WATER AGENCIES	2159	P6020850	310.62							330.00	(19.38)	
81	TOTAL EXPENDITURES			6,183,199.51	133,238.75	1,201,846.14	1,476,507.71	757,738.75	1,345,570.65	469,024.29	348,680.25	450,903.59	0.00
82													
83													
84	TOTAL REVENUE			7,711,419.08	923,891.25	66,829.35	325,464.80	478,242.27	166,688.44	87,556.65	2,803,371.70	2,859,374.62	0.00
85	CONTINGENCY			0.00									
86	ENDING CASH BALANCE			8,516,916.88	7,779,349.81	6,644,333.02	5,493,290.11	5,213,793.63	4,034,911.42	3,653,443.78	6,108,135.23	8,516,606.26	8,516,606.26
87													
88	<u>VARIANCES OF NOTE FROM MONTH TO MONTH:</u>												
89	In February (AP08, or Column M), total revenues increased by \$56,002.92 (2%) compared to January. January saw the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant payment of \$2,541,830.03 posted; total operational revenue was \$221,437.86. In February, total revenue collected from pumping charges, fees and surcharges received was \$2,819,270.81, an increase of 1,173% compared to January's collection. Collected pumping charges increased 408%. Surcharges increased 10,878%. Notable surcharges that contributed to the surcharge collection increase were: \$850,980.05 paid by Glass House Camarillo Cultivation LLC, and \$86,499.14 paid by Colorado Farms LLC. GEMES Reserve fees collected increased by 842% and collected Sustainability fees increased by 884%.												
90	Expenses increased by \$102,223.34 (29%) in the month of February, due to:												
91	County Counsel legal services invoices for November, December and January processing this month.												
92	The final Wildherron Drilling, LLC invoice of \$136,250.97 was processed for payment in February.												
93													
94	Also of note, FY 24-25 charges related to LPV Watermaster were transferred from FCGMA to LPV Watermaster during the month of February:												
95	see Item 12 - LPV Watermaster Budget to Actual Report for February 2025, also in this meeting's Consent Agenda.												
96													
97													

March 26, 2025

Board of Directors
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1600

SUBJECT: Approval of Annual Reports for the Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Basin for Water Year 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS: (1) Approve and authorize Agency staff to submit the Water Year (WY) 2024 Annual Reports for the Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Basin to the Department of Water Resources (DWR); and (2) Receive and file this staff report.

BACKGROUND:

Section 356.2 of DWR's GSP Emergency Regulations sets forth the requirements for preparation and submittal of annual reports. Following adoption of a GSP, the regulations require that an annual report for the prior water year be submitted to DWR by April 1 of each year. (23 C.C.R. § 356.2.)

DISCUSSION:

Dudek, working with Agency staff, prepared the GSP Annual Reports for the Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Basin in accordance with GSP Emergency Regulations (see attached Exhibits 11A and 11B). The Annual Reports cover WY 2024, which spans October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. The reports present conditions in the basin primarily using measured data in groundwater elevation contour maps, basin storage change figures, water level hydrographs and aquifer production maps.

For the Oxnard Subbasin, WY 2024 saw positive increases in storage and water levels for every aquifer in the basin. Above average precipitation contributed to lower groundwater use and strong surface water deliveries. Another substantial contributor to basin storage increasing is a second year of above average volume of water recharged in the Forebay by United Water Conservation District. The Pleasant Valley Basin also saw positive increases in storage and water levels for most of the basin. The exception being the Northern Pleasant Valley Management Area, where a brackish groundwater plume is being treated.

Overall, the data presented in the WY 2024 Annual Reports for the Oxnard Subbasin and the Pleasant Valley Basin reflects two years of above average precipitation and relatively healthy water levels in the aquifers. It is important to note that despite this, in both basins,

long-term groundwater production is above the long-term sustainable yield. Basins will experience undesirable results in the future without continued Agency action to bring the basins into sustainable management by 2040.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommend your Board 1) approve and authorize staff to submit the WY 2024 Annual Reports for the Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Basin to DWR; and 2) receive and file this staff report.

This letter has been reviewed by Agency Counsel. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 654- 3952.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Hampson', is positioned above the printed name.

Robert Hampson
Hydrologist

Attachments:

Item 11A - Oxnard Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan 2025 Annual Report:
Covering Water Year 2024

Item 11B - Pleasant Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan 2025 Annual
Report: Covering Water Year 2024

View the full report online at:

https://fcgma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Item-11A-2025-Oxnard-GSP-Annual-Report_Final.pdf

Annual Report

Oxnard Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan 2025 Annual Report: Covering Water Year 2024

MARCH 2025

Prepared for:

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

800 South Victoria Avenue

Ventura, California 93009-1610

Contact: Farai Kaseke, Ph. D, PH, PMP, CSM

Prepared by:

DUDEK

605 Third Street

Encinitas, California 92024

Contact: Jill Weinberger, Ph. D, P.G.



Jill Weinberger, Ph. D, P.G.
Principal Hydrogeologist

View the full report online at:

https://fcgma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Item-11B-2025-Pleasant-Valley-Basin-GSP-Annual-Report_Final.pdf

Annual Report

Pleasant Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan 2025 Annual Report: Covering Water Year 2024

MARCH 2025

Prepared for:

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

800 South Victoria Avenue

Ventura, California 93009-1610

Contact: Farai Kaseke, Ph. D., PH, PMP, CSM

Prepared by:

DUDEK

605 Third Street

Encinitas, California 92024

Contact: Jill Weinberger, Ph. D., P.G.



Jill Weinberger, Ph. D., P.G.
Principal Hydrogeologist

Item 12 - LPV Watermaster FY 2024-25 Monthly Balance Report, as of February 2025
March 26, 2025 FCGMA Board Meeting

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1														
2	FUND: O171 UNIT: 5796	2024-25	ACCUMULATED			EXPENDITURES BY ACCOUNTING PERIOD								
3	LPV WATERMASTER	ADOPTED	OBJ	PROG	TOTAL	AP 01	AP 02	AP 03	AP 04	AP 05	AP 06	AP 07	AP 08	AP 09
4		BUDGET				7/23	8/23	9/23	10/23	11/23	12/23	1/24	2/24	3/24
5	CASH BALANCE				1,127,504.76	1,127,504.76	1,050,837.78	1,076,742.91	1,074,025.08	1,386,410.44	1,412,842.35	1,438,769.91	1,630,339.40	1,581,858.19
6	REVENUE:													
7	INTEREST EARNINGS		8911	-	12,334.58	(9,651.42)		4,825.71		4,825.71		6,167.29	6,167.29	
8	BASIN ASSESSMENT FEE		9790	P6020670	1,147,533.65	(54,626.98)	38,593.60	15,837.76	403,185.65	85,301.81	70,356.86	413,527.98	175,356.97	
9	BASIN ASSESSMENT INTEREST		9790	P6020671	16,375.25	2,102.43	2,775.68	2,584.16	112.55		1,232.84	7,474.87	92.72	
10														
11	TOTAL REVENUE				1,176,243.48	(62,175.97)	41,369.28	23,247.63	403,298.20	90,127.52	71,589.70	427,170.14	181,616.98	-
12														
13	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE				2,303,748.24	1,065,328.79	1,092,207.06	1,099,990.54	1,477,323.28	1,476,537.96	1,484,432.05	1,865,940.05	1,811,956.38	1,581,858.19
14	EXPENDITURES:													
15	SUPPORT:													
16	PUBLIC WORKS ISF CHARGES - LPV WATERMASTER ADMINISTRATION	106,848	2205	P6020660	87,128.00	14,491.01	5,228.90	1,925.09	7,698.49	26,921.33	8,029.70	13,126.12	9,707.36	
17	PUBLIC WORKS ISF CHARGES - LPV ALLOCATIONS & RECORD KEEPING	217,088	2205	P6020661	25,587.39		1,535.70	332.74	3,187.43	8,854.35	2,797.47		8,879.70	
18	PUBLIC WORKS ISF CHARGES - LPV BASIN MANAGEMENT	156,880	2205	P6020662	24,223.26		1,319.55		3,126.10	6,132.81	3,981.92	5,926.28	3,736.60	
19	PUBLIC WORKS ISF CHARGES - LPV COMMITTEE COORDINATION AND CONSULTATIONS	71,232	2205	P6020663	22,295.31		2,608.50	1,187.44	2,770.72	6,966.06	3,760.25	1,979.08	3,023.26	
20	PUBLIC WORKS ISF CHARGES - LPV BUDGET & ASSESSMENTS	136,528	2205	P6020664	9,227.12				1,510.97	2,789.73	569.63	1,367.91	2,988.88	
21	PUBLIC WORKS ISF CHARGES - LPV IT SERVICE & SUPPORT	40,704	2205	P6020667	14,766.49			79.68	4,727.78	4,605.03	3,085.77	1,905.76	362.47	
22	PUBLIC WORKS CHARGES - LPV IT SERVICE & SUPPORT (CSD IT)	200,000	2199	P6020667	45,100.00								45,100.00	
23	PUBLIC WORKS CHARGES - FISCAL SUPPORT	-	2199	P6020664	16,950.00								16,950.00	
24	LPV CALLEGUAS ASR PROJECT OPERATIONS STUDY	81,408	2205	P6020665	-									
25	LEGAL:													
26	LPV LEGAL SERVICES - COUNTY COUNSEL	248,640	2185	P6020666	86,814.00			10,647.00	25,184.25		9,213.75		41,769.00	
27	LPV LEGAL SERVICES - FCGMA LEGAL COST SHARE	200,000	2185	P6020666	200,000.00							200,000.00		
28	CONTRACTS:													
29	RGS AUTHORITY	20,000	2199	P6020660	20,912.98		4,771.50	1,602.26	1,520.35	3,052.30	4,577.40		5,389.17	
30	TODD GROUNDWATER-TAC		2199	P6020662	57,735.00			10,191.25	18,152.50		8,853.75	1,416.25	19,121.25	
31	AQUILOGIC-TAC	259,200	2199	P6020662	26,265.00				11,860.00	570.00		3,460.00	10,375.00	
32	DANIEL B STEPHENS & ASSOCIATES-TAC		2199	P6020662	25,914.75				11,174.25	1,426.50		3,724.75	9,589.25	
33	DANIEL B STEPHENS & ASSOCIATES-PAC	170,000	2199	P6020662	5,864.50					2,377.50	792.50	2,694.50		
34	DUDEK (GSP Update Task 10.2.1 - Committee Review & Response, Periodic Evaluation)	43,440	2183	P6020662	6,578.75								6,578.75	
35	DUDEK (Initial Basin Optimization Plan - Tasks 12.5 - 12.7)	78,000	2183	P6020662	19,398.75								19,398.75	
36	DUDEK (Task 13 - Technical Advisory Committee Watermaster Support Services)	97,440	2183	P6020663	27,128.75								27,128.75	
37														
38	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				721,890.05	14,491.01	15,464.15	25,965.46	90,912.84	63,695.61	45,662.14	235,600.65	230,098.19	-
39	CONTINGENCY													
40														
41	ENDING CASH BALANCE				1,581,858.19	1,050,837.78	1,076,742.91	1,074,025.08	1,386,410.44	1,412,842.35	1,438,769.91	1,630,339.40	1,581,858.19	1,581,858.19
42														
43	VARIANCES OF NOTE FROM MONTH TO MONTH													
44	In February (AP08, or column M), revenue decreased by \$245,553.16 (57.5%) from January due to processing the majority of LPV-2024-2 Basin Assessment (BA)													
45	payments before the due date of January 30, 2025. However, BA payments received during the last week of January are recorded in the month of February.													
46														
47	Total expenses for the month of February decreased 2.3% from the previous month.													
48	County Counsel legal services expenses did see an increase in February, due to invoices from November, December, and January processing this month.													
49	Charges related to LPV Watermaster have been transferred from FCGMA to LPV Watermaster:													
50	\$53,106.25 in Dudek contract charges for tasks related to GSP Update Committee Evaluation Review and Responses, Initial Basin Optimization Plan,													
51	and Technical Advisory Committee;													
52	\$16,950 for CSD Fiscal support and \$45,100 for CSD IT department support.													
53														
54														

March 26, 2025

Board of Directors
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1600

SUBJECT: Nomination of Watermaster Representative to Calleguas Aquifer Storage and Recovery Study Group

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the nomination of Robert Hampson as Watermaster Representative to the Calleguas Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Study Group.

BACKGROUND:

Under 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. VENC1000509700 (Judgment), the Calleguas ASR Project includes two components: (i) the direct delivery of imported water into wells at the project site for subsurface storage and subsequent withdrawal and use within Calleguas Municipal Water District's (Calleguas) service area; and (ii) the delivery of imported water from Calleguas to a Water Right Holder for use instead of the Water Right Holder's use of his Water Right Allocation for the purpose of establishing water stored in the Las Posas Valley Basin (LPV Basin) as part of the Calleguas ASR Project for later withdrawal by Calleguas. (Judgment, §§ 1.25, 8.1.) Both of these components of the Calleguas ASR Project are currently operated according to FCGMA approvals. The Judgment provides for the creation of a study group, the Calleguas ASR Study Group, to review and analyze certain project use scenarios and operations and develop recommendations for inclusion of a Calleguas ASR Project Operations Plan. (Judgment, § 8.3, 8.4.) Until the plan is approved by the court, the Calleguas ASR Project will be operated consistent with existing FCGMA approvals. (Judgment, § 8.2.)

The Judgment provides the qualifications for participants serving on the Calleguas ASR Study Group. Representatives must be either licensed engineers with relevant groundwater experience or certified hydrologists or similarly qualified professionals of FCGMA, Calleguas, and LPV Basin landowners. (Judgment, § 8.4.1.) The Judgment anticipates that representatives will include equal representation of the overlying landowners and Calleguas, and a Watermaster representative. (Judgment § 8.4.1.)

Calleguas and the Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) have selected their representatives to serve on the Calleguas ASR Study Group. Staff propose nominating Robert Hampson to serve as Watermaster representative to the Calleguas ASR Study Group. Mr. Hampson is a professional geologist licensed in the State of California with 10 years of relevant groundwater experience. He received his undergraduate degree in Environmental Science, Policy and Management from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Mr. Hampson was hired by FCGMA in May of 2024 and his professional experience includes serving as a Water Resources Hydrologist with the Southern Nevada Water Authority, Water Resources Hydrogeologist with the Mojave Water Agency, and as a Hydrologist with the Department of Interior. In these roles Mr. Hampson was responsible for large basin management activities, such as aquifer testing and analysis, administering large regional monitoring programs, modeling, well drilling, artificial recharge and compliance with local water rights adjudication(s).

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that your Board approve the nomination of Robert Hampson as Watermaster Representative to the Calleguas ASR Study Group.

This letter has been reviewed by Agency Counsel. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 654 2954.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kaseke', with a stylized circular flourish at the beginning.

Kudzai Farai Kaseke (PhD, PH, PMP, CSM)

Assistant Groundwater Manager

Attachment:

Exhibit 13A – PAC correspondence dated February 27, 2025, regarding Calleguas ASR Study Group Nominations

FCGMA Board Meeting, March 26, 2025
Item 13A - 2025-02-27 - PAC Nomination of Abrams to ASR Study Group

Gene West, Chair
Las Posas Valley Basin Watermaster
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009
Via email to: efwest2012@gmail.com

February 27, 2025

Chair West:

Section 8.4 of the Judgment describes the Calleguas ASR Project Operations Study. The Judgment requires that a “Calleguas ASR Study Group will be assigned to develop recommendations for the Calleguas ASR Project Operations Plan.” Section 8.4.1 requires that participants “be either licensed engineers with relevant Groundwater experience or certified hydrologists or similarly qualified” and anticipates that Calleguas, the Watermaster, and Landowners will have equal representation.

Calleguas has already committed Bryan Bondy to the Study Group as its representative. I understand the Watermaster has decided on its representation, as well.

At its regular meeting of February 20, 2025, the LPV Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) approved, by a vote of 6-0, the selection of Bob Abrams, of Aquilogic, to the ASR Study Group as the Landowner representative. Given Mr. Abrams’ extensive groundwater modeling experience and his position on the LPV Watermaster TAC, the PAC is confident that he will make valuable contributions to this critical planning process.

Sincerely,



Ian Prichard, Chair

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eugene F. West, *Chair, Director, Camrosa Water District*
Kelly Long, *Vice Chair, Supervisor, County of Ventura*
Michael Craviotto, *Farmer, Agricultural Representative*
Lynn Maulhardt, *Director, United Water Conservation District*
Tony Trembley, *Councilperson, City of Camarillo*

INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Arne Anselm

March 26, 2024

Board of Directors
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1600

SUBJECT: Approve and Authorize the Interim Executive Officer to Execute a Professional Services Contract with Regional Government Services to Provide Groundwater Extraction and Use Reporting Services

RECOMMENDATION: Approve and authorize the Interim Executive Officer to execute a professional services contract with Regional Government Services (RGS) to administer the Las Posas Valley (LPV) Adjudication Groundwater Extraction and Use Reporting program and to provide related technical assistance and support.

BACKGROUND:

The LPV Adjudication Judgment (Judgment) requires that all parties that extract or use groundwater in a given Water Year submit a completed semi-annual Groundwater Extraction and Use Form to Watermaster that specifies the total amount of groundwater extracted and used by each party. Groundwater Extraction and Use Reports are due to Watermaster on May 1 and November 1 of each year (Exhibit A, § 5.2).

The Judgment also provides that Watermaster may enter into contracts “administrative personnel, engineering, legal, accounting, or other specialty services and consulting assistants” appropriate to carry out the Judgment. (LPV Judgment, § 5.2.2.). On September 25, 2024, FCGMA, as the appointed watermaster for the Las Posas Valley Basin, entered into an agreement with Regional Government Services (RGS) to develop an online reporting tool for the LPV Adjudication Groundwater Extraction and Use program and to provide related technical assistance and support. Over the past year, RGS has supported Watermaster staff administer Groundwater Extraction and Use Reporting per the Judgment. While the contract concludes in April 2025, staff anticipates additional and continual support is required to administer the second year of Groundwater Extraction and Use reporting program (WY2024-2025), to refine the online reporting tool based on comments from FCGMA/WM staff and stakeholders, and to ensure the orderly reporting of Groundwater Extraction and Use, in accordance with the schedule set forth in the Judgment (Exhibit A, § 5.2).

DISCUSSION:

Since April 2024, RGS has supported Watermaster staff with its Groundwater Extraction and Use Reporting work and performed satisfactorily to date. The current RGS contract expires in April 2025. Meanwhile, staff is preparing for the second year of Groundwater Extraction and Use Reporting under the Judgment and anticipate additional services, assistance, and support will be required.

Instead of issuing separate contracts per reporting period for WY 24-25, Agency staff has prepared a single professional services contract with a term of 12 months. The new RGS contract includes a not-to-exceed amount of \$53,000. (Please see attached Exhibit 14A.) If approved by your Board, the proposed new RGS contract will provide relief to staff and enable Watermaster to comply with the Judgment schedule.

The scope of work included in this new RGS contract to support Watermaster's Groundwater Extraction and Use reporting program includes, but is not limited to:

1. To the extent feasible within project timeline shown below, enhance the electronic reporting tool that will allow a Party to the Judgment to report total groundwater extracted and used, including photos of flowmeter readings, to Watermaster pursuant to the Judgment (including but not necessarily limited to Section 4.5 of the Judgment and Section 5.2 of Exhibit A of the Judgment).
2. Upon receipt of a list of extractors' email addresses from the Agency, send a notice and reporting tool link to each reporting party with introductory information and instructions on how to complete reporting. Prepare introductory information, instructions and information to answer frequently asked questions to post on Agency web page.
3. Monitor completion or submission of such data by the parties to the Judgment;
4. Follow-up as needed via electronic communication with parties to ensure reporting compliance no later than May 1st (First Reporting period) and November 1st (Second Reporting period) per the Judgment;
5. Compile extraction and use data received from parties per reporting period into a .CSV file for Watermaster to use and provide assistance with data if needed. Provide Watermaster with all Groundwater Extraction and Use reporting statements (pdfs) per reporting period.
6. Calculate carryover, overuse, cure and annual allocations per the Judgment (Judgment, § 4.11, § 4.15, § 5.2.4.3) and provide assistance with data if needed.
7. Serve as primary customer support to respond to stakeholder questions regarding reporting requirements and the reporting tool, both email and telephone, with specific references to the Judgment.
8. Provide a spreadsheet containing the annual allocations accounting for Water 2024 (October 1, 2024 – September 31, 2025), and publication template for use if

desired in presenting allocation accounting data in the WY 2024 Annual Report (Judgment, § 5.2.4.3) by December 15, 2025.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that your Board approve and authorize the Interim Executive Officer to execute the proposed professional services contract with RGS for Groundwater Extraction and Use Reporting work, services, and related technical assistance and support, in an amount not-to-exceed \$53,000, effective through March 31, 2026.

This letter has been reviewed by Agency Counsel. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 654 2954.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kaseke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kudzai Farai Kaseke (PhD, PH, PMP, CSM)
Assistant Groundwater Manager

Attachment:

Exhibit 14A – Draft RGS Professional Services Contract and Exhibits

Agreement for Management and Administrative Services

This Agreement for Management Services (“Agreement”) is made and entered into as of the 26th day of March 2025, by and between the **Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency**, a municipal agency serving as the court-appointed watermaster to the Las Posas Valley Groundwater (“Agency”), and **Regional Government Services Authority** (RGS), a joint powers authority, (each individually a “Party” and, collectively, the “Parties”).

RECITALS

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into with reference to the following facts and circumstances:

- A. That Agency desires to engage RGS to render certain services to it;
- B. That RGS is a management and administrative services provider and is qualified to provide such services to the Agency; and
- C. That Agency has elected to engage the services of RGS upon the terms and conditions as hereinafter set forth.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Section 1. Services. The services to be performed by RGS under this Agreement shall include those services set forth in the attached **Exhibits**, which are incorporated by this reference herein and made a part hereof as though it were fully set forth herein.

Where in conflict, the terms of this Agreement supersede and prevail over any terms set forth in the **Exhibits**.

1.1 Standard of Performance. RGS shall perform all services required pursuant to this Agreement in the manner and according to the standards observed by a competent practitioner of the types of services that RGS agrees to provide in the geographical area in which RGS operates.

1.2 Service Advisor. To ensure quality and consistency for the services provided, RGS also assigns a service advisor to Agency. The service advisor is available to assigned RGS staff and to Agency management and will check in regularly with both to address program/project directives. Typically service advisor time is not billed to Agency, with some exceptions where significant programmatic direction is provided.

1.3 Reassignment of Personnel. Assignment of personnel to provide the services described in the **Exhibits** is at the sole discretion of RGS. In the event that Agency or RGS, at any time during the term of this Agreement, desires the reassignment of personnel, Agency and RGS shall meet and discuss in good faith

to address the issue of concern, including but not limited to reassigning such person or persons. For the avoidance of doubt, however, RGS retains sole control as to assignment of its personnel.

- 1.4** **Time**. RGS shall devote such time to the performance of services pursuant to this Agreement as may be reasonably necessary to meet the standard of performance described above and to provide the services described in the **Exhibits**.

Section 2. Term of Agreement and Termination.

- 2.1** Services shall commence on or about March 26, 2025, and this Agreement is anticipated to remain in force to March 31, 2026, at which time services may continue on a month-to-month basis until one party terminates the Agreement or if Section 3 contains a “not to exceed” amount, until RGS charges for services reach the not-to-exceed amount at which point the Agreement will automatically terminate unless amended. Services provided under the month-to-month provision are subject to current RGS staff rates in effect at the time of service. Once this Agreement has converted to a month-to month basis, it shall automatically terminate upon the ninety-first (91st) continuous day with no billable service hours. After the ninety-first (91st) day with no billable service hours, RGS shall provide Agency with written notice of the automatic termination of the Agreement.
- 2.2** This Agreement may be terminated by either Party, with or without cause, upon 30 days’ written notice. Agency has the sole discretion to determine if the services performed by RGS are satisfactory to the Agency which determination shall be made in good faith. If Agency determines that the services performed by RGS are not satisfactory, Agency may terminate this Agreement by giving written notice to RGS. Upon receipt of notice of termination by either Party, RGS shall cease performing duties on behalf of Agency on the termination date specified and the compensation payable to RGS shall include only the period for which services have been performed by RGS.

Section 3. Compensation. Payment for services under this Agreement shall not exceed \$53,000 and shall be as provided in the **Exhibits**.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Agreement shall become effective on the date first herein above written.

Section 5. Relationship of Parties.

- 5.1** It is understood that the relationship of RGS to the Agency is that of an independent contractor and all persons working for or under the direction of RGS are its agents or employees and not agents or employees of Agency. The Agency and RGS shall, at all times, treat all persons working for or under the direction of RGS as agents and employees of RGS, and not as agents or employees of the Agency. Agency shall have the right to control RGS employees only insofar as the results of RGS’ services rendered pursuant to this Agreement. In furtherance of this Section 5.1, the Parties agree as follows:
- 5.1.1** Agency shall not request from RGS or from an RGS employee providing services pursuant to this Agreement an RGS employee’s Social Security Number or other similar personally identifying information.
- 5.1.2** Agency shall not report an RGS employee to a third party as an employee of Agency. For the purposes of this Section 5.1, “third party” means another government agency, private company, or individual.

- 5.1.3** In the event that a third-party requests information about an RGS employee—including but not limited to personally identifying information, hours or locations worked, tasks performed, or compensation—Agency shall inform RGS of the request prior to responding. If Agency possesses such information about an RGS employee, the Parties shall confer in good faith about an appropriate and legally compliant response to the request.
- 5.2** RGS shall provide services under this Agreement through one or more employees of RGS qualified to perform services contracted for by Agency. The positions of RGS staff that will coordinate services to the Agency are indicated in the **Exhibits**. The Executive Director or assigned supervising RGS staff will consult with Agency on an as-needed basis to assure that the services to be performed are meeting Agency's objectives. At any time the RGS employee may be providing services to one or more RGS clients concurrent with the services being provided under this Agreement.
- 5.3** Agency shall not have the ability to direct how services are to be performed, specify the location where services are to be performed, or establish set hours or days for performance of services, except as set forth in the **Exhibits**. Agency confirms that RGS employees are not assuming and are not expected to assume any Agency staff position(s).
- 5.4** RGS employees may require access to Agency's computer systems and networks to complete the assigned services. RGS requires its employees to agree to appropriate system usage policies, which include a pledge not to use partner agency electronic equipment for anything other than partner agency work. (These policies can be provided to Agency upon request.)
- 5.5** Agency shall not have any right to discharge any employee of RGS from RGS employment.
- 5.6** RGS shall, at its sole expense, supply for its employees providing services to Agency pursuant to this Agreement any and all benefits, such as worker's compensation, disability insurance, vacation pay, sick pay, or retirement benefits; obtain and maintain all licenses and permits usual or necessary for performing the services; pay any and all taxes incurred as a result of the employee(s) compensation, including employment or other taxes; and provide Agency with proof of payment of taxes on demand.

Section 6. General Liability Coverage. RGS, pursuant to California Government Code Section 990, may satisfy its contractual liabilities with self-insurance and/or participate in a pooled risk purchasing program. RGS has and will continue to maintain a program of liability coverage against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property that may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by RGS and its agents, representatives, employees, and subcontractors.

6.1 Workers' Compensation Coverage.

6.1.1 General requirements. RGS shall, at its sole cost and expense, maintain Workers' Compensation coverage and Employer's Liability coverage with limits of not less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence.

6.1.2 Waiver of subrogation. The Workers' Compensation coverage shall be endorsed with or include a waiver of subrogation in favor of Agency for all work performed by RGS, its employees, agents, and subcontractors.

6.2 Commercial General, Automobile, and Professional Liability Coverages.

6.2.1 General requirements. RGS, at its own cost and expense, shall maintain commercial general and automobile liability coverage for the term of this Agreement in an amount not less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence, combined single limit coverage for risks associated with the work contemplated by this Agreement. RGS shall additionally maintain commercial general liability coverage in an amount not less than \$2,000,000 aggregated for bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage.

6.2.2 Minimum scope of coverage. RGS coverage may not be written on ISO forms but will always provide coverage at least as broad as the latest version of the following: (A) *General Liability*: Insurance Services Office Commercial General Liability coverage (occurrence form CG 0001); and (B) *Automobile Liability*: Insurance Services Office Business Auto Coverage form number CA 001, code 1 (any auto).

6.3 Professional Liability Insurance. RGS, at its own cost and expense, shall maintain for the period covered by this Agreement professional liability coverage for licensed professionals performing work pursuant to this Agreement in an amount not less than \$2,000,000 covering the licensed professionals' errors and omissions.

6.4 All Policies Requirements.

6.4.1 Coverage requirements. Each of the following shall be included in the coverage or added as an endorsement:

- a.** Agency and its officers, employees, and agents, shall be covered as additional covered parties with respect to RGS' general commercial, and automobile coverage for claims, demands, and causes of action arising out of or relating to RGS' performance of this Agreement and to the extent caused by RGS' negligent act, error, or omission.
- b.** An endorsement to RGS' general commercial and automobile coverages must state that coverage is primary with respect to Agency and its officers, officials, employees and agents.
- c.** All coverages shall be on an occurrence or an accident basis, and not on a claims-made basis.

6.4.2 Acceptability of coverage providers. All coverages required by this section shall be acquired through providers with a Bests' rating of no less than A: VII or through sources that provide an equivalent level of reliability.

- 6.4.3 Verification of coverage.** Prior to beginning any work under this Agreement, RGS shall furnish Agency with notifications of coverage and with original endorsements effecting coverage required herein. The notifications and endorsements are to be signed by a person authorized to bind coverage on its behalf. Agency reserves the right to require complete, certified copies coverage at any time.
- 6.4.4 Subcontractors.** RGS shall include all subcontractors as insureds under its coverage or shall furnish separate certificates and endorsements for each subcontractor. All coverages for subcontractors shall be subject to all of the requirements stated herein.
- 6.4.5 Variation.** During the term of this Agreement, RGS may change the insurance program in which it participates. RGS will provide reasonable notice of any such change to Agency and replacement copies of Certificates of Coverage and endorsements.
- 6.4.6 Deductibles and Self-Insured Retentions.** RGS shall disclose any self-insured retention if Agency so requests prior to performing services under this Agreement or within a reasonable period of time of a request by Agency during the term of this Agreement.
- 6.4.7 Maintenance of Coverages.** The coverages stated herein shall be maintained throughout the term of this Agreement and proof of coverage shall be available for inspection by Agency upon request.
- 6.4.8 Notice of Cancellation or Reduction in Coverage.** In the event that any coverage required by this section is reduced, limited, or materially affected in any other manner, RGS shall provide written notice to Agency at RGS earliest possible opportunity and in no case later than five business days after RGS is notified of the change in coverage.

Section 7. Legal Requirements.

- 7.1 Governing Law.** The laws of the State of California shall govern this Agreement.
- 7.2 Compliance with Applicable Laws.** RGS and any subcontractors shall comply with all laws applicable to the performance of the work hereunder.
- 7.3 Reporting Requirements.** If there is a statutory or other legal requirement for RGS to report information to another government entity, RGS shall be responsible for complying with such requirements.
- 7.4 Other Governmental Regulations.** To the extent that this Agreement may be funded by fiscal assistance from another governmental entity, RGS and any subcontractors shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations to which Agency is bound by the terms of such fiscal assistance program.

- 7.5 **Licenses and Permits.** RGS represents and warrants to Agency that RGS and its employees, agents, and any subcontractors have all licenses, permits, qualifications, and approvals of whatsoever nature that are legally required to provide the services contemplated by this Agreement. RGS represents and warrants to Agency that RGS and its employees, agents, and subcontractors shall, at their sole cost and expense, keep in effect at all times during the term of this Agreement any licenses, permits, and approvals that are legally required to practice their respective professions.
- 7.6 **Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity.** RGS shall not discriminate on the basis of a person's race, religion, color, national origin, age, physical or mental handicap or disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, or sexual orientation, against any employee, applicant for employment, subcontractor, bidder for a subcontract, or participant in, recipient of, or applicant for any services or programs provided under this Agreement. RGS shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, policies, rules, and requirements related to equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in employment, contracting, and the provision of any services that are the subject of this Agreement.

Section 8. Keeping and Status of Records.

- 8.1 **Records Created as Part of RGS' Performance.** All final versions of reports, data, maps, models, charts, studies, surveys, photographs, memoranda, plans, studies, specifications, records, files, or any other documents or materials, in electronic or any other form, that RGS prepares or obtains pursuant to this Agreement and that relate to the matters covered hereunder shall be the property of Agency. RGS hereby agrees to deliver those documents to Agency upon termination of the Agreement, if requested. It is understood and agreed that the documents and other materials, including but not limited to those described above, prepared pursuant to this Agreement are prepared specifically for Agency and are not necessarily suitable for any future or other use.
- 8.2 **Confidential Information.** RGS shall hold any confidential information received from Agency in the course of performing this Agreement in trust and confidence and will not reveal such confidential information to any person or entity, either during the term of the Agreement or at any time thereafter. Upon expiration of this Agreement, or termination as provided herein, RGS shall return materials which contain any confidential information to Agency. For purposes of this paragraph, confidential information is defined as all information disclosed to RGS which relates to Agency past, present, and future activities, as well as activities under this Agreement, which information is not otherwise of public record under California law. Agency shall notify RGS what information and documents are confidential and thus subject to this section 8.2.
- 8.3 **RGS Books and Records.** RGS shall maintain any and all ledgers, books of account, invoices, vouchers, canceled checks, and other records or documents evidencing or relating to charges for services or expenditures and disbursements charged to Agency under this Agreement for a minimum of 3 years, or for any longer period required by law, from the date of final payment under this Agreement.

8.4 Inspection and Audit of Records. Any records or documents that Section 8.3 of this Agreement requires RGS to maintain shall be made available for inspection, audit, and/or copying at any time during regular business hours, upon oral or written request of Agency. Under California Government Code Section 8546.7, if the amount of public funds expended under this Agreement exceeds \$10,000.00, the Agreement shall be subject to the examination and audit of the State Auditor, at the request of Agency or as part of any audit of Agency, for a period of three years after final payment under the Agreement.

Section 9. Non-assignment. This Agreement is not assignable either in whole or in part without the written consent of the other party.

Section 10. Amendments. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a subsequent written agreement or amendment signed by both Parties.

Section 11. Validity. The invalidity, in whole or in part, of any provisions of this Agreement shall not void or affect the validity of any other provisions of this Agreement.

Section 12. Disputes. Should any dispute arise out of this Agreement, Agency agrees that it shall only file a legal action against RGS and shall not file any legal action against any of the public entities that are members of RGS.

Section 13. Venue/Attorneys' Fees. Any suit or action initiated by either party shall be brought in Alameda County, California. In the event of litigation between the Parties hereto to enforce any provision of the Agreement, the prevailing Party shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs of litigation.

Section 14. Mediation. Should any dispute arise out of this Agreement, the Parties shall meet in mediation and attempt to reach a resolution with the assistance of a mutually acceptable mediator. Neither Party shall be permitted to file legal action without first meeting in mediation and making a good faith attempt to reach a mediated resolution. The costs of the mediator, if any, shall be paid equally by the Parties. If a mediated settlement is reached, neither Party shall be deemed the prevailing party for purposes of the settlement and each Party shall bear its own legal costs.

Section 15. Employment Offers to RGS Staff. Should Agency desire to offer permanent or temporary employment to an RGS employee who is either currently providing RGS services to Agency or has provided RGS services to Agency within the previous six months, said Agency will be charged a fee equal to the full-time cost of the RGS employee for one month, using the most recent RGS bill rate for the RGS employee's services to Agency. This fee is to recover RGS' expenses in recruiting the former and replacement RGS staff.

Section 16. Entire Agreement. This Agreement, including the **Exhibits**, comprises the entire Agreement.

Section 17. Indemnification.

17.1 RGS' indemnity obligations.

RGS shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Agency and its legislative body, boards and commissions, officers, and employees ("Indemnitees") from and against all claims, demands, and causes of action by third parties, including but not limited to attorneys' fees, arising out of RGS' performance of this Agreement, to the extent caused by RGS' negligent act, error, or omission. Nothing herein shall be interpreted as obligating RGS to indemnify Agency against its own negligence or willful misconduct.

Training disclaimer

Agency understands and acknowledges that RGS advisors may, as part of the scope of services under this Agreement, provide training on various matters including human resources, accounting, or management practices. The advice and guidance included in such training does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; instead, all information, content, and materials provided are based on industry best practices, but may not be applicable in all situations. Agency staff should not act or refrain from acting on the basis of the information provided as part of a training without first seeking legal advice from counsel in its relevant jurisdiction and/or appropriate Agency approval. RGS' obligation to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless indemnities pursuant to this section 17.1 for professional errors and omissions shall not exceed \$500,000.

17.2 Agency's indemnity obligations. Agency shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless RGS and its officers, directors, employees and agents from any and all third-party claims and lawsuits where such persons are named in the lawsuit solely because of a duty any of them performs in accordance with the services outlined in Exhibit B. Agency's obligation to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless indemnities pursuant to this section 17.2 shall not extend to claims and lawsuits resulting from the gross negligence or willful misconduct of RGS and its officers, directors, employees and agents.

It is the intent of the parties here to define indemnity obligations that are related to or arise out of Agency's actions as a governmental entity. Thus, Agency shall be required to indemnify and defend only under circumstances where a third-party cause of action is stated against RGS, its employees or agents:

- a. which is unrelated to the skill they have used in the performance of the duties delegated to them under this Agreement;
- b. when the allegations in such cause of action do not suggest the active fraud or other misconduct of RGS, its employees, or agents; or
- c. where an Agency employee, if he had been acting in a like capacity, otherwise would be acting within the scope of that employment.

Whenever Agency owes a duty hereunder to indemnify RGS, its employees or agents, Agency further agrees to pay RGS a reasonable fee for all time spent by any RGS employee or spent by any person who has performed work pursuant to this Agreement, for the purpose of preparing for or testifying in any third-party suit, action, or legal proceeding in connection with the services the assigned employee has provided under this Agreement.

17.3 Obligations and indemnity related to defined benefit retirement plan participation.

- a. RGS and Agency acknowledge and agree that, if Agency participates in a defined benefit plan (such as CalPERS, a pension plan, or Social Security) (“Retirement Program”), it is possible that the Retirement Program may find that RGS employees providing services pursuant to this Agreement are employees of Agency and should be registered with the Retirement Program as employees of Agency, which possibility is the same as if Agency were contracting with a private consulting firm. Pursuant to Section 5.1 of this Agreement, Agency has an obligation to treat all persons working for or under the direction of RGS as agents and employees of RGS, and not as agents or employees of Agency. Agency agrees not to ask RGS employees for personally identifying information.
- b. In the event that the Agency’s Retirement Program initiates an inquiry that includes examination of whether individuals providing services under this Agreement to Agency are Agency’s employees, Agency shall inform RGS within five business days and share all communications and documents from the Retirement Program that it may legally share. In the event that either RGS or Agency files an appeal or court challenge, RGS and Agency each agree to cooperate with each other in responding to the inquiry and any subsequent administrative appeal or court challenge of an adverse determination. Notwithstanding Section 17.1 of this Agreement, RGS and Agency shall each bear their own costs in responding to an inquiry by a Retirement Program, including but not limited to costs of an administrative appeal or court challenge.
- c. In the event that any RGS employee or subconsultant providing services under this Agreement is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction or the Agency’s Retirement Program to be eligible for enrollment in the Retirement Program as an employee of the Agency, to the fullest extent of the law, Agency shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless RGS for any Retirement Program contribution payment that Agency is required as a result to make to the Retirement Program as well as for the payment of any penalties and interest on such payments, if any.

Section 18. Notices. All notices required by this Agreement shall be given to Agency and RGS in writing, by first class mail, postage prepaid, or by email transmission addressed as follows:

Agency: Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA. 93009-1610
Phone: (805) 654-2014
Emails: fcgma@ventura.org, lpv.watermaster@ventura.org

RGS: Regional Government Services Authority
P. O. Box 1350
Carmel Valley, CA 93924
Email: contracts@rgs.ca.gov

Notice by email transmission shall be deemed given upon verification of receipt if received before 5:00p.m. on a regular business day or else on the next business day.

Section 19. Counterparts; Electronic Signatures. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original, and all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument. The Parties agree that this Agreement may be transmitted and signed by electronic or digital means by either or both Parties and that such signatures shall have the same force and effect as original signatures, in accordance with California Government Code Section 16.5 and California Civil Code Section 1633.7.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed on the date first written by their respective officers duly authorized on their behalf.

DATED: _____

Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency

By: _____
Arne Anselm, Interim Executive Officer

DATED: _____

Regional Government Services Authority

By: _____
Sophia Selivanoff, Executive Director

Exhibit A

Compensation.

1. **Fees.** Agency agrees to pay to RGS the hourly rates set forth in the tables below for each RGS employee providing services to Agency, which are based in part on RGS' full cost of compensation and support for the RGS employee(s) providing the services herein described. RGS and Agency acknowledge and agree that compensation paid by Agency to RGS under this Agreement is based upon RGS' costs of providing the services required hereunder. The Parties further agree adjustments to the hourly bill rate shown below for "RGS Staff" will be made on July 1 of each year, when RGS' hourly bill rates will be adjusted by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI for urban wage earners and clerical workers in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area) ("CPI") for the twelve months through the end of December of the prior year. Irrespective of the movement of the CPI, RGS will not adjust its hourly rates downward; nor will RGS adjust its hourly rates upward in excess of a five percentage (5%) change, excepting instances where there was no increase in the prior year's hourly rates. In that event, RGS will adjust its hourly rates by the full percentage change in the CPI for the twelve months through the end of December of the prior year.
2. **Reimbursement of RGS' Direct Costs.** Agency shall reimburse RGS for direct external costs. Direct external costs, including such expenses as travel or other costs incurred for the exclusive benefit of the Agency are not included in the hourly bill rate and, will be invoiced to Agency when received and without mark-up. These external costs will be due upon receipt.
3. **Terms of Payment.** RGS shall submit invoices monthly for the prior month's services. Invoices shall be sent approximately 10 days after the end of the month for which services were performed and are due and shall be delinquent if not paid within 30 days of receipt. Delinquent payments will be subject to a late payment carrying charge computed at a periodic rate of one-half of one percent per month, which is an annual percentage rate of six percent, which will be applied to any unpaid balance owed commencing 7 days after the payment due date. Additionally, in the event the Agency fails to pay any undisputed amounts due to RGS within 15 days after payment due date, then Agency agrees that RGS shall have the right to consider said default a total breach of this Agreement and the duties of RGS under this Agreement may be terminated by RGS upon 5 working days' advance written notice.

Payment Process/Address. RGS prefers invoices be paid electronically.

RGS will reach out to your invoicing contact to establish and provide electronic payment instructions.

However, should you have questions or need other payment options, please contact:

Lindsay Rice, RGSA Accounting Manager
(650) 587-7300X12 | lrice@rgs.ca.gov

[EXHIBIT A CONTINUES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

AGENCY CONTACTS

Agency Billing Contact. Invoices are sent electronically only. Please provide the contact persons to whom invoices should be sent:

NAME	EMAIL
Daiva Pekinas	daiva.pekinas@ventura.org
Elka Weber	elka.weber@ventura.org

Agency Insurance Contact. Please provide the contact persons to whom the certificate of coverage should be sent:

NAME	EMAIL
Daiva Pekinas	daiva.pekinas@ventura.org
Elka Weber	elka.weber@ventura.org

RGS STAFF RATES

TITLE	HOURLY RATE*
Strategic Services Consultant	\$186
Senior Advisor	\$157
Advisor	\$135
Technical Specialist	\$119
Administrative Specialist	\$106

**The Hourly Rate does not include direct external costs which will be invoiced to Agency with no markup and will fall outside of the not-to-exceed (if established) for services provided.*

Exhibit B

Scope of Services. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, Regional Government Services Authority (RGS) shall perform the work, services, and functions to accomplish groundwater extraction and reporting requirements in compliance with the Judgment as described below:

Tasks

1. To the extent feasible within project timeline shown below, enhance the electronic reporting tool that will allow a Party to the Judgment to report total groundwater extracted and used, including photos of flowmeter readings, to Watermaster pursuant to the Judgment (including but not necessarily limited to Section 4.5 of the Judgment and Section 5.2 of Exhibit A of the Judgment).
 2. Upon receipt of a list of extractors' email addresses from the Agency, send a notice and reporting tool link to each reporting party with introductory information and instructions on how to complete reporting. Prepare introductory information, instructions and information to answer frequently asked questions to post on Agency web page.
 3. Monitor completion or submission of such data by the parties to the Judgment;
 4. Follow-up as needed via electronic communication with parties to ensure reporting compliance no later than May 1st (First Reporting period) and November 1st (Second Reporting period) per the Judgment;
 5. Compile extraction and use data received from parties per reporting period into a .CSV file for Watermaster to use and provide assistance with data if needed.
 6. Serve as primary customer support to respond to stakeholder questions regarding reporting requirements and the reporting tool, both email and telephone, with specific references to the Judgment.
 7. Provide a spreadsheet containing the annual allocations accounting for Water 2024 (October 1, 2024 – September 31, 2025), and publication template for use if desired in presenting allocation accounting data in the WY 2024 Annual Report (Judgment, § 5.2.4.3).
 8. Draft Annual Allocations Accounting for WY 2024 by December 15, 2025
-

Time Schedule

TASK	DESCRIPTION	DUE DATE
1	Develop enhancements for process and tools for reporting groundwater extraction and use data for first reporting period. Enhancements will be prioritized for inclusion by RGS based on feasibility; and FCGMA team will be notified prior to implementation.	March 28, 2025
2	Send email announcement of upcoming reporting	March 24, 2025
3	Send notice and reporting tool link to each reporting party	April 1, 2025
4	Send email reminder on reporting due date (2-week reminder)	April 17, 2025
5	Send final courtesy email reminder of due date	April 24, 2025
6	Collect and aggregate submission of data	May 1, 2025
7	Follow-up with reporting parties as needed via electronic communication as needed	June 1, 2025
8	Compile and analyze data received from reporting parties into a .CSV; provide PDF survey data files.	By June. 1, 2025
9	Develop enhancements for electronic process and tools for reporting groundwater extraction and use data for second reporting period. Enhancements will be prioritized for inclusion by RGS based on feasibility; and completed enhancements will be reviewed at least once with FCGMA team prior to implementation.	September 1, 2025
10	Send email announcement of upcoming reporting	September 15, 2025
11	Send notice and reporting tool link to each reporting party	October 1, 2025

TASK	DESCRIPTION	DUE DATE
12	Send email reminder on reporting due date (2-week reminder)	October 17, 2025
13	Send final curtesy email reminder of due date	October 24, 2025
14	Collect and aggregate submission of data	November 1, 2025
15	Compile and analyze data received from reporting parties into a .CSV; provide PDF survey data files.	November 30, 2025
16	Calculate carryover (Judgment, § 4.11)	December 15, 2025
17	Calculate overuse and cure (Judgment, § 4.15)	December 15, 2025
18	Calculate Annual Allocations accounting for WY2024 (Judgment, § 5.2.4.3)	December 15, 2024
19	Respond to stakeholder questions regarding reporting requirements and the reporting tool, both email and telephone, with specific references to the Judgment; follow-up with reporting parties as needed via electronic communication; maintain meter and extraction data.	Ongoing through April 30, 2026

Gene West, Chair
Las Posas Valley Basin Watermaster
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009
Via email: efwest2021@gmail.com

February 7, 2025

Chair West:

At its regular meeting on February 6, 2025, the Las Posas Valley Basin Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) discussed the draft Basin Optimization Plan (dBOP) and its role in the Watermaster budgeting process.

The PAC is highly supportive of evaluating the Least Cost Acquisition Program and Calleguas In-Lieu Program (both described at length in the dBOP) for pilot implementation this calendar year. Although distinct, each program is immediately available and operationally flexible.

The PAC recommends that Watermaster staff work with Calleguas and pertinent pumpers (individual landowners, Ventura County WaterWorks Districts Nos. 1 and 19, and mutual water companies) on the following steps to develop proposals to the Watermaster Board and stakeholders:

- For the Least Cost Acquisition Program, this would include surveying water rights holders to gauge how much water allocation may be available for acquisition and retirement by the Watermaster; determining a program budget includes a maximum price per acre-foot; and developing a reverse auction framework.
- For the Calleguas In-Lieu Program, this would include determining the capacity of existing Calleguas customers to take surface deliveries in lieu of pumping and establishing a cost-recovery mechanism that makes participating pumpers whole and comports with Calleguas regulations.

Both programs will require funding from the basin assessment. As a start, any unspent portion of the current FY24-25 basin assessment could go to funding one of these programs. The PAC looks forward to participating in what will be an iterative determination of an appropriate level of assessment for these programs in future budget years.

Sincerely,



Ian Prichard

Tony Trembley
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency/LPV Watermaster
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009
Sent via email to: ttrembley@cityofcamarillo.org

February 13, 2025

Councilman Trembley,

Kristine and I appreciated the opportunity to present the background and water resource development plans of the Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas) to the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency at your regular meeting yesterday.

After our presentation, you asked whether Calleguas's existing well-monitoring program in the West Las Posas Management Area (WLPMA) is sufficient to gauge the impact of in-lieu programs on the pumping depression there. I was unable to give you a good answer in the meeting but have since consulted with our groundwater expert. He confirmed that the Calleguas monitoring wells in the WLPMA, concentrated as they are in the eastern portion, have been used to observe groundwater levels in the pumping depression and would be sufficient to gauge the impact of in-lieu deliveries in the area.

While additional monitoring wells in the western portion of the WLPMA are not necessary to gauge the impact of in-lieu programs in the eastern WLPMA pumping depression, they would be beneficial for observing groundwater conditions generally and the impact of replenishment and extraction activities over time. As Kristine mentioned in her remarks yesterday, additional collaboration between Calleguas and FCGMA staff on a coordinated well-monitoring program would enhance monitoring activities across the basin.

Thank you for your interest in Calleguas's presentation and operations. Should you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 805.256.0949 or iprichard@calleguas.com.

Sincerely,



Ian Prichard, Deputy GM

Gene West, Chair
Las Posas Valley Watermaster
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

March 13, 2025

Re: PAC Review of 2/21/2025 Draft LPV FY 2025-2026 Watermaster Budget

Chair West:

At its March 6, 2025, meeting, the Las Posas Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) reviewed the Draft Las Posas Valley Watermaster Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY25-26). PAC Vice Chairman Rob Grether provided an update on the February 18 Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCMGA) Fiscal Committee meeting. The PAC appreciates the Fiscal Committee's diligence and thorough evaluation of the budget.

The PAC has identified several budget items that warrant revision, many of which align with the Fiscal Committee's recommendations.

1. The PAC recommends that the FY25-26 Watermaster Budget expenses be clearly described and segregated from any expenses incurred by FCGMA in its duties managing Ventura County water basins, including the Las Posas Valley Water Basin. The objective is that there is no duplication of expenses for the same task allocated to both Watermaster and FCGMA. In order to confirm appropriate segregation of expenses, the PAC requests review of the FY25-26 FCGMA Budget concurrently with review of the FY25-26 Watermaster Budget.
2. Year-to-date (YTD) actuals in the budget are through January 31, 2025, seven months into the fiscal year. PAC appreciates having YTD actuals but believes the budget would be much more informative if year-to-go (YTG) projections were included, as well, so that we can better estimate the total FY24-25 expenses and project ending reserves. Without refined YTG projections, the safest assumption is that YTG expenses will be approximately five-sevenths YTD expenses and carryover reserves will be approximately \$1.6 million.

	FY 2024-25
FY 2024-25 Beginning Year Account Balance	\$1,127,505
Basin Assessment Fee YTD (75% of 2 assessments @ \$16.145 x 40,000)	972,177
Basin Assessment Fee YTG (2 assessments @ \$16.145 x 40,000)	1,291,600
Basin Assessment Interest	16,283
Investment Income	6,167
Total Revenues	2,286,227
Total Expenditures YTD (7 of 12 months)	(931,991)
Total Expenditures YTD (5 of 12 months)	(665,708)
Operating Reserve	(214,827)
Total FY 2024-25 Expenditures	(1,812,526)
Projected Year End Watermaster Budget	\$1,601,206

3. This projected year-end surplus suggests the 3rd and 4th installments of the FY24-25 Watermaster Assessment will not be required for the Watermaster to maintain a positive cash balance, and therefore the assessments should not be levied. Or, per the PAC's February 7, 2025 letter, the assessments could be reserved for future replenishment actions.
4. Budget line items 16, 18, 19 and 20 should all be removed from the Watermaster Budget as they are all for work performed by Watermaster in response to a Water Rights Holder making a request or seeking approval. According to the Judgment, these costs should be borne by the Water Rights Holder:

7.4 Processing Fees. Watermaster shall develop, impose, and publish a schedule of fees sufficient to offset the expenses borne by Watermaster in processing requests for approvals as specified in this Judgment.

New Uses / Subscription Projects is described in section 4.6; Change of Point of Extraction is in section 4.13; New or Replacement Well is in section 4.14; and Transfers is in section 4.12, with fees specifically addressed in section 4.12.7:

Transfer Costs. All costs of Transfers will be borne by the Parties to the Transfer. Watermaster shall develop a reasonable schedule of fees for processing Transfers.

5. PAC appreciates the efforts by FCGMA staff to estimate expenses for FY25-26 by line item. However, PAC recommends that the combined budget for FY25-26 for Watermaster Administration and Allocations & Record Keeping be contemplated against the baseline of combined relevant expenses in FY24-25. YTD expenditures in these categories combined was only \$94,129. Assuming YTG expenses keep pace, total FY24-25 expenses will be ~\$161,000. The budget for FY25-26 is more than twice as high for the same responsibilities. In the table below, the section budgets are combined and then User Fee-Based Items and Enforcement (because it is new) are removed. PAC recommends the budgets for these sections be no more than \$200,000, which is still 23% higher than FY24-25.

	YTD through Jan 31, 2025	YTG Projections (5/7ths of YTD)	Total FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26 Budget
Watermaster Administration	77,421	55,301	132,722	249,057
Allocations & Record Keeping	16,708	11,934	28,642	206,355
				455,412
16 New Uses / Subscription				9,518
18 Transfers				22,962
19 Change of Point of Extraction				17,551
20 New or Replacement Well				17,551
User Fees-Based to be Removed				67,582
				387,830
Enforcement - new				56,947
Combined without User Fee Items and Enforcement	94,129	67,235	161,364	330,883

6. Budget item 23, Enforcement, should include appropriate funding for legal services to assist Watermaster in enforcing the Judgment, captured either here or in the Legal Services section below.
7. Item 25, GSP Update, should be removed from the Watermaster Budget as preparing the GSP Update is the responsibility of the FCGMA:

Judgment Section 1.55 GSP Updates – The regular and periodic evaluations and updates to the GSP to be undertaken by the FCGMA pursuant to SGMA. (Wat. Code, § 10728.2.)

8. Item 34, Insurance, should be removed as it was determined that the PAC and TAC are already covered by the existing policy:

2. Each of the following is also an insured:

- a. **Elected Or Appointed Officials.** Your elected or appointed officials, including elected or appointed officials of your operating authorities, boards, commissions, districts, or other governmental units but only for acts within the course and scope of their duties for the insured public entity or its operating authorities, boards, commissions, districts or other governmental units.

Your Public Officials and Management Liability coverage began upon appointment and covers acts within the course and scope of your duties for LPV Watermaster or its operating authorities.

Attached is the 2024-2025 FCGMA Package Policy for the Committees to review.

Regards,

LPV Watermaster

9. Item 37, Basin Assessments, should be more clearly defined. The budget in FY25-26 appears to be \$65,704 (\$40,704 + \$25,000), but to date none of the budget for contract work has been spent and it is unclear how much of the \$6,238 spent YTD in the Budget & Assessments category was spent on Basin Assessments.
10. Item 38, Processing Fees. PAC has the same request for further definition and basis for the \$43,742 budget.
11. Item 44, Calleguas ASR Project Operations Study, should be removed from the budget as its development is a shared financial responsibility of Calleguas and the FCGMA:

Section 8.4.7. Calleguas ASR Study Group Budget and Cost Sharing. The budget for the Calleguas ASR Study Group work to be performed pursuant to the Judgment shall be determined by unanimous agreement of all the members of the Calleguas ASR Study Group. The costs of the Calleguas ASR Study Group work, which must be unanimously authorized by the Calleguas ASR Study Group, shall be shared as follows: the FCGMA will pay 20% and Calleguas will pay 80%. Parties shall bear their own costs for attendance at meetings and analysis of completed work.

12. Additionally, the Watermaster budget should not cover any expenses for FCGMA staff or consultants participating in the ASR Study Group, as this is the responsibility of the FCGMA, not the Watermaster:

8.4.1. Participants. The Calleguas ASR Study Group shall consist of representatives, who shall be either licensed engineers with relevant Groundwater experience or certified hydrologists or similarly qualified, of the FCGMA, Calleguas, and the Landowners. It is anticipated the representatives will include equal representation of the overlying landowners and Calleguas, and a Watermaster representative.

13. However, there should be a budget line created for the Landowners' representative on the Calleguas ASR Study Group as approved by the PAC. PAC will return to the Watermaster in the coming weeks with an estimated expense for this based on feedback from Calleguas regarding the anticipated time commitment.
14. Item 49, Judicial Review (outside counsel) should be broken into three explicitly defined line items:
 - a. Administrative – a modest amount to cover the expense of attending status conferences with the Court, etc.
 - b. Enforcement – noted above in item 6.
 - c. Defense of a Decision Appeal – a budget for Watermaster to defend an appeal by a Water Rights Holder against the Watermaster based on an action taken by Watermaster under the Judgment. PAC recommends Watermaster work with counsel to estimate the cost of defending one appeal per year, noting that we have not had an appeal to date.

15. Item 49, Judicial Review (outside counsel) should not include any additional, undefined budget for any activities that do not fall within the three categories listed in item 14. The PAC maintains its position that legal fees associated with the FCGMA's appeal of the Judgment should be borne by FCGMA as a party to the adjudication, recovered through FCGMA extraction fees, and not solely by the LPV landowners, recovered through the basin assessment.

The FCGMA agreed to serve as Watermaster for the Las Posas Basin and to perform the duties assigned to it under the Phase 3 Settlement and Judgment, consistent with the Judgment's terms and the Watermaster Rules and Regulations. This includes establishment of the Physical Solution, establishment of the PAC and TAC, and the Basin Optimization Plan.

The Judgment allows for certain legal fees to be borne by the Watermaster, but these are for implementation of the Judgment, not for contesting the Judgment. Contesting the Judgment via an appeal strikes the PAC as the FCGMA's "own costs" as described in Section 12.4 of the Judgment:

12.4 Costs Except subject to any existing Court orders and stipulations or separate agreement of one or more Parties, each Party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees arising from the Comprehensive Adjudication.

16. PAC anticipates that the final FY 2025-26 Watermaster Budget can be trimmed down by at least \$1,000,000 and the Basin Assessment can be reduced to \$50 per AF:

FCGMA Board Meeting - March 26, 2025

Item 17 - REVISED - Correspondence from PAC dated March 13, 2025

	Labor Cost	Contract Cost	Combined
Watermaster Administration, Allocations & Record Keeping			
Combined Labor Cost Estimate - all activities	200,000		
Extraction and Use Monitoring and Reporting - contract		61,800	
Enforcement	56,947		
Subtotal - Admin and Allocation & Record Keeping	256,947	61,800	318,747
Basin Management			
2025 Basin Optimization Yield Study	34,346	125,000	
Annual Report	42,530	60,326	
Initial Basin Optimization Plan	35,649	58,000	
Subtotal - Basin Management	112,525	243,326	355,851
Committee Coordination - all items excl. insurance	62,919	542,233	605,152
Budgets and Assessments			
Watermaster Budget	27,805		
Basin Assessments	10,000		
Processing Fees	10,000		
Audits	6,063	15,000	
CSD Fiscal Services Staff		37,290	
Subtotal - Budget and Assessments	53,868	52,290	106,158
IT Services and Support	49,079	200,000	249,079
Calleguas ASR Study Group - Landowner Representative		25,000	25,000
Legal Services			
Advisory		125,000	
Staff Time - assuming this explicitly supports the 3 categories below	79,045		
Admin		25,000	
Enforcement		50,000	
Defense of Rights Holder Appeal		50,000	
	79,045	125,000	204,045
TOTAL FY 2025-26 Budget	614,383	1,224,649	1,839,032
Projected FY 2024-25 Expenditures			1,812,526
YOY Change			1.5%
Operating Reserves at 10%			181,253
Grand Total:			1,993,778
Total Annual Allocation (AF):			40,000
Basin Assessment per AF (rounded up to nearest dollar):			\$50.00
Quarterly Assessment			\$12.50

The PAC is grateful that the Watermaster has started the process of developing and refining the FY 2025-26 Watermaster Budget well in advance of the next fiscal year and believe that together we can shape it into a budget that is detailed and reasonable. Thank you for your consideration of PAC's recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ian Prichard", written in a cursive style.

Ian Prichard, Chair, Las Posas Valley Basin PAC

March 26, 2025

Board of Directors
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1600

SUBJECT: Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors and Board Member Committee Assignments – *(Returning Item)*

RECOMMENDATIONS: (1) Select a Board Member to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for Calendar Year 2025; and (2) Assign Board Members to serve as members on the Agency's Executive Committee, Fiscal Committee, and Operations Committee.

BACKGROUND:

The FCGMA Board of Directors represents the (1) County of Ventura, (2) the United Water Conservation District (UWCD, or United), (3) the seven small water districts within the Agency (Alta Mutual Water Company, Pleasant Valley County Water District, Berylwood Mutual Water Company, Calleguas Municipal Water District, Camrosa Water District, Zone Mutual Water Company, and Del Norte Mutual Water Company), (4) the five incorporated cities within the Agency (Ventura, Oxnard, Camarillo, Port Hueneme, and Moorpark), and (5) the farmers.

Each FCGMA Board Member has an alternate, and all members serve a two-year term. All Board Members are appointed by their respective organizations or groups. In 2008, terms for the Agricultural & Cities Representatives were staggered ending in even years, while the representatives for UWCD, County of Ventura, and Small Water Districts end in odd years.

DISCUSSION:

Recent Appointments

At its January 14, 2025, meeting, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors reappointed Supervisor Kelly Long to serve as primary representative and have reappointed Supervisor Vianey Lopez to serve as alternate representative. (See attached Exhibit 18A.)

Per correspondence from Calleguas Mutual Water District Deputy General Manager Ian Prichard dated February 3, 2025 (attached as Exhibit 18B), an election was held by members of the governing boards of the small water districts on January 30, 2025, and

Gene West was selected to continue as the primary representative, while Reddy Pakala was selected as the alternate representative.

At its February 12, 2025, meeting, the Board of Directors of the United Water Conservation District selected Lynn Maulhardt to continue as the primary representative and have selected Keith Ford as the alternate representative. (See attached Exhibit 18C.)

As previously discussed by your Board, per correspondence dated September 16, 2024, (attached as Exhibit 18D), the Ventura County Farm Bureau and Ventura County Agricultural Association jointly nominated Michael Craviotto for appointment as the Farmer's representative and David Borchard for appointment as the Farmer's alternate representative.

Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

The current Chair is Eugene F. West - representing the Small Water Districts in the Agency, and Vice Chair is Kelly Long - representing the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. The Chair begins, conducts, and ends all meetings. The Chair has the responsibility to control debates, determine the order of speakers and/or agenda items, and to accept or deny any presentation or topic of discussion.

With the appointment of FCGMA as Watermaster for the Las Posas Valley (LPV) Basin in 2023, the Chair has been given additional authority and responsibilities in the LPV Basin; namely:

1. If the LPV Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) requests that the Watermaster assign a matter involving a technical question to the LPV Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for review, Chair of the Watermaster has the authority to approve the request and to modify the timeline as is reasonable and necessary for completion of the Committee Consultation process [Judgment § 6.4];
2. The Chair has the authority to call a special meeting of the PAC and/or TAC [Judgment § 6.5.1];
3. The Chair has the authority to request that a spokesperson from PAC/TAC attend any Watermaster meeting where a PAC/TAC Recommendation Report will be considered by Watermaster [Judgment, § 6.8];
4. If Watermaster declines to appoint any of the TAC nominees submitted by the PAC, then the Chair of Watermaster and the Chair of the PAC shall promptly meet to determine eligible replacement nominees or a process to do so [Judgment, § 6.10.2].

Committee Assignments

In 2012, your Board approved the formation of three committees: Executive, Fiscal, and Operations.

The **Executive Committee** is composed of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board and meets when directed by the Board to discuss issues including, but not limited to:

- Strategic Planning
- Prioritization of Work Plan Items
- Regional Coordination to Increase Water Supply
- Recommendations regarding extraction allocation systems

The **Fiscal Committee** is composed of two directors, typically the Chair and Cities' representative, and meets when directed by the Board to discuss issues including, but not limited to:

- Budget development and tracking
- Fiscal Policy
- Pursuit of grants
- Development of replenishment fees

The **Operations Committee** is composed of two directors, typically the Agricultural and United Water Conservation District representatives, and meets when directed by the Board to discuss issues including, but not limited to:

- Performance of self-reporting and meter calibration
- Software enhancements
- Identification of projects to increase water supply
- Project updates

In 2024, the following members were assigned by the Board to each Committee:

Executive Committee

- Eugene F. West
- Kelly Long

Fiscal Committee

- Eugene F. West
- Tony Trembley

Operations Committee

- David Borchard (who replaced Alternate Director Michael Craviotto in September 2024; Director Craviotto then assumed Agricultural representative duties; see attached Exhibit 18D)
- Lynn Maulhardt

The following table represents a full summary of your Board's current member appointments, prior to Board action taken during today's meeting.

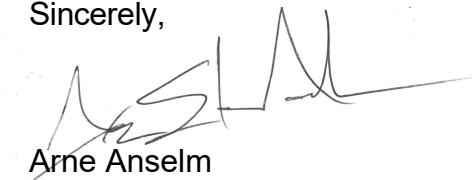
Representative	Term Expirations	Current Board Member	Current Alternate	Term Expires
Farmers / Agricultural Representative	Even Years	Michael Craviotto	David Borchard	02-28-2026
Five Cities Representative	Even Years	Tony Trembley	Bert Perello	02-28-2026
United Water Conservation District	Even Years	Lynn Maulhardt	Keith Ford	02-28-2027
Ventura County Board of Supervisors	Odd Years	Kelly Long (Vice Chair)	Vianey Lopez	02-28-2027
Small Water Districts	Odd Years	Eugene F. West (Chair)	Reddy Pakala	02-28-2027

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that your Board (1) select a Board Member to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for Calendar Year 2025; and (2) assign Board Members to serve as members on the Agency's Executive Committee, Operations Committee, and Fiscal Committee.

This letter has been reviewed by Agency Counsel. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 654-3942.

Sincerely,



Arne Anselm
Interim Executive Officer

Attachments:

- Exhibit 18A – 2025 Ventura County BOS Reappointments for FCGMA
- Exhibit 18B – 2025 Small Water Districts Election Results
- Exhibit 18C – 2025 UWCD Assignments
- Exhibit 18D – 20250916 Agricultural Appointments for FCGMA

From: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Appointments to the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Board
Date: Friday, January 17, 2025 11:49:43 AM
Attachments: [Meeting Minute Orders 011425.pdf](#)

Greetings,

Attached is the Minute Order from the **January 14, 2025**, Board of Supervisors meeting verifying the reappointment of **Supervisors Kelly Long and Vianey Lopez** to the **Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Board**. You may access **Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Board's** record details at www.ventura.org/county-executive-office/clerk-of-the-board/boardscommissionscommittees-information/.

Sincerely,



Clerk of the Board Staff

O: (805) 654-2251

ventura.org/cob



**BOARD MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**SUPERVISORS MATT LAVERE, JEFF GORELL,
KELLY LONG, JANICE S. PARVIN AND VIANEY LOPEZ
January 14, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE - Review, Discuss, and Make Assignments of Members of the Board of Supervisors to Various Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

- (X) All Board members are present.
- (X) The following person is heard: Mia Martinez.
- (X) Upon motion of Supervisor Long, seconded by Supervisor Gorell, and duly carried, the Board hereby approves assignments as proposed with all assignments for 2024 remaining in place for 2025 with the following additions:
Appoint Jeff Gorell and Kelly Long as Alternates to Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Ocean and Nourishment (BEACON);
Appoint Vianey Lopez to Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (with Jeff Gorell vacating); and
Appoint Janice S. Parvin as an Alternate to Ventura County Health Care System Oversight Committee.

By: Lori Key
Lori Key
Assistant Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board

Gene West, Chair
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

February 3, 2025

Chair West:

This letter serves to inform the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) Board and stakeholders of the results of the recent election to the Board of the representatives from the special districts and mutuals.

In accordance with Section 401 of the FCGMA enabling legislation, members of the governing boards of Alta Mutual Water Company, Berylwood Mutual Water Company, Calleguas Municipal Water District, Camrosa County Water District, Del Norte Mutual Water Company, Pleasant Valley County Water District, and Zone Mutual Water Company were invited to an election at Calleguas Municipal Water District on January 30, 2025. The following representatives were in attendance:

- Alta Mutual Water Company: Leslie Leavens
- Calleguas Municipal Water District: Raul Avila (previous alternate FCGMA Board member) and Reddy Pakala
- Camrosa Water District: Gene West (current FCGMA Chair)
- Pleasant Valley County Water District: Tom Vujovich
- Zone Mutual Water Company: John Menne
- Berylwood and Del Norte were invited but did not send representatives.

Mr. Vujovich moved that Mr. West be reappointed Chair and Mr. Pakala appointed alternate. Mr. Avila seconded. A vote by acclamation produced unanimous approval.

Congratulations, Chair West, on your reappointment.

Sincerely,



Ian Prichard, Deputy General Manager

STAFF REPORT

To: UWCD Board of Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

From: Tracy Oehler, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Date: February 3, 2025 (February 12, 2025 meeting)

Agenda Item: 2.7 Standing Committee Assignments and Appointments of Board
Representation to Outside Agencies
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board President will designate the 2025 Standing Committees assignments to the Board.

Attachment:

A – UWCD 2025 Standing Committee Assignments and Appointments



2025 ROSTER OF COMMITTEES

Effective February 12, 2025

STANDING COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

[GM]

Overall responsibility for Governance Issues and HR/Personnel policies

President: Lynn Maulhardt

Vice President: Catherine Keeling

Secretary/Treasurer: Gordon Kimball

Meets as necessary

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

[AGM, AGM, Chief Operations Officer]

Projects, Operations, Permits, Planning,

Equipment, Dam Safety, Facilities

Chair: Catherine Keeling

Gordon Kimball

Keith Ford

Meets first Thursday of the month

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

[AGM, CFO]

Budgets, Rates, Audit, Appropriations, Policies, and Grant Administration; HR/ Risk Management and IT

Chair: Steve Huber

Catherine Keeling

Rachel Jones

Meets nine days before the Regular Board Meeting

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

[AGM]

Groundwater, Surface Water, Water Quality and Modeling, Overdraft, Seawater Intrusion,

Replenishment, FCGMA, GSAs

Chair: Gordon Kimball

Mohammed Hasan

Steve Huber

Meets first Tuesday of the month

UWCD REPRESENTATIVES

COALITION OF LABOR, AGRICULTURE AND BUSINESS OF VENTURA COUNTY (CoLAB)

Lynn Maulhardt

Mauricio Guardado

Anthony Emmert

FILLMORE AND PIRU BASINS GSA

Gordon Kimball

Anthony Emmert

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Lynn Maulhardt

Alternate: Keith Ford

MOUND BASIN GSA

Catherine Keeling

VENTURA COUNTY AWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Huber

Alternate: Rachel Jones

VENTURA COUNTY AWA WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE

Mohammed Hasan

VENTURA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

Mohammed Hasan

VENTURA WATER COMMISSION

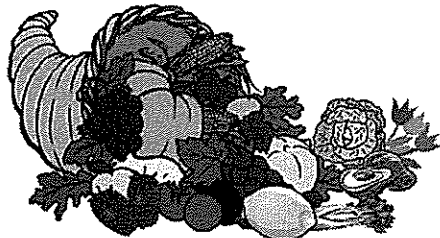
Mohammed Hasan

REGIONAL DEFENSE PARTNERSHIP

Steve Huber

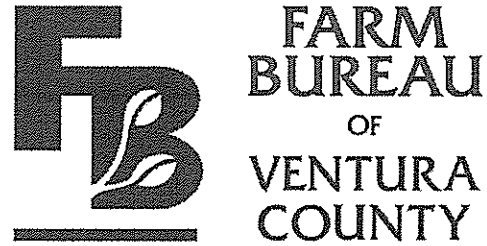
Alternate: Mauricio Guardado

**VENTURA COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION**



CAMARILLO, CA 93011

PHONE (805) 388-2727



**FARM
BUREAU
OF
VENTURA
COUNTY**
*THE INDEPENDENT
VOICE FOR
AGRICULTURE*

Established in 1914

September 16th, 2024

Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency

800 South Victoria Avenue, #1200

Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Farm Bureau of Ventura County and the Ventura County Agricultural Association, we are pleased to affirm the appointment of Mr. Michael Craviotto to serve as the representative to the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency. We believe that Mr. Craviotto's extensive experience in agriculture, his deep understanding of water management issues, and his dedication to ensuring sustainable water resources make him an ideal appointee for this critical role.

Additionally, we are appointing Mr. Dave Borchard to serve as the alternate representative. Mr. Borchard's expertise in the agricultural community, along with his knowledge of groundwater policies, will ensure strong continuity and representation should the need for an alternate arise.

Both Mr. Craviotto and Mr. Borchard are highly respected within the Ventura County agricultural community, and we are confident they will provide valuable input and leadership in managing groundwater resources responsibly.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to their contributions in supporting the agency's mission and objectives.

Sincerely,

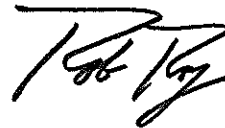


Maureen McGuire

CEO

Farm Bureau of Ventura County

Rob Roy



President and General Council

Ventura County Agricultural Association

March 26, 2025

Board of Directors
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1600

SUBJECT: John K. Flynn Groundwater Stewardship Award Nominating Ad-Hoc Committee – (Returning Item)

RECOMMENDATION: Select two Agency Board members to serve on an ad hoc committee to consider nominees and select a recipient of the John K. Flynn Groundwater Stewardship Award for 2025.

DISCUSSION:

In 2003, a Groundwater Stewardship Award was established to honor long-time County Supervisor and Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Director John K. Flynn for his many accomplishments and contributions to the Agency. The annual award was meant to recognize an individual or entity that contributed the most to protecting groundwater, enhancing water quality, or assisting the Agency in efforts to manage water resources in this area of the County.

Past Award Winners:

2024 – Kimball Loeb
2023 – Dan Detmer
2022 – Kathleen Riedel
2021 – Steve Bennett
2020 – Charlotte Craven
2019 – Alden Broome
2018 – Bryan Bondy
2017 – Lynn Maulhardt
2016 – Carol Schoen
2015 – Samuel A. McIntyre
2014 – Michael Solomon
2013 – County of Ventura Water and Sanitation Department
2012 – Susan Mulligan
2011 – Calleguas Municipal Water District
2010 – Camrosa Water District
2009 – John Mathews, Esq.
2008 – Dana Wiseshart

2007 – Dr. Lowell Preston
2006 – Dr. Steve Bachman
2005 – Phil Drescher, Esq.
2004 – Jurgen Gramckow

The award is made according to the following guidelines:

- (1) The award shall be made to an individual or organization that, during the past year(s), demonstrates the greatest contribution to the preservation and improvement of quality and/or quantity of groundwater in FCGMA.
- (2) The Agency Executive Officer shall compile a list of award nominees.
- (3) Nominations shall be solicited from FCGMA stakeholders (well operators and well owners) and shall be sent to the Agency Executive Officer.
- (4) The Executive Officer shall submit the list of nominees to the Board member committee for ranking, and the Executive Officer shall compile the results of those rankings.
- (5) An individual person may receive the award only once. Organizations are not subject to this limitation.
- (6) The Committee can select the annual recipient from the list of nominations or select another.

Stakeholders are encouraged to submit nominations to fcgma@ventura.org with “Flynn Award Nominee” in the email subject line. A call for nominations has also been posted to the Agency website. Nominations will be accepted until March 31, 2025.

Past ad-hoc Board members include:

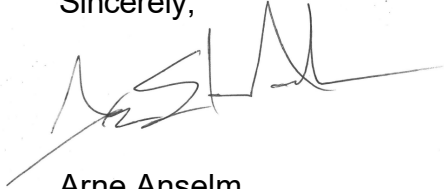
2024 – David Borchard and Tony Trembley
2023 – Bert Perello and Lynn Maulhardt
2022 – Eugene West and Carmen Ramirez
2021 – Michael Mobley and Carmen Ramirez
2020 – Steve Bennett and Michael Mobley
2016 – 2019 David Borchard and Eugene West
2015 – Lynn Maulhardt and David Borchard
2013 – 2014 Lynn Maulhardt and Charlotte Craven
2012 – Michael Kelley and David Borchard
2011 – Dan Naumann and David Borchard
2010 – Lynn Maulhardt and David Schwabauer

CONCLUSION:

Agency staff recommends your Board select two (2) Board members to serve on an ad hoc committee to consider nominees and select a recipient of the John K. Flynn Groundwater Stewardship Award for 2025.

This letter has been reviewed by Agency Counsel. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 654-3942.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arne Anselm', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Arne Anselm
Interim Executive Officer

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eugene F. West, Chair, Director, Camrosa Water District
Kelly Long, Vice Chair, Supervisor, County of Ventura
Michael Craviotto, Farmer, Agricultural Representative
Lynn Maulhardt, Director, United Water Conservation District
Tony Trembley, City Councilmember, City of Camarillo

INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Arne Anselm

March 26, 2025

Board of Directors
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1600

SUBJECT: Approve and Authorize the Interim Executive Officer to Execute a Professional Services Contract Modification with Peckham & McKenney for Recruitment of an Agency Executive Officer Increasing the Not-To-Exceed Limit to \$30,000 – (New Item)

RECOMMENDATIONS: (1) Receive a presentation from Agency staff on the recruitment of an Agency Executive Officer, (2) Approve and authorize the Interim Executive Officer to execute a professional services contract modification with City Management Advisors, LLC (dba Peckham & McKenney) for recruitment of an Agency Executive Officer, increasing the not-to-exceed limit to \$30,000.

BACKGROUND

Discussion on creating a new full-time Executive Officer position has been ongoing at the Executive Committee and the full Board since December 2024. At the December Board meeting your Board adopted Resolution 2024-06¹ defining the function of the position and at January 2025 Board meeting a draft job description for the position was approved and feedback given on a draft Request for Qualifications for recruitment firms. Direction was given to release the RFQ and move quickly with contracting a qualified recruiting firm.

The three firms that responded to the RFQ were interviewed by Agency staff and County Human Resources. Peckham & McKenney was selected by consensus as the most qualified to meet the Agency's needs. Peckham & McKenney provided a quote of \$30,000 to perform the services requested. To not delay the effort, the Agency and Peckham & McKinney executed a contract for \$25,000 on February 21, 2025 (see attached Exhibit 20C), pursuant to the purchasing authority delegated by your Board to the Executive Officer under Resolution 2018-02².

¹ Resolution 2024-06: <https://s42135.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Resolution-2024-06.pdf>

² Resolution 2018-02: <https://s42135.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Resolution-2018-02.pdf>

DISCUSSION

Peckham & McKenney has begun the recruitment process. A brochure regarding the position was released on March 18, 2025, after review by the Executive Committee (see attached Exhibit 20B). The recruitment is scheduled to close on April 14, 2025 (see attached Exhibit 20A for a draft timeline). Candidates will be screened and interviewed during April and May 2025. Currently, it is anticipated that the Board would select a final candidate for the Agency Executive Officer position by the end of May or beginning of June.

Stakeholder engagement is encouraged to ensure collaboration in the candidate selection process. Per the Executive Committee's recommendation, a selection panel will be formed consisting of representatives from the Las Posas, Oxnard, and Pleasant Valley Basins, and it will include a range of stakeholders including agriculture, municipal and local water agency representatives as well as FCGMA staff and County Executive Office (CEO) Human Resources staff.

Stakeholders are invited to suggest names for the selection panel. Please email your nominations and their contact information to FCGMA@ventura.org with "EO Selection Panel Nominee" in the email subject line at your earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that your Board approve, and authorize the Interim Executive Officer to execute, a professional services contract modification (attached as Exhibit 20D) with Peckham & McKenney for recruitment of an Agency Executive Officer, increasing the not-to-exceed limit to \$30,000.

This letter has been reviewed by Agency Counsel. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 654-3942.

Sincerely,



Arne Anselm
Interim Executive Officer

Attachments:

- Item 20A – Executive Officer Recruitment – Draft Schedule and Logistics
- Item 20B – Executive Officer Job Brochure
- Item 20C – February 21, 2025, Contract with Peckham and McKenney
- Item 20D – Proposed First Amendment to Contract with Peckham and McKenney



**Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
Executive Officer Recruitment
As Presented to the
Executive Committee Meeting
March 17, 2025
10:00 a.m.
WORKING Recruitment Timeline**

1. Review Draft Brochure
2. Proposed Recruitment Schedule:
 - a. Recruitment Opens March 17, 2025
 - b. Recruitment Closes April 14, 2025
 - c. Supplemental Questionnaire & Recruiter Phone Screening – April 23 & 24
 - d. Presentation of Candidates – May 9 @ 12:30 p.m. (in person)
 - e. Interviews – May 22 & 23, 2025
3. Discuss Interviews/Review Schedule
 - a. May 22, 2025, Interviews
 - i. Selection of Panel Members
 - ii. Panel Member feedback
 - iii. Logistics - Location, lunch, etc
 - iv. Reimbursement of candidate travel expenses?
 - v. Selection of interview questions (May 9)
 - b. May 23, 2025, Interviews
 - i. Presentation of Panel Member feedback
 - ii. Format, length of interview
 - iii. Logistics - Location, lunch, etc
 - iv. Selection of interview questions (May 9)

Peckham & McKenney
"All about fit"



Executive Officer

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

THE AGENCY

The Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA or the Agency) is a critical organization committed to the sustainable management of groundwater resources in Ventura County.

Founded in 1982, FCGMA is an independent special district created by legislation in response to the severe depletion of groundwater resources in the region. It was established through the collaboration of local stakeholders and regulatory authorities to ensure a consistent and regulated approach to groundwater management. In 2017, the FCGMA became the groundwater sustainability agency for the areas within its jurisdiction of the Arroyo Santa Rosa Valley, Las Posas Valley, Oxnard, and Pleasant Valley under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. In 2023, it became the court appointed Watermaster for the Las Posas Valley Basin (LPV Watermaster).

The primary mission of the Agency is to ensure a reliable and sustainable groundwater supply for current and future generations. FCGMA is a regulatory agency. It is not a water purveyor. The



Agency's Board-approved mission statement: "The Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency is dedicated to the preservation and management of groundwater resources within its jurisdiction for the common benefit of all users."

Key objectives include:

- Implementing effective groundwater management plans and policies.
- Monitoring and managing groundwater extraction.
- Promoting conservation practices and efficient water use.
- Restoring and maintaining healthy groundwater levels.
- Engaging and collaborating with the community and stakeholders.

The FCGMA oversees a range of programs and initiatives designed to achieve its objectives. These include:



- Groundwater Management Plans: Comprehensive strategies to sustainably manage groundwater.
- Monitoring and Enforcement: Regular monitoring of groundwater levels and extractions to ensure compliance with regulations.
- Public Outreach and Education: Efforts to educate the community about the importance of groundwater conservation and the role of the FCGMA.

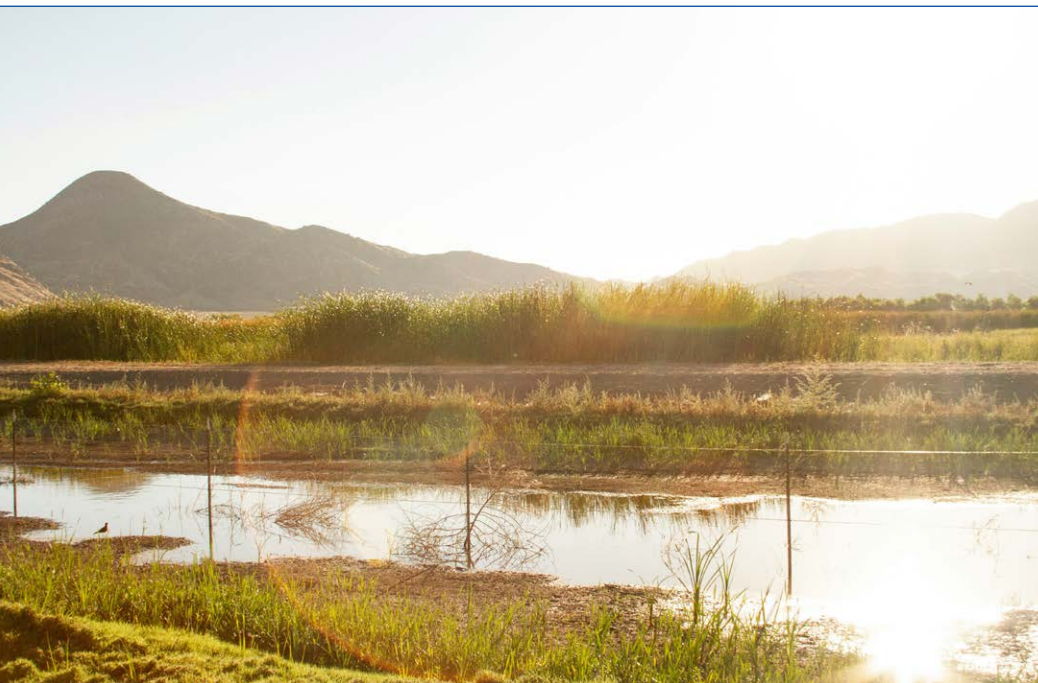
FCGMA faces several challenges, including managing the impacts of climate change, addressing saltwater intrusion, and balancing the needs of agricultural and urban users. Moving forward, the Agency is focused on enhancing its data collection and analysis capabilities, developing long-term strategic plans, fostering collaboration with stakeholders, and exploring innovative solutions to ensure groundwater sustainability.

THE ORGANIZATION

The FCGMA is funded by fees paid by those who extract groundwater within Agency boundaries. These extraction fees are used by the Agency to administer and manage local groundwater resources within the Agency's boundaries. The FY 2024-2025 budget for both Agency and GSA activities is roughly \$12 million and included a \$5 million monitoring well project partially funded by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The FY 2024-2025 budget for the Las Posas Watermaster is approximately \$2.5 million. The 2024/2025 Annual Work Plan can be found at: https://s42135.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/01.09.2025-FCGMA-Executive-Committee-Agenda-Packet_FV.pdf

The Agency has 12 full-time staff with human resources, information technology, fiscal, and legal services provided through a contract with the County of Ventura. Contracts for special technical or legal services are routine.

The FCGMA is governed by five Board Members. They represent the (1)



County of Ventura, (2) the United Water Conservation District, (3) the seven small water districts within the Agency (Alta Mutual Water Company, Pleasant Valley County Water District, Berylwood Mutual Water Company, Calleguas Municipal Water District, Camrosa Water District, Zone Mutual Water Company, and Del Norte Mutual Water Company), (4) the five incorporated cities within the Agency (Ventura, Oxnard, Camarillo, Port Hueneme, and Moorpark), and (5) the farmers. Each Board Member serves a two-year term.



THE POSITION

In accordance with policy direction, the Executive Officer is responsible for the total operation of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Agency including implementing Board policy direction and leading solutions for long term groundwater resources management. The Executive Officer will ensure effective legislation and regulatory compliance; facilitate and collaborate with inside and outside stakeholders to ensure stakeholder interests and concerns are being addressed; and provide overall strategic direction to ensure the County's groundwater strategy is effective.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate will be an experienced public sector manager capable of navigating the complex arena

of regulatory agencies, California water law, and related issues. They will be fair, supportive, transparent, respectful, and a visible leader who mentors and leads the staff, expects excellence, and holds themselves and staff accountable. They will be organized, have strong project management skills, and work to enhance the Agency's efficiency and effectiveness.

The Executive Officer must establish and maintain relationships of confidence and trust with the Board, Agency partners, staff, other governmental officials, business and community leaders, the public, and others encountered while serving in the role. The Executive Officer will protect the Agency's role and provide honest and frank advice that reflects the Agency's mission, community interests, and best practices for innovative governance. They will have the strength of character to say no when necessary and offer alternative courses of action.

The Executive Officer will work diligently to ensure the long-term sustainability of the groundwater supply. They will act with integrity, possess a strong moral compass, and commit to actions that assure public confidence in the integrity and effective operation of the Agency. The Executive Officer will be politically astute yet operate in an apolitical and objective manner. They will be direct, decisive, and not shy away from delivering challenging messages, including difficult truths. They will have a proven track record of successfully managing large projects, keep the community informed on project status, and be realistic about what can and cannot be achieved.

The ideal candidate will be an outstanding communicator who is candid, direct, decisive, open-minded, collaborative, and

an active listener who seeks to understand the underlying reasons behind messages. They will be optimistic, collaborative, and able to work effectively with stakeholders holding varied and sometimes opposing positions.

This position demands a combination of vision and "big picture" thinking, along with a pragmatic and proactive style. Critical thinking, strong analytical skills, and excellent judgment are essential as is an innovative and inquisitive nature. Tact, discretion, diplomacy, humility, flexibility, and the courage to make difficult decisions and take responsibility for correcting any impacts of mistakes made are essential for success.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Any combination of education, training, and experience which could lead to the possession of the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.

An example would be progressively responsible professional management level experience in the operation of a water agency or municipal public utility, including five years of executive level management experience. Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in business administration, public administration, engineering, hydrogeology, or closely related field is required. Possession of related professional licenses and or certificates is desirable as is extensive knowledge of the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act legislation and guidelines.



COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

The annual salary range for this at-will position is from \$198,462 - \$258,000, depending on qualifications. The County offers the following excellent benefits:

EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVE: may be eligible for 2.5%, 3.5%, or 5%, based on completion of an associate, bachelor's, or graduate degree from an accredited institution not required for the position.

RETIREMENT/SOCIAL SECURITY: Defined retirement benefits vest after 5 years of service. The County and employee also each contribute to Social Security. If eligible, reciprocity may be established with other public retirement systems, such as PERS. For more information, visit: <https://www.vcera.org/>. The employee contribution rate is 7.74% without COLA.

HEALTH PLANS: Medical, dental, and vision plans for the employee and eligible dependents. A flexible credit allowance of up to \$25,558 annually.

DEFERRED COMPENSATION: May elect to contribute to one or both of the County's deferred compensation plans (established under Internal Revenue Code sections 401(k) and 457). For participation in the sponsored 401(k) plan, the County will match a part of the employee contribution up to 3% of salary, on a per pay period basis. Following five (5) years of continuous County service, an additional 2% non-elective contribution will be made to the 401(k) plan.

SEARCH SCHEDULE

- Filing Deadline:.....April 14, 2025
- Preliminary Interviews (telephonic):April 23 & 24, 2025
- Recommendation to Agency:.....May 9, 2025
- Panel Interviews (In-Person):May 22, 2025
- Finalist Interviews (In-Person):.....May 23, 2025

These dates have been confirmed, and it is recommended that you plan your calendar accordingly.

EXECUTIVE ANNUAL LEAVE: The candidate selected for this position will earn 248 hours per year, increasing to 288 hours after 5 years of service, to 328 hours after 10 years of service, and to 368 hours after 15 years of service. Credit for prior public service may be considered (Management Resolution, §616A).

ANNUAL LEAVE REDEMPTION: The ability to "cash in" or redeem up to 100 hours of annual leave per year after using 80 hours of annual leave within the previous 12 months (Management Resolution, §1205).

HOLIDAYS: 12 paid days per year, including 1 floating holiday.

OTHER BENEFITS: Disability Plans, Employee Assistance Program, Life Insurance, Tuition Reimbursement, a Wellness Program, and a Work Life Program that includes childcare and elder care referrals.



THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS

To apply for this key position and exciting career opportunity, please submit a current resume and compelling cover letter through our website at:

Peckham & McKenney
www.peckhamandmckenney.com

Resumes are acknowledged within two business days. Contact Roberta Greathouse at 831.998.3194, toll-free at 866.912.1919, or via email at Roberta@PeckhamandMcKenney.com if you have any questions regarding this position or the recruitment process.



www.peckhamandmckenney.com



**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT
AGENCY AND CITY MANAGEMENT ADVISORS, LLC (dba PECKHAM &
MCKENNEY) FOR PROFESSIONAL RECRUITING SERVICES**

This contract is made and entered into this twenty-first (21st) day of February 2025, by and between the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, hereinafter referred to as AGENCY, and City Management Advisors, LLC (dba Peckham & McKenney), hereinafter referred to as CONSULTANT, regarding CONSULTANT's performance of the work and services described in Exhibit A hereto (the "Work"). Hereinafter, AGENCY and CONSULTANT may be referred to individually as a PARTY or collectively as the PARTIES.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein and other valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the PARTIES agree as follows:

1. Scope of Work; Standard of Performance

AGENCY hereby retains CONSULTANT to perform the Work described in Exhibit A hereto. The Work shall be performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of this contract. In performing the Work CONSULTANT shall exercise the degree of skill and care customarily exercised by professionals in the State of California when providing similar services with respect to similarly complex work and projects.

2. Time Schedule

All Work and any portion thereof separately identified shall be completed within the time provided in the "Time Schedule" attached hereto as Exhibit B. AGENCY will issue a suspension of the contract time when CONSULTANT is delayed by any public agency reviewing documents produced by CONSULTANT under this contract, or to the extent due to acts or omissions of AGENCY. CONSULTANT shall promptly notify AGENCY of any such delays.

3. Fees and Payments

The total sum of all payments made by AGENCY to CONSULTANT for services and work performed under this contract shall not exceed \$25,0000 (the CONTRACT LIMIT). Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, AGENCY expressly reserves the right to deny any payment or reimbursement requested by CONSULTANT for services or work performed that is in excess of the CONTRACT LIMIT. Payment shall be made monthly, or as otherwise provided herein, on presentation of a completed Consultant Services Invoice Form, approved in advance by AGENCY, in accordance with the "Fees and Payment" provisions attached hereto as Exhibit C.

4. Termination

Either PARTY may terminate this contract for any reason (without cause) prior to completion of the Work upon thirty (30) calendar days; written notice to the other party. Upon termination, AGENCY shall pay CONSULTANT for all Work performed prior to such termination, provided however, that such charges shall not exceed the maximum fee specified for completion of any separately identified task/phase of the Work which, at the time of termination, has been started by request of AGENCY.

5. Right to Review

AGENCY shall have the right to review the Work at any time during AGENCY's usual working hours. Review, checking, approval or other action by the AGENCY shall not relieve CONSULTANT of CONSULTANT's responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the Work.

6. Correction of Work

If any Work performed by CONSULTANT does not conform to the requirements and professional standards of this contract, AGENCY may require CONSULTANT to correct the Work until it conforms to said requirements and standards at no additional cost to AGENCY. AGENCY may withhold payment for disputed Work until CONSULTANT correctly performs the Work or the dispute is otherwise resolved in accordance with this contract. When the Work to be performed is of such a nature that CONSULTANT cannot correct its performance, AGENCY may reduce the CONSULTANT's compensation to reflect the reduced value of the Work received by AGENCY. If CONSULTANT fails to promptly re-perform the Work, AGENCY may have the Work performed by a third party in conformance with the requirements and professional standards of this contract and charge CONSULTANT, or withhold from payments due CONSULTANT, any costs AGENCY incurs that are directly related to the performance of the corrective work. AGENCY shall not unreasonably withhold or reduce payment for CONSULTANT's Work under this section.

7. Sub Consulting

With the prior written consent of AGENCY, CONSULTANT may engage the professional services of sub consultants for the performance of a portion of the Work ("Sub consultants"). CONSULTANT shall be fully responsible for all Work performed by Sub consultants which must be performed in accordance with all terms and conditions of this contract. All insurance requirements set forth in Section 13 below, "Insurance Requirements", shall apply to each Sub consultant, except to the extent such requirements are modified or waived in writing by AGENCY. CONSULTANT shall ensure that each Sub consultant obtains and keeps in force and effect during the term of this contract the required insurance.

8. Independent Contractor

In performing the Work CONSULTANT is an independent contractor and neither CONSULTANT nor its employees, agents or Sub consultants shall be deemed employees of AGENCY for any reason. AGENCY shall have no responsibility or liability for the payment of any salary, wages, unemployment benefits, Workers' Compensation or disability benefits, federal, state or local taxes, or other compensation, benefits, or taxes for any of CONSULTANT's employees, agents, Sub consultants, or any of their respective employees or agents.

9. Duty of Loyalty; Conflicts of Interest

- a. CONSULTANT owes AGENCY a duty of undivided loyalty in performing the Work under this contract, including the obligation to refrain from having economic interests and participating in activities that conflict with AGENCY's interests with respect to the Work and subject project. CONSULTANT shall take reasonable measures to ensure that CONSULTANT, its principals, officers, employees and Sub consultants do not possess a financial conflict of interest with respect to the Work and subject project. CONSULTANT shall promptly inform AGENCY of any matter that could reasonably be interpreted as creating a conflict of interest for CONSULTANT with respect to the Work and subject project.
- b. CONSULTANT acknowledges that the California Political Reform Act ("Act"), Government Code section 81000 et seq., provides that principals, employees and agents of consultants retained by a public agency may be deemed "public officials" subject to the Act if they make or advise AGENCY on decisions or actions to be taken by AGENCY. To the extent AGENCY determines

that the Act applies to CONSULTANT or its principals or employees, each designated person shall abide by the Act, including the requirement for public officials to prepare and file statements disclosing specified economic interests, as directed by AGENCY. In addition, CONSULTANT acknowledges and shall abide by the contractual conflict of interest restrictions imposed on public officials by Government Code section 1090 et seq.

- c. During the term of this contract CONSULTANT shall not employ or compensate AGENCY's current employees.

10. Defense and Indemnification

CONSULTANT shall defend (with counsel acceptable to AGENCY), indemnify, and save harmless the AGENCY, including all of its boards, agencies, departments, officers, employees, agents and volunteers (collectively, "Indemnitees"), against any and all claims, lawsuits, judgments, debts, demands and liabilities that arise out of, pertain to, or relate to, and to the extent caused by, the negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct of CONSULTANT or its officers, employees, agents or Sub consultants in the performance of this contract. This indemnity provision does not apply to liability, damages, or other loss arising from the sole negligence or willful misconduct of Indemnatee, or to the extent caused by the active negligence of Indemnatee. This Section 10 shall survive any termination or expiration of this contract.

11. Insurance Requirements

- a. Without limiting CONSULTANT's duty to defend and indemnify AGENCY as required herein, CONSULTANT shall, at CONSULTANT's sole cost and expense and throughout the term of this contract and any extensions hereof, carry one or more insurance policies that provide at least the following minimum coverage:
 - i. Commercial General Liability insurance shall provide a minimum of \$100,000.00 coverage for each occurrence and \$200,000.00 in general aggregate coverage.
 - ii. Automobile Liability insurance shall provide a minimum of either a combined single limit (CSL) of \$1,000,000.00 for each accident or all of the following: \$250,000.00 bodily injury (BI) per person, and \$500,000.00 bodily injury per accident, and \$100,000.00 property damage (PD). Automobile Liability insurance is not required if the CONSULTANT does no traveling in performing the Work.
 - iii. Workers' Compensation insurance in full compliance with California statutory requirements for all employees of CONSULTANT in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00. This Workers' Compensation insurance requirement may only be waived by AGENCY in writing if CONSULTANT is a sole proprietor with no employees and CONSULTANT provides AGENCY with evidence of such before commencing any work under the contract.
- b. With respect to any coverage written on a "claims made" basis, CONSULTANT shall maintain such policy for two years after the term of this contract and such policy shall allow for reporting of circumstances or incidents that may give rise to future claims.
- c. CONSULTANT shall notify AGENCY immediately if CONSULTANT's general aggregate of insurance is exceeded by valid litigated claims in which case additional levels of insurance must be obtained to maintain the above-stated requirements. All required insurance shall be written by a financially responsible company or companies authorized to do business in the State of California.

- d. The Commercial General Liability and Automobile Liability policies shall contain the following provisions or endorsements: The County of Ventura, AGENCY, and their respective officials, employees, and agents shall be named as additional insureds ("Additional Insureds"). All required insurance shall be primary coverage as respects the Additional Insureds, and any insurance or self-insurance maintained by Additional Insureds shall be in excess of CONSULTANT's insurance coverage and shall not contribute to it. Coverage shall apply separately to each insured, except with respect to the limits of liability, and an act or omission by one of the named insureds shall not reduce or avoid coverage to the other named insureds. AGENCY shall be notified by the insurance company or companies within three (3) working days of cancellation or substantial modification of the policy.
- e. CONSULTANT hereby waives all rights of subrogation against AGENCY, the County of Ventura, all special districts governed by the Board of Supervisors, and each of their boards, directors, employees and agents for losses arising directly or indirectly from the activities or Work under this contract. The Commercial General Liability, Automobile Liability and Workers' Compensation policies shall contain a provision or endorsement needed to implement CONSULTANT's waiver of these rights of subrogation.
- f. Prior to commencement of the Work, CONSULTANT shall furnish AGENCY with certificates of insurance and endorsements effecting all coverage required hereunder. Copies of renewal certificates and endorsements shall be furnished to AGENCY within 30 calendar days of the expiration of the term of any required policy. CONSULTANT shall permit AGENCY at all reasonable times to inspect any policies of insurance required hereunder.

12. Claims and Disputes

To assert any claim against AGENCY seeking payment of money or damages regarding the Work, an extension of contract time, or an interpretation or adjustment of the terms of this contract, including "pass-through" claims asserted by CONSULTANT on behalf of a Sub consultant (collectively referred to hereinafter as "claim"), CONSULTANT shall first exhaust its administrative remedies by attempting to resolve the claim with AGENCY's staff in the following sequence: (1) Project Manager and then (2) Executive Officer. CONSULTANT shall initiate the administrative review process no later than 30 calendar days after the claim has arisen by submitting to the Project Manager a written statement describing each claim and explaining why CONSULTANT believes AGENCY is in error, as well as all correspondence and evidence regarding each claim. CONSULTANT may appeal the decision made by the Project Manager to the Executive Officer, provided that AGENCY receives such appeal in writing no later than seven (7) working days after the date of the decision being appealed. If CONSULTANT does not appeal a decision to the next level of administrative review within this seven-day period, the decision shall become final and binding and not subject to appeal or challenge.

13. Compliance with Laws and Regulations; Permits and Licenses

CONSULTANT shall perform its obligations hereunder in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. CONSULTANT certifies that it possesses and shall continue to maintain or shall cause to be obtained and maintained, at no cost to AGENCY, all approvals, permissions, permits, licenses, and other forms of documentation required for it and its employees, agents and Sub consultants to comply with all applicable statutes, ordinances, and regulations, or other laws, that apply to performance of the Work. AGENCY is entitled to review and copy all such applications, permits, and licenses which CONSULTANT shall promptly make available upon AGENCY's request.

14. [RESERVED]

15. Work Product

On the expiration or any termination of this contract, AGENCY shall be entitled to immediate possession of, and CONSULTANT shall promptly furnish, on request, all reports, drawings, designs, computations, plans, specifications, correspondence, data and other work product prepared or gathered by CONSULTANT arising out of or related to the Work (collectively, "Work Product"). AGENCY has a royalty-free nonexclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and authorize others to use, Work Product for government purposes. CONSULTANT may retain copies of the Work Product for its files. Work Product prepared by CONSULTANT pursuant to this contract shall not be modified by AGENCY unless CONSULTANT's name, signatures and professional seals are completely deleted. CONSULTANT shall not be responsible for any liabilities to AGENCY for the use of such Work Product that is modified by persons other than CONSULTANT.

16. Miscellaneous

- a. This contract constitutes the entire agreement between the PARTIES regarding the subject matter of hereof and supersedes all previous contracts, agreements, promises, understanding and negotiations, whether written or oral, between the PARTIES regarding the subject matter hereof.
- b. All notices, requests, claims, and other official communications under the contract shall be in writing and transmitted by one of the following methods:
 - (1) Personally delivered.
 - (2) Sent by facsimile where receipt is confirmed.
 - (3) Sent by courier where receipt is confirmed.
 - (4) Sent by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested.

Such notices and communications shall be deemed given and received upon actual receipt in the case of all except registered or certified mail; and in the case of registered or certified mail, on the date shown on the return receipt or the date delivery during normal business hours was attempted. All notices and communications shall be sent to AGENCY and CONSULTANT as follows:

If to AGENCY:

Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
Attn: Farai Kaseke and Elka Weber
800 South Victoria Avenue, L#1610
Ventura, CA 93009-1670
EMAIL: fcgma@ventura.org

If to CONSULTANT:

Peckham & McKenney
Attn: Roberta Greathouse
300 Harding Boulevard, Suite 203-D
Roseville, California 95678
EMAIL: roberta@peckhamandmckenney.com

Either PARTY may change its contact information by providing written notice of the change to the other PARTY in accordance herewith.

- c. No modification, waiver, amendment, or discharge of this contract shall be valid unless the same is in writing and signed by duly authorized representatives of both PARTIES.
- d. This contract is for the professional services of CONSULTANT and is non-assignable without prior written consent of AGENCY.
- e. Nothing contained herein shall create a contractual relationship with, or a cause of action in favor of, a third party against either CONSULTANT or AGENCY.

- f. Time limits stated herein are of the essence. CONSULTANT is relieved from meeting the time limits due to delays outside its control.
- g. This contract shall be governed, interpreted, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California, and any action, suit, arbitration or other proceeding thereon shall be subject to venue in Ventura County, California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the PARTIES have executed this contract through their duly authorized representatives as of the date first set forth above.

**FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT AGENCY:**

By: 

Name: Farai Kaseke

Title: Acting Interim Executive Officer and
Assistant Groundwater Manager

Date: _____

PECKHAM & MCKENNEY:

By: 

Name: Roberta Greathouse

Title: Executive Recruiter

Date: February 21, 2025

EXHIBITS

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND CITY MANAGEMENT ADVISORS, LLC (dba PECKHAM & MCKENNEY) FOR PROFESSIONAL RECRUITING SERVICES 2/19/2025

EXHIBIT A - SCOPE OF WORK AND SERVICES

1. Work and Services

The AGENCY has engaged CONSULTANT to provide professional services to aid AGENCY in recruiting candidates to fill the vacant AGENCY executive officer position. CONSULTANT shall provide the professional recruitment services set forth in CONSULTANT's proposal dated January 30, 2025, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference as Exhibit A-1.

2. Extension of Recruit Search

Notwithstanding anything in CONSULTANT's proposal to the contrary, CONSULTANT will not extend its recruitment search and shall not charge AGENCY for any services or work on an extended recruitment search, without the prior written approval of AGENCY.

[End of Exhibit A]

EXHIBITS

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND CITY MANAGEMENT ADVISORS, LLC (dba PECKHAM & MCKENNEY) FOR PROFESSIONAL RECRUITING SERVICES

EXHIBIT B - TIME SCHEDULE

1. Schedule

All work and services to be performed by CONSULTANT under this contract shall be completed according to the following schedule:

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>TIME FRAME</u>
I. Project Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none">Conference call discussion of recruitment process with FCGMA team TBDFormalize project schedule	TBD
II. Development of Candidate Profile <ul style="list-style-type: none">Virtual meetings with Board Members & others TBDDevelop Candidate Profile/Marketing BrochureDevelop advertising and recruitment plan	March 3 - 7
III. Recruitment <ul style="list-style-type: none">Advertise, network, and electronically post in appropriate venuesDistribute Candidate Profile to industry professionalsPost opportunity on the Peckham & McKenney and Agency websitesFocused outreach to individuals within the parameters of the Candidate ProfileRespond to all inquiries and acknowledge all resumes received within 48 hours	FILING DEADLINE IS 4/14/25 Mar 17 – April 14 (4 weeks)
IV. Preliminary Review and Interviews (Conducted by Recruiter) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Screen resumes and conduct Internet researchIdentify leading candidates and request supplemental questionnairesReview supplemental questionnairesConduct preliminary interviews with leading candidates	April 23 & 24
V. Recommendation of Candidates for Panel Interview <ul style="list-style-type: none">Virtual or on-site meeting to provide recommended candidatesBoard selects candidates for finalist interview panel processBoard identifies interview panel ratersPeckham & McKenney notifies all candidates of status in recruitment process	May 9 @ 12:30
VI. Interview Panel Process <ul style="list-style-type: none">On-site meeting to facilitate interviewsAssist Board throughout process and provide recommendationsBoard selects candidates or leading 2-4 candidates for further consideration	May 22 & 23
VII. Qualification <ul style="list-style-type: none">Background & reference checksProvide offer negotiation assistance if desiredExceed expectations and successfully place candidate who “fits.”*depending on Agency selection process	By June 6*

EXHIBITS

2. Delays

If all work under this contract cannot be completed by the dates specified in Exhibit B through no fault of CONSULTANT, the fee for the work not then completed may be adjusted to reflect increases in cost which occur, due to delay, from the date that the work was required to be complete as specified in Exhibit B until the time the work can actually be completed. Any payments of additional fee as described in this paragraph must be authorized by AGENCY with a modification to this contract.

[End of Exhibit B]

EXHIBITS

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND CITY MANAGEMENT ADVISORS, LLC (dba PECKHAM & MCKENNEY) FOR PROFESSIONAL RECRUITING SERVICES

EXHIBIT C – Fees and Payments

1. Compensation.

In accordance with Section 3 of the contract, CONSULTANT shall bill and/or invoices for its performance of the services and work described in Exhibit A on a time and materials basis according to the rates set forth below:

**Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
Executive Officer Cost of Services
Peckham & McKenney**

Cost of Services

Peckham & McKenney is unique among recruiting firms for several reasons including having a fixed all-inclusive fee. Over years of experience, we have found that an all-inclusive fee is simpler, cost-effective, and efficient. This also provides that the client knows the full, complete fee for our service; we do not invoice “reimbursables” for any portion of the recruitment.

Recognizing the amount of outreach and direct work that will be necessary to find candidates, our fee to conduct the search process for your next Executive Officer is \$30,000. As our aim is to be competitive, we would be pleased to discuss this fee further. Our all-inclusive fee includes all professional fees and expenses (out-of-pocket costs associated with advertising, consultant travel, administrative support / printing / copying / postage / materials, telephone / technology, partial background checks on recommended candidates, and full background check on selected finalist only).

The fee quoted above is for a full recruitment process as described in The Search Process, including 3 to 4 days of meetings. The first virtual meeting (1 to 2 days) is to develop the Candidate Profile; the second on-site or virtual meeting (1 day) is to provide a recommendation of candidates; and the third on-site or virtual meeting (1 day) is to facilitate finalist interviews.

EXHIBITS

Additional Service Costs

The following “menu” details fees for additional requested services. Some fees may be negotiated.

- Additional meeting day (up to 4 days as detailed herein are included) \$500 - \$1,000/mtg + travel exp
- Each additional full background check \$500/each
- Additional placement within organization* \$5,000 (if selected within 1 year)

*If the Agency hires an additional candidate from among those recommended for another position within one year of the close of the recruitment, a fee of \$5,000 will be charged to the Agency.

Process of Payment

One-third of the all-inclusive fee is due as a retainer upon execution of the agreement. This retainer covers upfront and necessary expenses incurred by Peckham & McKenney on the Agency's behalf for recruitment preparation, Candidate Profile preparation and advertising. If the retainer is not received by Peckham & McKenney within 30 days of execution of the agreement, we will suspend the recruitment process until payment is received. The second third of the full payment will be invoiced one month from contract execution, and it is due within 30 days following the invoice date. The final third of the full payment will be invoiced two months from contract execution, and it is due within 30 days following the invoice date.

2. Contract Limit.

As set forth in Section 3 of the contract, the total sum of all payments made by AGENCY to CONSULTANT for services and work performed under the contract shall not exceed \$25,0000 (the CONTRACT LIMIT). Notwithstanding anything in the contract to the contrary, AGENCY expressly reserves the right to deny any payment or reimbursement requested by CONSULTANT for services or work performed that is in excess of the CONTRACT LIMIT.

[End of Exhibit C]



January 30, 2025

Eugene F. West, Camrosa Water District
Kelly Long, County of Ventura
Michael Craviotto, Agricultural Representative
Lynn Maulhardt, United Water Conservation District
Tony Trembley, City of Camarillo
c/o Ms. Elka Weber, Clerk of the Board
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1610

Via PDF/Email To: fcgma@ventura.org

Dear Chair West and Members of the Board of Directors,

Thank you for considering Peckham & McKenney for the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency's (FCGMA) recruitment for Executive Officer. Peckham & McKenney would be honored to work with the FCGMA in this important search and specifically *finding* skilled and experienced candidates for Executive Officer that works effectively with you, serves the Agency's users, and serves as the Agency's leader. Thank you for providing the position description and links to the Agency's website and budget. I have reviewed the materials and am confident that I understand the project and desired outcome.

As a boutique firm that specializes in recruitments for small and medium size communities in California, Peckham & McKenney is known for achieving successful and long-term placements. Among *many* strong attributes, these are four key reasons agencies choose us:

- We actively and personally search for and find candidates.
- We limit the number of concurrent searches in order to directly focus on serving our client.
- We prioritize communicating with our client and applicants to keep everyone informed.
- Your recruiter is personally and directly responsible for all aspects of the search and your one point of contact.

Our Peckham & McKenney team is comprised of retired municipal managers and directors who are passionate about the public sector. I am proud to be on the Peckham & McKenney team because the firm's values and priorities align with mine – to assist public agencies in furtherance of good government; to place quality above quantity; and to build long lasting relationships with those in the public service.

I will serve as your recruiter and I am located on the Monterey Peninsula. As outlined on the enclosed resume, I had the pleasure of working in the public sector for over 34 years in many roles, including City Manager, and I retired as the Human Resources Director for the City of Seaside. I am very familiar with the responsibilities and expectations of the Executive Officer, working with a Board of Directors, and the role of a special district. As an HR professional, I'm extremely experienced with conducting recruitments for all

levels of public employment and in my role as an Executive Recruiter for Peckham and McKenney, I've conducted dozens of recruitments including for special districts.

In July of 2024, I had the distinct pleasure of assisting the North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District with their search for the District's first District Administrator. This was a very unique opportunity in a remote area of the State and I was successful in bringing the Board several very well qualified candidates. I've provided the Candidate Profile as an example that illustrates the information we collect, detail, and utilize as a foundation for attracting applicants. In addition, I've listed both the Board Chair and the Fire Chief as references that can speak to my professionalism, dedication, and outstanding communication skills.

Neither Peckham & McKenney nor your assigned team have any conflict of interest with this project and I have had no contract with any FCGMA Board member. As requested, I have provided our standard Services Agreement for your consideration. We are happy to utilize the Agency's standard contract as well.

I have provided a detailed proposal for conducting the search that includes information about our firm, process, timeline, resources, references, and experience. Under separate cover, I've provided our proposed fee for your recruitment. We charge a fixed, all-inclusive fee for our recruitment services. I would also be pleased to participate in an interview to meet you, present our proposal, and discuss our process and unique attributes as a search firm.

I am excited for the opportunity to implement the process leading to the successful placement of a candidate that "fits" your interests and the organization. Please feel free to call me at (831) 998-3194, if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Roberta L. Greathouse

Roberta L. Greathouse
Executive Recruiter

Enclosures:

1. Recruitment Proposal
2. Proposed Recruitment Schedule
3. Resume for Roberta Greathouse
4. Sample Candidate Profile
5. Standard Services Agreement

**Fox Canyon Groundwater Management
Agency**

RECRUITMENT PROPOSAL

for

Executive Officer Search Services

January 30, 2025



Peckham & McKenney
EXECUTIVE SEARCH

*Serving local governments (cities, counties, districts) by conducting
recruitments and placing management and executive leaders that fit
the personnel needs and interests of agencies.*

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WHY CHOOSE US?

Peckham & McKenney focuses on *quality* searches and placements (over quantity) in recognition that each placement is “All about fit”. Serving local government since 2004, we are one of the most trusted and respected executive recruitment firms in the country. We have successfully placed hundreds of local government professionals including City Managers, County Executive Officers, General Managers, Police and Fire Chiefs, Department Heads, Assistant Managers, and mid-level Managers. Time and again, we receive unsolicited compliments from clients and candidates

in reference to our integrity and high ethics, commitment, follow-through, communication, and service. We take pride in treating both our clients and candidates with utmost respect.



For more information, please visit our website at www.PeckhamAndMcKenney.com.



OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

Peckham & McKenney, by maintaining the quality, style, values and culture established by Bobbi Peckham and Phil McKenney, performs on the premise that an executive search firm must be dedicated to providing its clients and candidates with professional and responsive service, and a personal, hands-on approach. Our business philosophy is founded on the understanding that we are in a “people” related industry and that attention to others’ needs is the key to providing effective customer service.

- **We believe in honesty.** No client should ever appoint an individual without being fully knowledgeable of the candidate’s complete background and history. Additionally, no candidate should ever enter into a new career opportunity without full disclosure of any organizational “issues.”
- **We keep everyone involved in the recruitment process informed.** Not only do we provide regular updates to our clients, we also have a reputation for keeping our candidates up to date.
- **We do not recruit staff from our client agencies** for another recruitment during an active engagement, nor do we “parallel process” a candidate, thereby pitting one client against another for the same candidate.
- **We do not recruit our placements — ever.** Should a placement of ours have an interest in a position for which we are recruiting, they may choose to apply. If they become a finalist, we ask that they speak to their supervisor to alert them of their intent.
- **We are retained only by cities, counties and special districts.** We are not retained by applicants or non-governmental agencies.
- **We do not over commit ourselves to too many searches.** Your recruiter maintains a small, limited number of concurrent searches at all times in order to focus specifically and diligently on recruiting qualified candidates for your vacancy.
- **We commit to diversity in its broadest possible definition in every aspect of each executive recruitment.** Peckham & McKenney has a well established reputation of placing women and people with diverse backgrounds.

EXPERIENCE



With our recruitment team that solely consists of retired City Managers, Police Chiefs, and Department Heads, and our expert support team, Peckham & McKenney brings more experience and knowledge of local government and executive search than any other California recruiter.

Our large list of current and former clients can be found on our website ([here](#)). Recruitments over the last three years that illustrate our broad experience for conducting the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency's (FCGMA) search for an Executive Officer include:

Anderson, CA	City Manager
Big Bear Lake, CA	City Manager
Corning, CA	City Manager
Fort Bragg, CA	City Manager
Indio, CA	Assistant City Manager
Ione, CA	City Manager
Los Gatos, CA	Town Manager
Mammoth Lakes, CA	Town Manager
Manteca, CA	City Manager
Mariposa County, CA	Asst. Chief Administrative Officer-HR Director
McCall, ID	City Manager
Milpitas, CA	City Manager
Mono County, CA	Asst. Chief Administrative Officer
Mono County, CA	County Administrative Officer
Napa County, CA	County Executive Officer
North Sonoma Coast FPD	District Administrator
Pleasant Hill, CA	City Manager
Portola Valley, CA	Town Manager
San Luis Obispo, CA	Assistant City Manager
San Luis Obispo, CA	City Manager
Santa Barbara County, CA	Asst. CEO-Municipal Services
Santa Barbara, CA	City Administrator
Santa Maria, CA	City Manager
Seaside, CA	City Manager
South San Francisco, CA	Assistant City Manager
Sunnyvale, CA	Asst. City Manager
Sunnyvale, CA	City Manager
Tracy, CA	Assistant City Manager
Watsonville, CA	City Manager

Please don't hesitate to contact these agencies as well as our large list of current and former clients on our website ([here](#)); they will attest to our quality of service, on-going communication throughout the process, personal and direct outreach and sourcing of candidates, quality applicant pool, written materials and interview facilitation.

As an ambassador of our clients, Peckham & McKenney is also known for maintaining ongoing communications with our applicants throughout the search process, treating every applicant with respect, and appropriately informing candidates to support their best effort. The numerous compliments we have received from applicants fairly illustrate this reputation.

It really has been, "All about fit!"

"From the construction of the colorful candidate profile, to being responsive to phone calls, texts and my questions, I have been thoroughly impressed with the professionalism and approach of Peckham & McKenney. Maria Hurtado and Joyce Johnson have been the team that have shepherded my application through the municipal hiring processes, and I can speak highly for both of them. Should I need a recruiter to help fill a critical position in my new city, I will be calling on Maria Hurtado and Peckham & McKenney. And, by the way, it really has been, "All about fit!" **Candidate**

Comfortable and Professional Experience

"I'd like to thank you again for your support and guidance throughout the recruitment and selection process. It was a comfortable and professional experience, and I attribute a great deal of that to you. It's my hope that our professional paths may cross again in the future." **Candidate**

You Made Me Feel So Comfortable

"This is my first time working with a recruiting company, and I'm so happy for having the opportunity to work with your company, wow! I truly enjoyed the process! Your interview skills are amazing! You made me feel so comfortable and I felt like I was just talking shop with a longtime friend. Thanks for the personal touch that you include in your job, I believe that this is what makes your firm so desirable and successful." **Candidate**

Straightforward, Friendly, and Humane Recruitment Process

"I wanted to let you know what a terrific job I thought you and Peckham & McKenney did on the recruitment. It was absolutely the most straightforward, friendly, and humane recruitment process I've ever participated in. And I would feel the same way even if the outcome was not successful for me." **Candidate**

Testimonials from clients and candidates are at <https://www.peckhamandmckenney.com/testimonials>.

Please feel free to call any of the communities listed herein, or on our website here, or as follows as a reference about the firm, our recruiters, and our service. Additionally, you may contact any of Roberta's references:

- **North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District**
Marti Campbell, Chair, martic@northsonomacoastfpd.org
Bonnie Plakos, Fire Chief, chief@northsonomacoastfpd.org
- **City of Sunnyvale**
Tina Murphy, Director of Human Resources, (408) 730-3001; tmurphy@sunnyvale.ca.gov
Larry Klein, Mayor, mayorklein@sunnyvale.ca.gov
- **Midway City Sanitary District**
Robert Housley, General Manager, (714) 893-3553, rhousley@midwaycitysanitaryca.gov

YOUR RECRUITMENT TEAM

Our Approach

With every Peckham & McKenney recruitment, your Recruiter has the entire Peckham & McKenney team of Recruiters and administrative personnel for backup, support, collaboration, and sourcing. *However*, when you retain Peckham & McKenney, *your Recruiter* serves as your single point of contact throughout the entire search process and is fully responsible for its success. Moreover, in order to fully focus on your search and finding applicants that fit with the ideal candidate you are seeking, your Recruiter also maintains no more than 6 active searches.



The Peckham & McKenney Team

The Executive Recruiter for you in this search is Roberta Greathouse. In the unlikely event that a team substitution need occur, the FCGMA will be notified in advance to pre-approve any change to the project team.

Roberta Greathouse, Executive Recruiter

Roberta is a dynamic professional with strong leadership, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. She enjoyed a 34-year career in the public sector, retiring from the City of Seaside as the Human Resources Director and Risk Manager. Roberta has experience in every aspect of human resources including labor and employee relations, recruitment, selection, classification and compensation, employee benefits, workers' compensation, and employee development. Roberta led the City through a myriad of organizational challenges including multiple rounds of layoffs and labor concessions due to economic crises.



Roberta served as the City's Acting City Manager for almost one year during a time of unprecedented City growth in the areas of economic development and capital improvement. Roberta was recognized for being an accessible and collaborative leader with outstanding organizational, communication, and customer service skills.

Prior to joining Seaside's team, Roberta served the City of Monterey for 18 years. She worked in a variety of roles in the Public Facilities, Human Resources, and Fire Departments. As the manager of the fire administration division, Roberta had the opportunity to negotiate and manage fire protection contracts with the Army and two local jurisdictions and she established the first activity-based costing system for the department.

Roberta holds a Bachelor's degree from Colorado State University, is a Senior Certified Human Resources Professional (PSHRA-SCP), and certified Risk Management Practitioner (RMP). She was nominated for the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority's coveted Capstone Award in 2016 for her leadership in Risk Management.

Roberta is supported by the following [team](#).

Joyce Johnson, Operations Manager

Joyce Johnson joined Peckham & McKenney in 2005 and serves as the firm's Operations Manager. She has over 30 years' experience in the field of administrative and executive support for all aspects of the executive recruitment process. She oversees internal administration of the firm as well as directing contract administrative support in the areas of advertising and design, web posting, and duplication and mailing services. Prior to joining Peckham & McKenney, Ms. Johnson oversaw internal administration in the Western Region headquarters of two national management consulting and executive recruitment firms. Ms. Johnson is complimented regularly on her strong customer orientation working with both clients and candidates alike. Ms. Johnson holds an Associate of Arts degree from American River College.

Tayler Bergstrom, Research Assistant

Tayler Bergstrom joined Peckham & McKenney in 2022 and currently serves as a Research Associate. Tayler is currently pursuing a PhD at UCLA where she worked previously as a lab manager overseeing various research projects. Prior to that, Tayler graduated from UC San Diego with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.

Linda Pucilowski, Graphic Designer

With nearly 30 years of experience, Linda Pucilowski provides her expert design and marketing skills to Peckham & McKenney. She is the firm's "go-to" professional for all advertising and brochure design and creation. Ms. Pucilowski holds a Bachelor's degree from California State University, Sacramento.

Rachel Moran, Website & Social Media Assistant

Rachel Moran has been in the graphic design field since 2007 and prides herself on creating eye-catching visual art. She supports the Peckham & McKenney team by handling all website visual and technical design as well as social media. Ms. Moran graduated from the Art Institute of Houston obtaining her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts with a concentration in Graphic Design.

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Peckham & McKenney "All about fit"

THE SEARCH PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

Peckham & McKenney is committed to finding the best fit for your position. Our process is 12 to 14 weeks and generally involves the following phases:

PROJECT ORGANIZATION (PRE-RECRUITMENT) – We will meet to discuss the search timeline, process and logistics for conducting a successful search.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CANDIDATE PROFILE (2 WEEKS) – We will meet with agency members to listen to specific expectations of the position; learn the background and experiences desired in the ideal candidate; and understand the organizational culture and interests to create an attractive Candidate Profile marketing brochure.

RECRUITMENT (4 TO 6 WEEKS) – Our main focus in outreach will be direct, personal contact with quality potential candidates. Additionally, ads will be placed in industry publications and social media to broadly market the opportunity. Our client agency is continuously updated on our progress.

SUPPLEMENTARY REVIEW (2 WEEKS) – Upon our review of the resumes received, supplemental questionnaires will be sent to candidates who appear in most alignment with the Candidate Profile. Following a thorough review of the supplemental questionnaires, we will conduct preliminary telephone interviews. Internet research will also be conducted so that we may probe the candidate regarding any areas of concern.

RECOMMENDATION OF CANDIDATES/SELECTION OF FINALISTS (1 WEEK) – A report will be provided to the agency that includes, among a variety of documents, a full listing of all candidates for review and the materials submitted by candidates recommended for an interview.

INTERVIEW PROCESS (2 WEEKS) – Your recruiter will facilitate the interview process, inclusive of an orientation session at the beginning, and a discussion of candidates at the end.

QUALIFICATION (1 WEEK) – Once a finalist is selected, a reference check and thorough background check will be conducted. Assistance with negotiating compensation will also be provided.

COST OF SERVICES

The proposed fee to conduct the search process for your next Executive Officer has been provided under separate cover. We are pleased to discuss this along with the proposed process to provide the service desired by the Board of Directors and be responsive to the FCGMA's needs. This is an **all-inclusive fee** for the services to achieve success in your search as described herein. Additional services can be provided and negotiated accordingly.

Peckham & McKenney is unique among recruiting firms for several reasons including having a fixed all-inclusive fee. We have found that an all-inclusive fee for the search process is simpler, cost-effective, and efficient.

The all-inclusive fee above includes professional fees and expenses (out-of-pocket costs associated with advertising, Recruiter travel, administrative support / printing / copying / postage / materials, telephone / technology, internet research checks on recommended candidates, and full background check on selected finalist only). For services not specified herein, we will discuss your interests and an appropriate fee.

PROCESS OF PAYMENT

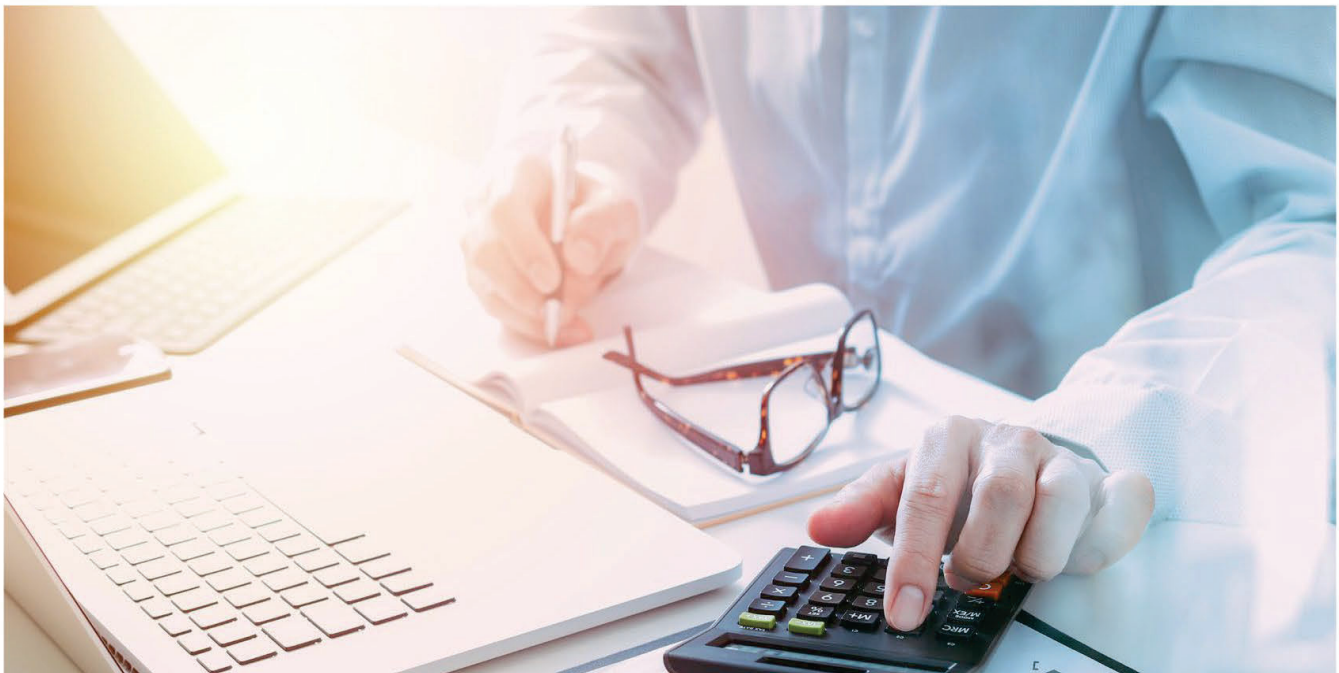
One-third of the all-inclusive fee is due as a retainer upon execution of the agreement. This retainer covers upfront and necessary expenses incurred by Peckham & McKenney on the City's behalf for the preparatory work and advertising. If the retainer is not received by Peckham & McKenney within 30 days of execution of the agreement, we will suspend the recruitment process until payment is received. The second one-third of the full payment will be invoiced 1 month from contract execution, and it is due within 30 days following the invoice date. The final one-third of the full payment will be invoiced 2 months from contract execution, and it is due within 30 days following the invoice date.

AGREEMENT

Peckham & McKenney is the operating name of City Management Advisors LLC, Anton Dahlerbruch, Managing Member.

INSURANCE

Peckham & McKenney carries Professional Liability Insurance (\$1,000,000 limit), Commercial General Liability Insurance (\$2,000,000 General Liability, and \$4,000,000 Products) and Automobile Liability Insurance (\$1,000,000). Our Insurance Broker is B&B Premier Insurance Solutions, Agoura Hills, CA.



GUARANTEE

We are pleased to share that the Peckham & McKenney success and placement record are particularly strong. We are confident that our recruitment process will result in a quality candidate that will stay in your employment.



DIVERSITY STATEMENT



Peckham & McKenney is committed to diversity in its broadest possible definition in every aspect of each executive recruitment our firm provides. We take pride in the placement of women and applicants of diversity, and are known for long, successful tenures of candidates selected by the agency.

Peckham & McKenney does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex/gender, national origin/ancestry, disability, pregnancy, sexual orientation (including transgender status), marriage or family status, military status, or age. We are fully compliant with all applicable federal and state employment laws and regulations in all of our recruitments.

For over 30 years, founder Bobbi Peckham has been a champion of women seeking executive leadership positions within local government.

OUR GUARANTEE:

- We will connect with the FCGMA in 6 months and 1 year after the appointment to check-in.
- We will conduct a second search within 6 months of our search process if a candidate is not placed.
- If the placement vacates the position within 1 year from the date of accepting the offer, we agree to conduct a second search within 6 months of the vacancy.

Because of how we conduct recruitments, it is unusual that we are unsuccessful in providing a placement, an individual is not placed, or the placement vacates the position within a year. In the unlikely event that no qualified candidates are identified as a result of the search efforts, and it is mutually agreed that the result is due to the search effort and/or process, we will extend the search for a second time for expenses (\$7,200) only. If qualified applicants are not selected or the selected candidate is separated from employment within 1 year after accepting the offer, a second search will be conducted for the discounted fixed fee of \$18,500 (external candidates only, and except in the event of budgetary cutbacks, promotion, position elimination, or illness/death, etc.).

With our diverse team of Recruiters, Peckham & McKenney supports, promotes and advocates for diversity in the recruitment and hiring processes. In addition to our outreach methods, Peckham & McKenney routinely advertises with the National Forum of Black Public Administrators (NFBPA), Local Government Hispanic Network (LGHN) and CivicPRIDE as well as the National Diversity Network to ensure placement of your opportunity with the following online venues:

- African American Job Network
- Asian Job Network
- Disability Job Network
- Latino Job Network
- LGBT Job Network
- Retirement Job Network
- Veteran Job Network
- Women's Job Network



Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Authority - Recruitment for Executive Officer
Proposed Search Schedule January 30, 2025*

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>TIME FRAME</u>
I. Project Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference call discussion of recruitment process with FCGMA team TBD Formalize project schedule 	TBD
II. Development of Candidate Profile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual meetings with Board Members & others TBD Develop Candidate Profile/Marketing Brochure Develop advertising and recruitment plan 	March 3 - 7
III. Recruitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise, network, and electronically post in appropriate venues Distribute Candidate Profile to industry professionals Post opportunity on the Peckham & McKenney and Agency websites Focused outreach to individuals within the parameters of the Candidate Profile Respond to all inquiries and acknowledge all resumes received within 48 hours 	Mar 17 – April 14 (4 weeks)
IV. Preliminary Review and Interviews (Conducted by Recruiter) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen resumes and conduct Internet research Identify leading candidates and request supplemental questionnaires Review supplemental questionnaires Conduct preliminary interviews with leading candidates 	April 23 & 24
V. Recommendation of Candidates for Panel Interview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual or on-site meeting to provide recommended candidates Board selects candidates for finalist interview panel process Board identifies interview panel raters Peckham & McKenney notifies all candidates of status in recruitment process 	May 9 @ 12:30
VI. Interview Panel Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-site meeting to facilitate interviews Assist Board throughout process and provide recommendations Board selects candidates or leading 2-4 candidates for further consideration 	May 22 & 23
VII. Qualification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background & reference checks Provide offer negotiation assistance if desired Exceed expectations and successfully place candidate who “fits.” *depending on Agency selection process 	By June 6*

*Certain assumptions have been built into this proposed schedule in order to provide the Board with an estimated recruitment timeline. If awarded the contract, a final schedule will be developed with the Board at that time.

ROBERTA GREATHOUSE, PSHRA-SCP

831-998-3194
Salinas, CA 93908

EXPERIENCE

Executive Recruiter, Peckham & McKenney – January 2023 – present

Performs the full range of recruitment services for public agencies including cities, counties, and special districts.

Human Resources Director / Risk Manager — 2016 – December 2022

Planned, directed, and organized all phases of the City's centralized human resources program including labor relations, recruitment and selection, classification and compensation, employee benefits, workers' compensation, safety, training, and employee relations; planned, directed, and managed the City's risk management program including insurance, vendor contracts, property claims management, and workers' compensation; coordinated assigned activities with other City departments, officials, outside agencies, and the public; fostered cooperative working relationships among City departments and with intergovernmental and regulatory agencies and various public and private groups; and provided highly responsible and complex professional assistance to the City Manager in areas of expertise. Served as Acting City Manager in his / her absence.

Acting City Manager, City of Seaside — August 2021 – July 2022

Under policy direction from the City Council, served as the Chief Executive / Administrative Officer for the City, providing executive leadership and representation on all matters concerning the City. Responsible for planning, directing, managing, and reviewing all activities and operations of the City; coordinated programs, services, and activities among City departments and outside agencies; ensured the financial integrity of the municipal organization; represented the City's interests; and provided highly responsible and complex policy advice and administrative support to the Mayor and City Council.

Human Resources Manager, City of Seaside — 2006 - 2016

Managed and directed all phases of the City's centralized human resources program including labor relations, recruitment and selection, classification and compensation, employee benefits, workers' compensation, safety, training, and employee relations. Coordinated assigned activities with other City departments, officials, outside agencies, and the public; fostered cooperative working relationships among City departments and with intergovernmental and regulatory agencies and various public and private groups.

Positions of Increasing Responsibility, City of Monterey — 1988 - 2006

For almost 18 years, I served the citizens, visitors, and businesses of the City of Monterey in the Parking Division, Human Resources Department, and Fire Department. My experience in operational and administrative support departments provides me with an outstanding baseline of understanding about the workings of a municipal corporation.

EDUCATION

Colorado State University — BA, Liberal Arts with an Emphasis on Communications & Public Affairs, 2006

Graduated Cum Laude

Monterey Peninsula College - AS Accounting, 2000

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Senior Certified Human Resources Professional, PSHRA-SCP, Public Sector HR Association

Risk Management Practitioner, CPS HR

Peckham & McKenney
"All about fit"



District Administrator

NORTH SONOMA COAST FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

THE DISTRICT

The North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District (NSCFPD) serves 172 square miles in the very northwestern corner of Sonoma County, primarily the communities of The Sea Ranch, Annapolis, and Stewarts Point. To the east is the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District (formerly Geyserville FPD), to the north in Mendocino County are the South Coast and Redwood Coast Fire Protection Districts, and to the south are the Timber Cove Fire Protection District and Fort Ross Volunteer Fire Department (part of Gold Ridge Fire Protection District).

The NSCFPD company is composed of highly trained and motivated volunteers who live and/or work in the District. At present the District has 16 active firefighters/EMTs, including the officers, and 5 administrative or support members who provide non-firefighting tasks to the Department.

CAL FIRE, under contract, provides emergency response, administrative, maintenance, and training services to the Department. As the rural fire department for the state of California, CAL FIRE is uniquely qualified to



offer broad resources to the District and to enhance the volunteers' skills and abilities. CAL FIRE provides at least two (and often more) duty officers at all times and staffs the fire equipment located at the South Station on Annapolis Road. During fire season the South Station is enhanced by a seasonal crew of CAL FIRE wildland firefighters.

The primary source of funding for NSCFPD is the real property taxes paid by all property owners within this service area. In addition, the "Improved and Enhanced Local Fire Protection, Paramedic Services and Disaster Response Initiative," ballot measure "H," was approved by voters in March of 2024. Measure H creates a 1/2 cent sales tax to support funding for emergency services in Sonoma County with the primary goal of providing more efficient, effective, and sustainable fire response, paramedic services, and wildfire prevention and response

capabilities that protect the health and safety of Sonoma County residents, business owners, and visitors. The sales tax revenues provided by Measure H will allow the District to increase their paid CAL FIRE staffing to a minimum of 3 responders, 24x7.

The North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighters Association (also known as The Sea Ranch Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation that provides very important secondary sources of funding to the District through fund-raising activities. The NSCVFA is also the owner of the North Fire Station. Under the Memorandum of Understanding with the NSCVFA, the NSCVFA maintains the building and provides it to the District for use and the District provides insurance and pays the utilities.

To learn more about the District, please visit [North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District:](http://www.northsonomacoastfpd.org/)
www.northsonomacoastfpd.org/.

THE ORGANIZATION

The District is operated by a Board of Directors who are elected by citizens registered to vote within the District and serve staggered four-year terms. The Board is comprised of experienced Board members who work cooperatively with one another and enjoy a kind and respectful relationship with staff. The District Administrator will report directly to the Board and perform administrative, fiscal, operational, and programmatic duties.

The District's total FY 2023-24 operating budget is \$2.1M. The District's primary revenue sources are Ad Valorem Taxes, Pass-thru property tax funds, and donations from the North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighters Association. The District expects to receive approximately \$1.4M annually from the Measure H sales tax.



THE DEPARTMENT

The District is supported by four stations, two on Sea Ranch and two in Annapolis, 11 pieces of apparatus, and 16 volunteer firefighters. The CALFIRE contract provides an additional 6 (increasing to 9 in 2025) career firefighters. The district employs one part-time staff member, legal services by contract, and a contract bookkeeper.



THE POSITION

The District Administrator is a new position being added to the District to implement the Board's goals and enhance the District's ability to meet the growing needs of the community.

Priorities for the District Administrator include:

- Managing and being responsible for the required legal and administrative responsibilities of the District (financial planning, reporting, recordkeeping, etc.);
- Working collaboratively with the Board and volunteer Fire Chief to establish the District Administrator position, including reviewing existing documentation, processes, and procedures with an eye toward streamlining and developing efficiencies and establishing relationships with the District Board, staff, volunteers and partners

including the NSCVFA, CAL FIRE, The Sea Ranch Association, the County, and neighboring Associations;

- Overseeing the implementation of the Measure H tax funds;
- Working with the Board and NSCVFA to facilitate the expansion of the fire station including developing financing options and managing the construction phase; and
- Developing community outreach and engagement strategies to implement fire risk mitigation programs including the Community Wildfire, Hazard Mitigation, and Vegetation Management Plans.

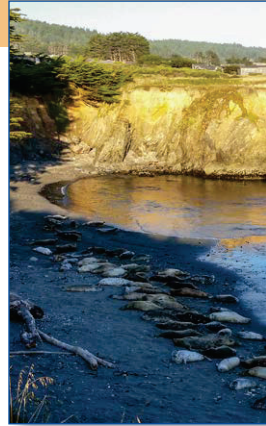
THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The Board is seeking an experienced, hands-on public sector manager who excels in collaborative relationship building, is a self-starter, technologically savvy, and can work independently to oversee the District's daily administrative functions, develop and manage complex programs, and effectively drive organizational change. The selected candidate will be comfortable working in a shared office environment and working / living in a remote, rural environment.

The successful candidate will demonstrate they are:

- Logical, creative, highly organized, detail oriented, and an innate problem solver who aims high and who can assist the Board to keep the District fiscally and operationally sustainable;

- A skilled communicator with outstanding listening skills, excellent verbal and written communication skills, and the ability to diplomatically engage in difficult conversations;
- Analytically and fiscally astute with experience working with grants, budgets, audits, fund accounting, financial reporting, and financial planning;
- Familiar with public agency operations; knowledgeable about relevant public sector laws, such as the Brown Act and Public Records Act; and able to serve as a resource to the Board of Directors;
- Emotionally intelligent, sensitive to the needs of others, team-oriented, and effective in providing leadership to individuals whom they have no direct authority over;
- Able to develop and maintain a relationship of confidence and trust with Board Members, other governmental officials, business and community leaders, the public, and others encountered while serving as the District Administrator;
- A steward of District resources who is forward thinking, understands the value of innovation, process improvement, and building efficiencies, and who effectuates change in a logical and respectful manner;



SEARCH SCHEDULE

Filing Deadline:.....July 21, 2024
Preliminary Interviews (telephonic): July 30 & 31, 2024
Recommendation to District: August 14, 2024
Panel Interviews (In-Person): August 30, 2024
Finalist Interviews (In-Person):.....August 31, 2024

These dates have been confirmed, and it is recommended that you plan your calendar accordingly.

- A fast learner, effective manager, and experienced supervisor who is professional, respectful, and resourceful;
- Secure, humble, non-judgmental, and possesses a sense of humor; and
- Willing and able to work with a high level of independence, take initiative, and apply a high standard of professional ethics to their decision making and recommendations.

Experience/Education Requirements

A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

The equivalent of a Bachelor's Degree and three or more years of responsible management and leadership experience in a special district, municipality, or similar organization. Experience with Fire / EMS agencies and grant writing is desirable.

The District Administrator is expected to be available during large-scale emergencies and natural disasters.

THE COMPENSATION PACKAGE

The District Administrator will be the first full-time employee of the District.

The following salary and benefits have been approved by the Board of Directors; however, it is anticipated that the full salary and benefit package will be subject to negotiations with the selected candidate.

SALARY: The annual salary range for this position is \$90,000 - \$120,000, depending on qualifications.

SCHEDULE / TELECOMMUTING: The Board is amenable to a flexible work schedule and periodic telecommuting. The District Administrator will be required to attend Board Meetings in person and be in the office certain days of the week.

RETIREMENT: Depending on the needs of the selected candidate, Section 457 (b) deferred compensation plan or IRA will be provided. The District participates in Social Security and Medicare.

HEALTH & WELFARE BENEFITS: The District will provide the employee with health insurance or provide cash-in-lieu of insurance.

ANNUAL PAID TIME OFF: Up to 20 days' vacation based on longevity; 8 days sick leave; and 11 holidays. Leaves will be prorated based on the selected candidate's date of employment.



THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS

To apply for this key position and exciting career opportunity, please submit a current resume with month and year of employment and compelling cover letter through our website at:

Peckham & McKenney
www.peckhamandmckenney.com

Resumes are acknowledged within two business days. Contact Roberta Greathouse at 831.998.3194, toll-free at 866.912.1919, or via email to Roberta@PeckhamandMcKenney.com if you have any questions regarding this position or the recruitment process.



www.peckhamandmckenney.com



EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES AGREEMENT

[Agency],
[Recruitment Title]

A complete description of the services to be provided and service fees are contained in a proposal from Peckham & McKenney to the [agency], for the recruitment of a [title] (proposal [date]), which is incorporated herein by reference.

The all-inclusive fee for the recruitment of a [title] is \$[fee] ([fee] dollars). One-third of each fee is due as a retainer within 14 business days upon commencing the recruitment process with the pre-recruitment meeting for the position. The remainder of the fee will be divided and billed in two separate monthly invoices during the respective recruitment. Full payment of the professional fee is due three months from execution of the agreement or when a candidate has accepted an offer of employment, whichever comes first. The all-inclusive fee includes a combination of meetings, in accordance with the proposal, with the [agency]. Requested additional meetings will be negotiated and billed accordingly. The fee for a subsequent recruitment or placement of the [position title] is described on page nine of the proposal.

The all-inclusive fee includes expenses, and thus serves as a not-to-exceed amount. Peckham & McKenney expenses include out-of-pocket costs associated with advertising, digital and/or printing documents as determined in consultation with the [agency], consultant travel, clerical, background checks, telephone, supplies and postage. Candidate expenses to attend finalist interviews with the [agency] are not included in this not-to-exceed figure and are to be reimbursed by the [agency] directly to the candidate.

Peckham & McKenney will work closely and communicate regularly with the [agency]. Both parties will exhibit a full faith effort to ensure a timely and successful search. Should the [agency] choose to cancel or postpone the search at any time after execution of this agreement, the [agency] will be responsible for payment in the amount of the percentage of the work complete as it applies to the three-month period.

It is the sincere intent of Peckham & McKenney to conduct a search process that leads to the selection of a qualified candidate. If the [agency] chooses to extend the search process past the agreed upon schedule, however, a monthly fee and expenses will be negotiated at that time.

The [agency]
Page Two

All information regarding candidates is provided in strict confidence and should be used solely for the purpose of selecting qualified applicants. Candidate information must not be divulged to persons who do not have a direct need to know except for reference and background investigations and with the candidate's consent.

Peckham & McKenney is the operating name of City Management Advisors LLC, Anton Dahlerbruch, Managing Member.

City Management Advisors doing business as Peckham & McKenney carries Professional Liability Insurance (\$1,000,000 limit), Commercial General Liability Insurance (\$2,000,000 General Liability, and \$4,000,000 Products) and Automobile Liability Insurance (\$1,000,000). Our Insurance Broker is B&B Premier Insurance Solutions, Agoura Hills, CA.

Necessary insurance documentation will be provided to the [agency] in a timely manner.

In the event of any action or proceeding brought by either party to this agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover all costs and fees of its attorney in such action or proceeding, including cost of appeal, if any, in such amounts as are reasonable.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. We look forward to a successful relationship.

Peckham & McKenney Executive Search

Roberta Greathouse

Date

The [agency] _____

Date

**** PLEASE RETAIN ONE COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS ****

**Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
Executive Officer Cost of Services
Peckham & McKenney**

Cost of Services

Peckham & McKenney is unique among recruiting firms for several reasons including having a fixed all-inclusive fee. Over years of experience, we have found that an all-inclusive fee is simpler, cost-effective, and efficient. This also provides that the client knows the full, complete fee for our service; we do not invoice “reimbursables” for any portion of the recruitment.

Recognizing the amount of outreach and direct work that will be necessary to find candidates, our fee to conduct the search process for your next Executive Officer is \$30,000. As our aim is to be competitive, we would be pleased to discuss this fee further. Our all-inclusive fee includes all professional fees and expenses (out-of-pocket costs associated with advertising, consultant travel, administrative support / printing / copying / postage / materials, telephone / technology, partial background checks on recommended candidates, and full background check on selected finalist only).

The fee quoted above is for a full recruitment process as described in The Search Process, including 3 to 4 days of meetings. The first virtual meeting (1 to 2 days) is to develop the Candidate Profile; the second on-site or virtual meeting (1 day) is to provide a recommendation of candidates; and the third on-site or virtual meeting (1 day) is to facilitate finalist interviews.

Additional Service Costs

The following “menu” details fees for additional requested services. Some fees may be negotiated.

- Additional meeting day (up to 4 days as detailed herein are included) \$500 - \$1,000/mtg + travel exp
- Each additional full background check \$500/each
- Additional placement within organization* \$5,000 (if selected within 1 year)

*If the Agency hires an additional candidate from among those recommended for another position within one year of the close of the recruitment, a fee of \$5,000 will be charged to the Agency.

Process of Payment

One-third of the all-inclusive fee is due as a retainer upon execution of the agreement. This retainer covers upfront and necessary expenses incurred by Peckham & McKenney on the Agency’s behalf for recruitment preparation, Candidate Profile preparation and advertising. If the retainer is not received by Peckham & McKenney within 30 days of execution of the agreement, we will suspend the recruitment process until payment is received. The second third of the full payment will be invoiced one month from contract execution, and it is due within 30 days following the invoice date. The final third of the full payment will be invoiced two months from contract execution, and it is due within 30 days following the invoice date.

From: roberta@peckhamandmckenney.com
To: [FCGMA](#)
Cc: "Anton Dahlerbruch"; [Joyce Johnson](#); dawn@peckhamandmckenney.com
Subject: Proposal for Recruitment Services - Peckham and McKenney
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025 9:51:17 AM
Attachments: [PM FCGMA recruitment proposal.pdf](#)

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Good morning Ms. Weber, attached please find a proposal for the FCGMA Executive Officer recruitment. It would truly be my honor to assist the Agency with this critical recruitment. As requested, I will send our fee proposal under separate cover. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or need anything else.

Have a great day,

Roberta

Roberta L. Greathouse

Executive Recruiter

Peckham & McKenney

peckhamandmckenney.com

300 Harding Boulevard, Suite 203D

Roseville, CA 95678

866-912-1919

831-998-3194 (cell)

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Notice of Confidential Information. This electronic mail transmission and any and all attachments contain information belonging to the sender, which may be confidential and privileged. This information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to whom this electronic mail transmission was sent as indicated above. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution, or action taken in reliance on the contents of the information contained in this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately respond via a "reply" email and delete all forms of this message. Thank you.

**FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FOX CANYON
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND CITY MANAGEMENT
ADVISORS, LLC (dba PECKHAM & MCKENNEY) FOR PROFESSIONAL
RECRUITING SERVICES**

This "First Amendment" to that certain AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND CITY MANAGEMENT ADVISORS, LLC (dba PECKHAM & MCKENNEY) FOR PROFESSIONAL RECRUITING SERVICES, dated February 21, 2025 ("Original Agreement"), is made and entered into by and between Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency ("FCGMA") and City Management Advisors, LLC (dba Peckham & McKenney) ("Peckham"). Hereinafter, FCGMA and Peckham may be referred to individually as a "Party" or collectively as the "Parties".

RECITALS

- A. In response to a FCGMA request for proposal for executive officer recruitment services, Peckham submitted a proposal and quote of \$30,000.
- B. On February 21, 2025, the FCGMA Interim Executive Officer executed the Original Contract with a \$25,000 "not to exceed" limit pursuant to the authority delegated to FCGMA executive officers by the FCGMA Board of Directors in Resolution 2018-02.
- C. At the time the Original Agreement was executed, the Parties acknowledged that the Peckham's proposal included a \$30,000 fee and that the FCGMA Executive Officer has delegated authority to enter into agreements only up to \$25,000, and also informally agreed that FCGMA would bring an agreement to the FCGMA Board of Directors to increase the Original Agreement's "not to exceed" limit from \$25,000 to \$30,000 at a subsequent FCGMA meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree that the Original Agreement is amended as follows:

1. The first sentence of Section 3 of the Original Agreement is amended to read as follows:

The total sum of all payments made by AGENCY to CONSULTANT for services and work performed under this contract shall not exceed \$30,0000 (the CONTRACT LIMIT).

1. The first sentence of Section 2 of Exhibit C to the Original Agreement is amended to read as follows:

As set forth in Section 3 of the contract, the total sum of all payments made by AGENCY to CONSULTANT for services and work performed under the contract shall not exceed \$30,0000 (the CONTRACT LIMIT).

2. Except for the modifications described herein, all other terms and conditions of the Original Agreement, shall remain in effect.
3. This First Amendment may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original, and all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

4. The Parties agree that this First Amendment may be transmitted and signed by electronic or digital means by either/any or both/all parties and that such signatures shall have the same force and effect as original signatures, in accordance with California Government Code Section 16.5 and California Civil Code Section 1633.7.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this First Amendment through their duly authorized representatives as of the last date provided below.

**FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

**CITY MANAGEMENT ADVISORS, LLC
(dba PECKHAM & McKENNEY)**

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Professional Services Contract Modification with Peckham & McKenney for Recruitment of an Agency Executive Officer Not-To-Exceed Limit to \$30,000

Item No. 20 – March 26, 2025



Arne Anselm
Interim Executive Officer

Background

- Arne Anselm is retiring as Interim Executive Officer April 25, 2025
- Creating and filling a new EO position has been discussed at:
 - December 13, 2024 Board meeting
 - January 9, 2025 Executive Committee
 - January 22, 2025 Board meeting
 - March 17, 2025 Executive Committee
- Board direction
 - Hire a professional recruiting firm
 - Move quickly

Parallel Paths to Create and Fill Position

FCGMA

Find Ideal Candidate

- Approve position description
- Hire Executive Recruiter
 - Request for Proposal
 - Selection and contract
 - Cost estimate: \$30,000
- Candidate Selection
 - Stakeholder input
 - Board decision

Ventura County

Create Position

- CEO HR create position following FCGMA's position description
- County Board of Supervisors approve new position

Parallel Paths to Create and Fill Position

FCGMA

Find Ideal Candidate

- ~~Approve position description~~
- ~~Hire Executive Recruiter~~
 - ~~Request for Proposal~~
 - ~~Selection and contract~~
 - Cost estimate: \$30,000
- Candidate Selection
 - Stakeholder input
 - Board decision

Ventura County

Create Position

- ~~CEO HR create position following FCGMA's position description~~
- ~~County Board of Supervisors approve new position~~

Professional Recruitment Services

- Request for Qualifications released January 27, 2025
- Three firms interviewed
- Peckham & McKenney selected
 - \$30,000 proposal
 - \$25,000 contract entered February 21, 2025, under EO's purchasing authority
- Requesting contract modification increasing the not-to-exceed limit to \$30,000



Professional Recruitment Services Contract

- Project organization
- Develop candidate profile
- Recruitment
- Preliminary review and interviews by recruiter
- Recommendation of candidates for panel interview
- Interview process
- Background and reference checks
- Negotiation assistance if requested



Schedule

- Recruitment Opened - - - - March 18, 2025
- Filing Deadline - - - - - April 14, 2025
- Preliminary screening - - - - April 23 & 24
- Presentation of Candidates - May 9, 2025 (closed session)
- Stakeholder panel - - - - May 22, 2025
- Full Board - - - - - May 23, 2025 (closed session)
- Ongoing communication with recruiter

Interview Process

- Selection of Stakeholder Panel Members
 - Send nominations and their contact information to FCGMA@ventura.org
- Selection of interview questions (May 9)
- May 22, 2025 Stakeholder Panel Interviews
 - Executive Committee members
 - Peckham & McKenney
 - CEO - HR
- Panel Member feedback provided to full Board through recruiter
- May 23, 2025, Interviews (2-3 candidates)
 - Final Selection by Full Board



Recommendations

- 1) Receive presentation
- 2) Approve Professional Services Contract Modification with Peckham & McKenney for Recruitment of an Agency Executive Officer Not-To-Exceed Limit to \$30,000

Reminder:

Send stakeholder panel nominations and their contact information to FCGMA@ventura.org

March 26, 2025

Board of Directors
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1600

SUBJECT: Approval of an Annual Report for the Las Posas Valley Basin for Water Year 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS: (1) Approve and authorize Agency staff to submit the Water Year (WY) 2024 Annual Report for the Las Posas Valley Basin to the Department of Water Resources (DWR); and (2) Receive and file this staff report.

BACKGROUND:

Section 356.2 of DWR's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Emergency Regulations sets forth the requirements for preparation and submittal of annual reports. Following adoption of a GSP, the regulations require that an annual report for the prior water year be submitted to DWR by April 1 of each year. Additionally, the Annual Report for the Las Posas Valley Basin is to be prepared and filed with the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara, with additional sections as required by Exhibit A of the Las Posas Valley Judgement, Watermaster Rules section 2.7.10.

DISCUSSION:

Dudek, working with Agency staff, prepared the GSP Annual Report for the Las Posas Valley Basin in accordance with GSP Emergency Regulations and Watermaster Rules. The Annual Report (see attached Exhibit 21A) covers Water Year (WY) 2024, which spans October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. The report presents conditions in the basin primarily using measured data in groundwater elevation contour maps, basin storage change figures, water level hydrographs and aquifer production maps.

In accordance with Watermaster Rules, the Las Posas Valley Watermaster requested consultation with the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on January 15, 2025. The PAC and TAC discussed the Annual Report and subsequently provided recommendation reports to the Watermaster. Overall, PAC and TAC's review and recommendations have been constructive and insightful.

The PAC had one recommendation (see attached Exhibit 21B), to provide clarification on the relationship between the sustainable yield and groundwater levels. Watermaster Staff responded to this and provided clarification (see attached Exhibit 21C).

The TAC's recommendation report included over 80 comments on the LPV Annual Report, which were summarized into eight recommendations (see attached Exhibit 21D). TAC's recommendations were primarily related to clarifying relationships between sustainable yield and groundwater levels, consistently collecting water levels, and clarifications regarding specific sections of the report, such as contour maps and other sections of text. Where appropriate, the text was updated to provide requested clarification, and all recommendations were responded to (see attached Exhibit 21E).

Please see the attached PAC and TAC Recommendation Reports and Watermaster Response Reports (Exhibits 21B through 21E) for review of the committee consultations on this matter.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends your Board 1) Approve and authorize staff to submit the WY 2024 Annual Report for the Las Posas Valley Basin to DWR; and 2) Receive and file this staff report.

This letter has been reviewed by Agency Counsel. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 654- 3952.

Sincerely,



Robert Hampson
Hydrologist IV

Attachments:

Item 21A - Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan 2025 Annual Report: Covering Water Year 2024

Item 21B - PAC Recommendation Report dated March 7, 2025, regarding 2025 Draft Annual Report

Item 21C – Watermaster Response Report to PAC Recommendation Report – 2025 Draft Annual Las Posas Valley Basin Report Covering Water Year 2024

Item 21D – TAC Recommendation Report dated February 11, 2025, regarding 2025 Draft Annual Report

Item 21E - Response Report to TAC Recommendation Report – 2025 Draft Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024

View the full report online at:

https://fcgma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Item-21A-LPVB_WY2024_Annual_Report_wappendices.pdf

Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

2025 Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024

MARCH 2025

Prepared for:

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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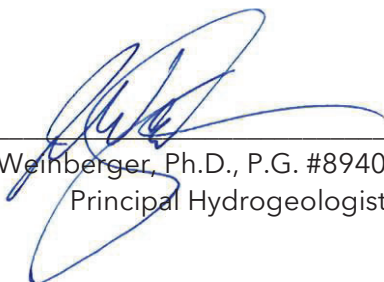
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Jill Weinberger, Ph.D., P.G. #8940
Principal Hydrogeologist

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	X			
Jeff Palmer, VC WWD No. 1 & 19	X			
John Menne, Zone MWC	X			
Rob Grether, West LPV Large Ag	X			
David Schwabauer, East LPV Large Ag	X			
Josh Waters, East LPV Small Ag	X			
Richard Cavaletto, West LPV Small Ag	X			
Laurel Servin, East LPV MWC	X			
Steven Murata, West LPV MWC	X			
Arturo Aseo, Commercial	X			

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 6, 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.

LAS POSAS VALLEY WATERMASTER RESPONSE REPORT

Date: March 15, 2025

To: Las Posas Valley Watermaster Board of Directors

From: Kudzai Farai Kaseke, Assistant Groundwater Manager (FCGMA)

Re: Response Report to PAC Recommendation Report – 2025 Draft Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024 (dated March 2025)

The Las Posas Valley Watermaster (Watermaster) requested consultation from the Las Posas Valley Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) on the Draft Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 2025 Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024. The Watermaster requested consultation in a memo to PAC dated January 15, 2025.

The PAC discussed and developed its recommendation report at the January 22, February 20, and March 6, 2025, meetings. PAC's March 6, 2025, recommendation report included one recommendation. This recommendation is listed below followed by Watermaster's response.

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.

Response to Recommendation 1:

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), sustainable yield is defined as “the maximum quantity of water, calculated over a base period representative of long-term conditions in the basin and including any temporary surplus, that can be withdrawn annually from a groundwater supply without causing an undesirable result.” SGMA and the Judgment require the Basin be managed at sustainable yield by 2040. Sustainable yield means avoiding undesirable results. Monitoring of groundwater levels is the basis of determination of whether one or more undesirable results are occurring.

The GSP Emergency Regulations require that “representative monitoring” wells be identified that are within a broader network of wells that typifies one or more conditions within the basin or an area of the basin. The GSP (FCGMA 2019) refers to these representative monitoring wells as “key wells” and defined minimum thresholds at key wells in the WLPMA, ELPMA, and Epworth Gravels Management Area. Decline of groundwater elevations below one or more minimum thresholds may indicate an undesirable result is occurring.

The GSP determined the WLPMA would be experiencing an undesirable result if:

- In any single monitoring event, groundwater levels in 3 of 5 key wells are below their respective minimum thresholds; or
- The groundwater level in any individual key well is below the minimum threshold for either three consecutive monitoring events or three of five consecutive monitoring events.

The GSP determined the ELPMA would be experiencing an undesirable result if:

- In any single monitoring event, groundwater levels in 5 of 15 identified key wells are below their respective minimum thresholds; or
- The groundwater level in any individual key well is below the minimum threshold for either three consecutive monitoring events or three of five consecutive monitoring events.

The PAC’s comment about a single well, 02N20W06R01S (06R01), being used to contour groundwater elevations in the area of the persistent groundwater depression in the eastern portion of the WLPMA is incorrect. In fact, groundwater elevations at four to five other monitoring wells in the eastern portion of the WLPMA were more than 150 feet below mean sea level when measured in

Spring 2023 and Fall 2024 and used to construct the contours shown in Figures 2-7 and 2-8 of the Annual Report.

Groundwater elevations have exhibited a declining trend in key wells in the northern portion of the ELPMA. Recharge to the Fox Canyon Aquifer in this area appears to be primarily from slow leakage from the overlying Upper San Pedro Formation, which exhibits little influence from precipitation or water-year type. While groundwater elevations have not yet declined below the minimum thresholds, groundwater modeling conducted for the GSP and the First Periodic Evaluation of the GSP forecast that groundwater elevations will decline below minimum thresholds unless projects are implemented and/or extractions reduced. Pumping in this area is occurring at a rate greater than recharge can support.

Watermaster notes that the Technical Advisory Committee concurred with the findings of the persistent groundwater depression in the eastern WLPMA and declining groundwater elevation trends in the northern portion of the ELPMA. Watermaster trusts that the additional explanation provided in this response report will assist the Policy Advisory Committee in its understanding of the technical findings included in the Annual Report.

February 11, 2025

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

To: Las Posas Valley Watermaster

From: Las Posas Valley Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee, prepared by Chad Taylor, Administrator and Chair

Re: Recommendation Report – Draft Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan 2025 Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024

The Las Posas Valley Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provides this Recommendation Report regarding the Draft Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan 2025 Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024 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 Santa Barbara Superior Court judgment in Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition, et al., v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (Judgment).

The request for consultation on the Draft Las Posas Valley (LPV) Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 2025 Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024 (WY 2024 Annual Report) was submitted to the TAC January 15, 2025. The TAC discussed the WY Annual Report in regular TAC meetings on January 21, 2025 and February 4, 2025. TAC comments on the WY 2024 Annual Report were provided to the TAC Administrator by each TAC member in tabular formats and are attached to this Recommendation Report. These specific comments have been incorporated into the recommendations presented below and will be provided to the Watermaster in the original Microsoft Excel format to aid in tracking comment and recommendation responses.

TAC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. RECOMMENDATION 1: CLARIFY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WATER LEVELS IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE BASIN AND SUSTAINABLE YIELD

Sustainable yield is a basin-wide, long-term metric for assessing overall groundwater basin conditions. There are two locations in the text where ongoing water level declines in the eastern part of the West Las Posas Management Area (WLPMPA) and northern East Las Posas Management Area (ELPMA) are attributed to basin-wide production in excess of sustainable yield. It is overly simplistic to say that these localized declines are the result of

basin-wide exceedance of sustainable yield. There must be a local reason that water levels in these specific areas are declining when they are relatively stable in other parts of the Las Posas Valley Basin (Basin).

1.1 Recommendations:

- Consider revising these specific statements regarding local water level declines and sustainable yield at the end of the Executive Summary and in section 3.1.1.
- Edits should at a minimum indicate that local pumping in excess of recharge is the likely cause of water level declines.
- Consider also indicating that additional information and analysis may be necessary to define the affected areas and identify projects and management actions to address the ongoing declines. Additional information could include more consistent groundwater elevation monitoring at increased geographic density and analyses could include local pumping and water level change rates.

1.2 Technical Rationale for Recommendation:

Stating that Basin-wide pumping in excess of sustainable yield is responsible for local groundwater elevation declines simultaneously implies that all pumping in the Basin affects groundwater elevations in these specific locations and minimizes the effect of local conditions on those declining elevations. Conceptually, these two areas are somewhat hydraulically isolated and pumping in them has historically exceeded local recharge and flow from other portions of the Basin (local subsurface inflow). Because local pumping exceeds the supply of water to these areas of the Basin, water levels have been and continue to decline. This has occurred during a period when pumping Basin-wide commonly exceeds the total sustainable yield of the Basin. However, it is possible that pumping Basin-wide could be reduced to below the sustainable yield while local pumping in the eastern WLPMA and northern ELPMA continues to exceed combined local recharge and subsurface inflow. In this case, water levels in these two areas would continue to decline even though Basin-wide pumping was below total sustainable yield.

The TAC hopes that contextualizing the hydrogeologic and hydrologic conditions related to the groundwater elevation declines in the eastern WLPMA and northern ELPMA will help the Watermaster and stakeholders continue to advance projects and management actions targeted at and designed to maximize benefit to these areas.

1.3 Summary of Facts in Support of Recommendation:

- Water levels have continued to decline in the eastern WLPMA and northern ELPMA.
- Pumping in the Basin has commonly exceeded the Basin-wide sustainable yield.
- Recharge and subsurface inflow to the eastern WLPMA and northern ELPMA are limited by hydrogeologic structures in the Basin.
- Reducing total pumping in the Basin may not sufficiently address the local water budget imbalance in the eastern WLPMA and northern ELPMA.

2. RECOMMENDATION 2: ADD DISCUSSION AND COMPARISON OF THE REGRESSION CHANGE IN STORAGE ESTIMATION METHOD AND THE MODEL-BASED METHOD

The TAC is interested in seeing a comparison of the results of the change in storage methods referenced in the Annual Report. In the discussion of change in storage, the Annual Report indicates that previously presented change in storage estimates for the period from 2015 through 2022 were updated following extensions of the models for both the WLPMA and ELPMA completed as part of the 2025 Periodic Evaluation of the LPV GSP. However, the Annual Report does not present the difference these change in storage volume updates represent compared to those reported previously. An accounting of the difference between the changes in storage presented in previous annual reports and those in the WY Annual Report should be included along with a discussion of the differences between the model-based and regression-based methods for estimating change in storage.

2.1 Recommendations:

- Include comparison of model-based change in storage estimates presented in the WY 2024 Annual Report to those for the same years in previous annual reports derived from the regression-based method.
- Discuss the differences in change in storage estimates between these two methods.
- Consider completing a thorough assessment of the differences in outcome of these two methods for estimating changes in storage and presenting it in future annual reports
- Consider developing a plan for how future model updates and resulting differences in change in storage estimates presented in annual reports and other publications will be retroactively adjusted. This plan should be included in future annual reports (and the WY 2024 Annual Report, if possible) and summarized or referenced in other documents that include change in storage estimates.
- Standardize the years for which changes in storage are reported for all management areas. Table 2-7a shows change in storage for 2019 through 2024 for the Lower Aquifer System of the WLPMA while Table 2-7b shows 2016 through 2024 changes in storage for all ELPMA and Epworth Gravels Management Area aquifers.

2.2 Technical Rationale for Recommendation:

Differences in historical change in storage estimates between annual reports and/or other published documents may lead to confusion on the part of stakeholders and regulators. While the WY 2024 Annual Report acknowledges that recent historical change in storage estimates presented in past annual reports were updated in the WY 2024 Annual Report, the differences in these values are not presented. Assuming the difference between the previously reported and current change in storage values is relatively small and does not include sign changes, inclusion of transparent presentation of the differences should reduce confusion.

TAC members noted that the changes in storage presented in the WY 2024 Annual Report do show the linear regression method for estimating storage change is potentially

underestimating storage change. Table 2-7b shows Fox Canyon Aquifer model-based changes in storage in the ELPMA for above normal years 2019 and 2020 of 5,962 and -393 acre-feet per year (AFY), respectively. The regression-based changes in storage for wet years 2023 and 2024 in Table 2-7b are reported at 6,030 and 5,271 AFY for the wet years of 2023 and 2024, respectively. These changes in storage for wet years are only slightly greater than the modeled maximum in recent above normal years, implying that the linear regression method is underestimating storage change.

2.3 Summary of Facts in Support of Recommendation:

- The WY 2024 Annual Report indicates that the recent model extensions resulted in 'updates' in change in storage estimates presented in previous annual reports.
- There is no presentation of the magnitude or sign differences these changes represent.
- The TAC is not aware of a published assessment of the differences in change in storage estimates between the model-based and regression-based methods for estimating storage change.

3. RECOMMENDATION 3: PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON WATER YEAR 2024 GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION MISSING FROM THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

The draft WY 2024 Annual Report was submitted to the TAC for review without groundwater production records for the water year. Not having these data makes assessing groundwater sustainability conditions in the Basin challenging. We understand there were difficulties compiling groundwater use records in the first year of implementation of a new data collection system. However, comparison of groundwater use over time in to monitored water level conditions and estimated changes in storage is an important function of GSP annual reporting. The TAC anticipated the Watermaster would provide these missing data during the WY 2024 Annual Report review period, but they have not been made available to date.

3.1 Recommendations:

- Provide groundwater use data to the TAC for review as soon as possible.
- Review and revise groundwater use reporting and data processing procedures so that these important data are available for inclusion in future draft annual reports prior to committee review.

3.2 Technical Rationale for Recommendation:

Groundwater production information for the Basin and each management area is an important component of assessing sustainability. The ability of the TAC to provide thorough technical review of documents relies on those documents being complete when submitted.

3.3 Summary of Facts in Support of Recommendation:

- The WY 2024 groundwater production data for the Basin were not available for inclusion in the draft WY 2024 Annual Report and have not been provided to the TAC separately as of the date of publication of this report.

- SGMA and the Judgement require groundwater use data to be collected and presented in annual reports.

4. RECOMMENDATION 4: CONTINUE WORKING TO CONSISTENTLY COLLECT WATER LEVEL AND OTHER DATA FROM THE BASIN MONITORING NETWORK

The TAC noted that there are monitoring wells designated as Key Wells in the GSP for which sustainable management criteria (SMCs) have been established that are inconsistently monitored. The TAC acknowledges that these problems were identified and commented on in the TAC review of the first GSP periodic evaluation for the Basin and that the period reflected in the WY 2024 Annual Report is the same as that discussed in the periodic evaluation. However, the TAC also notes that previous annual reports have included statements recognizing these deficiencies and the Watermaster's efforts to address them when first discussing the missing data. The WY 2024 Annual Report does not present a similar statement or commitment to addressing the problem until discussion of the periodic evaluation in section 3.

4.1 Recommendations:

Continue to include statements regarding Watermaster efforts to address groundwater monitoring consistency problems when presenting monitoring results.

4.2 Technical Rationale for Recommendation:

Inconsistent groundwater monitoring in basins attempting to achieve groundwater sustainability makes assessing sustainability efforts challenging and can lead to uncertainty. Readers of the WY 2024 Annual Report may focus on specific areas of the report and could miss statements regarding plans to address problems in data collection if they are not included in the same section of the report where the data are discussed.

4.3 Summary of Facts in Support of Recommendation:

- Section 2 of the WY 2024 Annual Report indicates that some important data were not collected during the period assessed in the report.
- Discussion of efforts to address data collection inconsistencies were not included in section 2 as in previous annual reports.

5. RECOMMENDATION 5: CONSIDER ADDING TO THE DISCUSSION AND EXPLANATION OF GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOUR MAPS TO INCLUDE RATIONALE FOR CONTOURING DECISIONS

When reviewing the groundwater elevation contour maps and related discussion in the WY 2024 Annual Report, TAC members had questions regarding specific decisions to include and/or omit contour data for multiple aquifers and areas of the Basin. These questions included:

- Why were the values identified as not used in contouring omitted?

- How were the Shallow Alluvial aquifer contours upstream of 07G01 defined in both shallow alluvial aquifer maps (Figures 2-1 and 2-2) and also the contours downstream of 09Q08 in Figure 2-1? There do not appear to be wells with measured water levels up and downstream of these wells for generating contours.
- Why were contours not generated for the Epworth Gravels aquifer?
- Why was only a portion of the ELPMA contoured for the Upper San Pedro aquifer in fall 2023 when there were data for the WLPMA for that period and why were no contours created for this aquifer for spring 2024?
- Why is so little of the Fox Canyon aquifer contoured in Figures 2-7 and 2-8? Are all the omitted data really from the aquifer? Is there another way to better show the spatial distribution of groundwater elevations in this aquifer?
- How were the contours in the neighboring basins shown for the Fox Canyon Aquifer on Figures 2-7 and 2-8 developed? What is the assumed relationship between the Oxnard basin and the WLPMA and the Pleasant Valley basin and ELPMA, and how was this relationship used in the preparation of these contours?

5.1 Recommendations:

- Consider including additional discussion regarding groundwater elevation contouring decisions in the text to help readers understand the information presented on the maps in Figures 2-1 through 2-10.
- Consider removing groundwater elevation contours for the neighboring Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins or explain in the text the hydraulic relationship the contours illustrate.

5.2 Technical Rationale for Recommendation:

Technical rationale for these recommendations is included in the questions above and TAC member comments BB-8, BB-9, TM-13, TM-14, CT-19, CT-20, CT-21, CT-22, CT-23, and CT-24 in the attached individual tabulated TAC comment matrix.

5.3 Summary of Facts in Support of Recommendation:

The facts related to these recommendations are included in the attached individual tabulated TAC comments.

6. RECOMMENDATION 6: CHECK WATER LEVEL DATA FOR ACCURACY

In reviewing the WY 2024 Annual Report, TAC members had questions regarding the accuracy of multiple water level data records. These questions should be reviewed alongside the related water level data records and referenced values in the text and corrected or discussed.

6.1 Recommendations:

Review the anomalous, questionable, and/or incorrect values identified in TAC member comments BB-10, BB-12, BB-13, BB-19, TM-17, TM-18, and TM-19 in the attached tabulated comment matrix.

6.2 Technical Rationale for Recommendation:

The technical rationale for the recommendation above are included above and in the attached individual tabulated TAC comments.

6.3 Summary of Facts in Support of Recommendation:

Facts related to this recommendation are included above and in the attached individual tabulated TAC comments.

7. RECOMMENDATION 7: CONSIDER REVISING GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC DATA AND BETTER EXPLAIN CONTOURING DECISIONS

In reviewing the WY 2024 Annual Report, TAC members had questions regarding the omission and inclusion of specific data for generating groundwater elevation contours of some aquifers and portions of the Basin. Individual TAC member comments in the attached tabulated comment matrix identified specific water level measurements that could have been included in contouring.

7.1 Recommendations:

Consider revising contours based on information provided in TAC member comments BB-11, BB-14, BB-15, BB-16, and BB-18 in the attached tabulated comment matrix.

7.2 Technical Rationale for Recommendation:

TAC members identified data that could have been used in contouring; rationale for this recommendation is included in the referenced TAC member comments.

7.3 Summary of Facts in Support of Recommendation:

The facts related to these recommendations are included above and in the attached individual tabulated TAC comments.

8. RECOMMENDATION 8: CONSIDER ADDING CLARIFYING TEXT AND ADDRESSING TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS IN SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

TAC members identified multiple portions of the draft Water Year 2024 Annual Report that would benefit from the addition of clarification and/or correction of apparent typographical errors. The clarifications can be generally categorized into the following groups:

- New information
- Comparison of current conditions to 2015
- Presentation of streamflow data
- General text clarification
- Headings not matching text
- Map or graph title, labels, or legend edits

Recommendations relative to each category are summarized below and presented in the tabulated TAC comments attached to this Recommendation Report.

8.1 Recommendations:

- Consider adding text related to the following new or additional information:
 - On page 2-4 in section 2.1.1.4 well 03N19W31D07S is identified as having shown groundwater elevation increases between fall 2022 and fall 2023. The reason for this change and difference to other local conditions may reflect the fact that Calleguas Municipal Water District (CMWD) was pumping their aquifer storage recovery (ASR) wellfield during fall 2022 and then switched to injection from February through September 2023.
 - The list of significant new information in section 3.1.2 (page 3-1) should be expanded to note the inclusion of data from the CMWD three multi-level groundwater monitoring wells, which provided new stratigraphic data for the hydrostratigraphic model, characterization of vertical gradients, and expansion of the groundwater level monitoring network.
- Consider adding explanation for why current and recent conditions are compared to conditions in 2015. Readers unfamiliar with SGMA may not know the significance of 2015 in the context of sustainable groundwater management policy and may be confused.
- Consider adding additional discussion of streamflow conditions, specifically:
 - The text in section 1.2.2 and Table 1-1 discuss and show average daily streamflow values, which are biased by peak storm flows. Median values may be more informative. Consider showing and/or discussing median daily streamflow values in addition to the average values.
 - Consider adding text in section 1.2.2 clarifying the factors that affect streamflow volumes in Arroyo Las Posas. The text states that annual streamflow reflects precipitation, but flow in 2010 and 2011 was greater than flow in 2023 and 2024, while precipitation was greater in 2023 and 2024. This implies that other factors are also affecting streamflow.
- Consider editing and/or adding text to increase the clarity of the text as suggested in TAC member comments BB-3, BB-4, BA-6, TM-6, TM-21, TM-22, CT-3, CT-7, and CT-13 in the attached individual tabulated TAC comments.
- Consider revising the heading titles for sections 2.1.1 and 2.2.2.
 - The former is titled *Groundwater Elevation Contour Maps* but the text in the section discusses elevation changes by aquifer and specific well and does not exclusively include information relating to contour maps.
 - The latter is titled *Groundwater Elevation Hydrographs* but deals more with comparison to sustainable management criteria than to discussions limited to hydrographs.
- Consider addressing the map and graph title, label, and/or legend changes and comments in TAC member comments BB-7, BB-22, BB-24, BA-9, BA-10, BA-11, BA-12, TM-15, TM-16, TM-20, and CT-25.

- Consider addressing the apparent typographical errors identified in TAC member comments BB-21, BB-23, BA-5, BA-13, TM-4, TM-5, CT-1, CT-12, CT-14, CT-17, and CT-18.
- Consider assessing the organization of future Annual Reports and modifying to be consistent with the October 2023 *Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation: A Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, & Plan Amendments* guidance document from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

8.2 Technical Rationale for Recommendation:

The technical rationales for each of these recommendations are included above and in the attached individual tabulated TAC comments.

8.3 Summary of Facts in Support of Recommendation:

The facts related to these recommendations are included above and in the attached individual tabulated TAC comments.

TALLY OF COMMITTEE MEMBER VOTES

The TAC voted to approve the content of this Recommendation Report and authorize the TAC Administrator to submit it to the Watermaster in a meeting held February 11, 2025. The vote was unanimous, as shown below.

TAC Member	Vote			
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Chad Taylor, Chair	X			
Tony Morgan, East LPV Representative	X			
Bob Abrams, West LPV Representative	X			

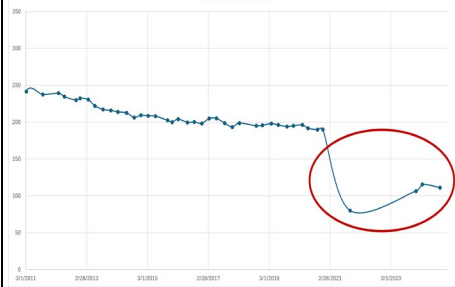
REPORT OF BASES FOR MAJORITY AND MINORITY COMMITTEE MEMBER POSITIONS

The TAC vote to present the recommendations above to the Watermaster was unanimous, as indicated above. The bases for the unanimous positions are described for each recommendation above. No minority positions were expressed by voting or non-voting TAC members.

Attachment 1

**TAC Member Comments on the Draft Las Posas Valley Basin
Groundwater Sustainability Plan 2025 Annual Report Covering Water
Year 2024**

Specific Comments from the Las Posas Valley Basin Technical Advisory Committee
Water Year 2024 Draft Annual Report

Comment ID	Commentor	Technical or Editorial Comment	Topic	Page Number	Section ID	Quoted Text	Comment
BB-1	Bryan Bondy	Technical		i	ES	<i>The average precipitation in the LPV between 2016 and 2024 was 16.4 inches per year.</i>	What is the significance of the 2016-2024 period?
BB-2	Bryan Bondy	Technical		Global	Global	N/A	Throughout the document values of groundwater levels, etc are compared to 2015 values. It is unclear what the relevance of comparing to 2015 values is because minimum thresholds are not pegged to 2015 conditions. Such comparisons may be unnecessary and potentially misleading absent context for why they are provided.
BB-3	Bryan Bondy	Technical		1-2	1.1.2	<i>The LAS of the LPV Basin is hydrogeologically connected to the LAS of the Oxnard Subbasin.</i>	For clarity, consider revising to say: "The LAS of the LPV -WLPMA Basin is hydrogeologically connected to the LAS of the Oxnard Subbasin."
BB-4	Bryan Bondy	Editorial		1-4	1.2.2	<i>There is one active streamflow gauging station in the LPV Basin.</i>	Statement and Figure 1-2 are in conflict. Figure 1-2 shows six "Recording Stream Gauges" in the LPVB.
BB-5	Bryan Bondy	Technical		1-4 - 1-5	1.2.2; Table 1-1	N/A	Text and Table 1-1 discuss / show data from WY 2010 - 2024. It is noted that the gauge has data prior to WY 2010. Why not showing earlier data? If cutting off older data, why WY 2010 vs. other sections that discuss data since SGMA (2015)? Seems arbitrary.
BB-6	Bryan Bondy	Technical		1-4 - 1-5	1.2.2; Table 1-1	N/A	Text and Table 1-1 discuss / show average daily values, which are biased by peak storm flows. Median values may be more informative. Consider showing/discussing medians in addition to the averages.
BB-7	Bryan Bondy	Editorial		N/A	Figures 2-1 - 2-10	Note 1 says "Well labels consist of an italicized abbreviated State Well Number (SWN)"	Labels on maps are not italicized.
BB-8	Bryan Bondy	Technical		N/A	Figures 2-1 - 2-10	N/A	An explanation should be provided for why values not used in contouring were omitted.
BB-9	Bryan Bondy	Editorial		N/A	Figures 2-3 & 2-4	N/A	Consider noting why there are no contours shown.
BB-10	Bryan Bondy	Technical		N/A	Section 2.1.1.3; Figures 2-5 & 2-6	N/A	There are a number of anomalous values in WLPMA. These wells should be looked at closer to reassess aquifer designation or to determine if they are suitable for monitoring.
BB-11	Bryan Bondy	Technical		N/A	Figures 2-7 & 2-8	N/A	Values for 07K02 and 08H02 should be used for contouring in ELPMA to show a more complete picture of the groundwater flow direction away from Arroyo Las Posas to the north. Similar comment in WLPMA for wells 08L03, 08G04, and 17F05.
BB-12	Bryan Bondy	Technical		N/A	Figure 2-8	N/A	Value for 27H03 is anomalous. GWL data for this well began deviating significantly from the long term trend in 2021. Please see graph provide with comment. 
BB-13	Bryan Bondy	Editorial		2-2	2.1.1.3	<i>In spring 2023, groundwater elevations in the Upper San Pedro Formation in the WLPMA ranged from a low of -49 ft. msl at well 02N21W15M03S to...</i>	-49.7 rounded is -50.
BB-14	Bryan Bondy	Technical		2-3	2.1.1.4	<i>Fall 2023 groundwater elevations in the FCA in the WLPMA ranged from a low of approximately -236 ft. msl at well 02N20W06R01S (Figure 2-7), which is located in the eastern portion of the WLPMA, to a high of -33 ft. msl at well 02N20W12H01S, which is located in the central portion of the WLPMA (Figure 2-7).</i>	The highest value is 08L03 at 4 feet above sea level. Please also see earlier comment about omitting this value in contouring.
BB-15	Bryan Bondy	Technical		2-3	2.1.1.4	<i>Spring 2024 groundwater elevations in the WLPMA ranged from a low of approximately -167 ft. msl at well 02N21W13A01S to a high of approximately -25 ft. msl at well 02N20W12H01S (Figure 2-8).</i>	The highest value is 08G04 at 22 feet above sea level. Please also see earlier comment about omitting this value in contouring.

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Comment ID	Commentor	Technical or Editorial Comment	Topic	Page Number	Section ID	Quoted Text	Comment
BB-16	Bryan Bondy	Technical		2-3	2.1.1.4	<i>In the ELPMA, fall 2023 groundwater elevations ranged from a high of approximately 297 ft. msl at well 02N20W11B02S, which is located near Arroyo Simi-Las Posas, to a low of approximately 113 ft. msl at well 02N20W03J01S, which is in the central portion of the ELPMA (Figure 2-7).</i>	The highest value is 08H02 at 467 feet above sea level. Please also see earlier comment about omitting this value in contouring.
BB-17	Bryan Bondy	Technical		2-4	2.1.1.4	The one exception to this is well 03N19W31D07S, where the fall 2023 groundwater elevation was approximately 44 feet higher than fall 2022.	Consider noting that the reason for this change and why it is different from other areas is because Calleguas MWD was pumping the ASR well field during Fall 2022 and then injected a considerable volume of water between in February through September 2023.
BB-18	Bryan Bondy	Technical		2-4	2.1.1.4	Spring 2024 groundwater elevations in the ELPMA ranged from a high of approximately 303 ft. msl at well 02N20W11B02S, which is located near Arroyo Simi-Las Posas, to a low of approximately 115 ft. msl at well 03N20W27H03S, which is in the northern ELPMA (Figure 2-8).	The highest value is 08H02 at 470 feet above sea level. Please also see earlier comment about omitting this value in contouring. Reported low value at 27H03 is an anomalous value- please see earlier comment about this data from this well.
BB-19	Bryan Bondy	Technical		2-7	2.1.2.1	<i>Spring 2024 groundwater elevations were above the measurable objective groundwater elevations at two (02N20W08F01S and 02N21W12H01S) of the three of the key wells measured in the WLPMA (Table 2-1; Figure 2-11).</i>	Per Table 2-1, 02N20W08F01S was below its MO.
BB-20	Bryan Bondy	Editorial		2-14	2.5	<i>Total available water is reported in Table 2-5 by water year.</i>	This sentence should reference Table 2-6, not 2-5.
BB-21	Bryan Bondy	Editorial		N/A	Figures 2-11 through 2-13	N/A	Solid blue circle is not explained in legends of these figures. Open blue circle is explained in legend of Figure 2-11, but not the others. Use of an open circle to indicate no measurement is misleading because it looks like a data point that does not really exist. Consider removing and just making a note about no measurement.
BB-22	Bryan Bondy	Editorial		N/A	Figures 2-11 through 2-13	<i>Note: 2025 Interim milestone groundwater elevations are not established for wells where 2015 groundwater elevations were higher than the established minimum thresholds</i>	This should read" "Note: 2025 Interim milestone groundwater elevations are not established for wells where 2015 groundwater elevations were higher than the established minimum thresholds-measurable objectives. "
BB-23	Bryan Bondy	Editorial		N/A	Figures 2-12b	N/A	There is a strange font on labels of some graphs.
BB-24	Bryan Bondy	Technical		3-1	3.1.2	N/A	The list of significant new information should be expanded to note the inclusion of data from Calleguas' three multi-level groundwater monitoring wells, which provided new stratigraphic data for the hydrostratigraphic model. characterization of vertical gradients, and expansion of the groundwater level monitoring network.
BA-1	Bob Abrams	General Technical	Sustainable yield	ii	Final sentence	<i>"These ongoing groundwater elevation declines in eastern WLPMA and northern ELPMA indicate that groundwater production from the LPV Basin exceeds the sustainable yield."</i>	This is an over-simplification. Sustainable yield is exceeded these two areas, but other parts of the Basin are doing better. Add <i>"in these areas "</i> to the end of this sentence? It would also be worth noting what management actions are being implemented to mitigate the over-production in these areas because that is the obvious next question for the local Groundwater Management Agency. Even if the management action is not finalized yet.
BA-2	Bob Abrams	General Technical	San Pedro GW elevations WLPMA	2-2	2.1.1.3	<i>"in western WLPMA and 3 to 15 feet in central WLPMA".</i>	A discussion of groundwater elevations in the San Pedro Formation in eastern WLPMA conspicuous by its absence. If this is because there are no SP Formation wells in eastern WLPMA, then say this is a data gap.
BA-3	Bob Abrams	Technical	GW Elevations in GCA	2-4	2.1.1.5	<i>"none were measured in fall 2023"; "Well 02N21W22G01S was not measured in spring 2023"; "Spring 2024 groundwater elevations were not measured in either of the two wells"</i>	Need to explain why there are no measurements in these key wells in key aquifers. The previous 2023 WY's report pp. 2-15 noted that "The FCGMA, as part of their GSP implementation activities, continues to evaluate opportunities to install dedicated monitoring wells and improve access/coordination with local operators to reduce these uncertainties and data gaps." Unless there are good reasons, it looks like this management action hasn't happened.
BA-4	Bob Abrams	Technical	Pumping Data	2-9	Table 2.2 and 2.3 and Table 2.6	<i>Footnotes in WY2023 data</i>	Disappointing that groundwater production has not been updated since March 2024 report was issued.
BA-5	Bob Abrams	Editorial	typo	2-14	2.5	<i>"Total available water is reported in Table 2-5 by water year"</i>	Table 2-6?
BA-6	Bob Abrams	Editorial	Acronym	2-14	2.5	<i>"AMI-estimated extractions"</i>	Spell out AMI
BA-7	Bob Abrams	Technical	Pumping Data	2-14	Table 2.6	<i>Footnotes in WY2023 data</i>	Disappointing that groundwater production has not been updated since March 2024 report was issued.
BA-8	Bob Abrams	Technical	Pumping Data	3-3	3.2	<i>"Collected groundwater use and extraction data to inform basin management."</i>	Incomplete Tables 2.2, 2.3 and 2.6 would suggest otherwise
BA-9	Bob Abrams	Technical	Groundwater contours		Figure 2-3 and Figure 2-4	<i>"Groundwater Elevation Contours in the Epworth Gravels Aquifer"</i>	Better title would be "Groundwater Elevations in the Epworth Gravels Aquifer" because there are no contours
BA-10	Bob Abrams	Technical	Groundwater contours		Figure 2-5	<i>"Groundwater Elevation Contours in the Upper San Pedro Aquifer.."</i>	Better title would be "Groundwater Elevations and Contours in the Epworth Gravels Aquifer"

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Comment ID	Commentor	Technical or Editorial Comment	Topic	Page Number	Section ID	Quoted Text	Comment
BA-11	Bob Abrams	Technical	Groundwater contours		Figure 2-6	"Groundwater Elevation Contours in the Upper San Pedro Aquifer.."	Better title would be "Groundwater Elevations in the Epworth Gravels Aquifer" because there are no contours
BA-12	Bob Abrams	Technical	Groundwater contours		Figures 2-9 and 2-10	"Groundwater Elevation Contours in the Upper San Pedro Aquifer.."	Better title would be "Groundwater Elevations in the Grimes Canyon Aquifer" because there are no contours
BA-13	Bob Abrams	Technical	Text box		Figure 2-12b	"c o e 2.2 Ele at o 281.6 ft MSL" "M r h 2.2 Ele a ion 260.2 ft MSL"	Problem with pdf conversion? Well 02N20W10J01S and Well 02N20W10G01S
TM-1	TMorgan	General Technical		2-7	2.1.2.2	Fall 2023 groundwater elevations were measured in three of the five key wells in the WLPMA.	With so few key wells in WLPMA, the loss of data from 40% of those wells (2/5 wells) is problematic. Recommend FCGMA and cooperating entities have a MOA that prescribes when the wells are to be monitored, who is responsible for measuring WLS, etc. It would be helpful to the reader to have a short explanation of why the well soundings were not performed (e.g., no access to well due to field conditions, loss of land access, etc.). Was this a one-off situation or a permanent change in data availability going forward?
TM-2	TMorgan	General Editorial	inaccurate section title	2-7	2.1.2	Groundwater Elevation Hydrographs	This section is titled "Groundwater Elevation Hydrographs", however the only reference to the hydrographs is to Figure 2-11. Suggest renaming this section "Groundwater Elevation" to more accurately reflect the text.
TM-3	TMorgan	General Technical	clarify text	2-8	2.2	These tables, and the narrative to this section, will be updated upon receipt of 2024 extraction data.	Does this mean that the 2025 Annual Report will be revised and re-issued OR will the 2024 extraction data be included in updated Tables 2-2 and 2-3 in the 2026 Annual Report. Suggest providing language to clarify to the reader how and when the missing data will be added to this report.
TM-4	TMorgan	General Editorial	typo	2-11	2.4	CWMD = Calleguas Municipal Water District	Abbreviation is incorrect in Table 2-4 Notes - should be CMWD
TM-5	TMorgan	General Editorial	typo	2-14	2.5	Total available water is reported in Table 2-5 by water year.	Should refer to Table 2-6. Also occurs in 2nd paragraph of this section.
TM-6	TMorgan	General Editorial	clarify text	2-14	2.5	reported AMI-estimated extractions	first use of AMI - spell it out for reader
TM-7	TMorgan	General Editorial	clarify text	2-14	2.5	c Groundwater extraction reporting for 2023 was updated based on additional extraction reporting.	The 2023 groundwater extraction information was updated in this report? In agency files AND this report? Explain to reader how the new data was accounted for.
TM-8	TMorgan	General Editorial	clarify text	2-14	2.5	d Groundwater extraction reporting for 2024 were unavailable at the time of reporting.	Like Section 2.2, when will these data become available? Help the reader understand FCGMA's plans for updating or amending this report.
TM-9	TMorgan	General Technical	clarify text	2-15	2.6	Because neither model simulates water years 2023 and 2024...	What is the plan with respect to the 2023 and 2024 data? Will this or future annual reports be revised when the groundwater models are rerun with these data?
TM-10	TMorgan	General Technical	clarify text	2-15	2.6	...the change in storage for those two water years was calculated using the series of linear regressions used in previous annual reports...	Has a comparison been done between the model-derived storage changes and the linear regression approach? Are we confident that the mix of analytical methods shown in Table 2-7a reasonably reflect reality? Should the linear regression values have a +/- range associated with them?
TM-11	TMorgan	Technical	inferences re: changes in storage	2-17	2.6.1.2	data contained in Table 2-7b	The FCA in the ELP model shows <u>above normal precipitation years</u> changing the storage from -393 to 5,962 AFY. The linear regression method infers storage changes at 6,030 and 5,271 AFY for the <u>wet years of 2023 and 2024</u> , respectively. With the linear regression method inferring storage changes in wet years only slightly greater than the modeled maximum in above normal years, does this imply that the linear regression method is underestimating storage change?
TM-12	TMorgan	Technical	reason for groundwater declines	3-1	3.1.1	The periodic evaluation found that groundwater production exceeding the sustainable yield is the primary cause of groundwater level declines in the eastern WLPMA and northern ELPMA.	Sustainable yield is a basin-wide, long term value. It seems too simplistic to say that a single years pumping (this is an annual report so we are focused on conditions for the most recent WY) is responsible for a single key well with declining water levels in eastern WLPMA. The report states "Elsewhere in the LPV Basin, where measured, groundwater elevations were either stable or increased between water years 2015 and 2024." That statement implies that groundwater extractions in excess of the long-term sustainable yield have NOT resulted in basin-wide groundwater level declines? Seems like language to the effect of "Long-term water levels were either stable or increasing between WY 2015 and 2024, however groundwater level declines were identified in the eastern WLPMA and northern ELPMA. The current monitoring well network is insufficient to determine if these declines are a function of localized pumping patterns and/or differing aquifer hydraulic properties. Further research is needed to better understand the hydrologic dynamics in these areas."
TM-13	TMorgan	General Technical	water level data	5-19	Fig 2-5	Contours	Why contour the wells in ELP? There are so few wells. Not sure it has significant meaning. Wells in WLP are not contoured.
TM-14	TMorgan	General Technical	water level data	5-23	Fig 2-7 & 2-8	Contours	Not sure how helpful the small portion of the basins that are contoured really are. A color ramp of the GW elevations at each well might be a simpler way to present these data.

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Comment ID	Commentor	Technical or Editorial Comment	Topic	Page Number	Section ID	Quoted Text	Comment
TM-15	TMorgan	General Technical	hydrographs	5-31	Fig 2-11	Labels	The blue open circles plotted on the hydrographs are labelled as "...Elevation Not Measured" and "Measurements not collected between October 2 and October 29, 2023 or March 2 and March 29, 2023. So, if the hydrograph shows a blue open circle (representing a value), but the data point is labelled as "...Elevation Not Measured", please clarify how to interpret these data points.
TM-16	TMorgan	General Technical	hydrographs	5-31	Fig 2-11	Labels	Is the black line referring to pressure transducer data? If so, suggest adding that to label. If not, add that they are manual measurements. why are there manual VCWPD WLE measurements shown for 06R01S?
TM-17	TMorgan	General Technical	hydrographs	5-31	Fig 2-11	Hydrograph for 12H01S	Why does this graph show a ~100ft decline in the WLE from ~2012-2014? Is that real? If so, it warrants and explanation in the text. If it is a graphing artifact, then recommend regraphing to eliminate the decline.
TM-18	TMorgan	General Technical	hydrographs	5-35	Fig 2-12b	Hydrograph for 01B02	Did the WLE actually rise ~200 ft then fall ~200 ft as depicted in the hydrograph? Looks like a suspect data point(s) are included in the plot. Suggest adding a note indicating that this (these) data point(s) are suspect, if that is the appropriate explanation.
TM-19	TMorgan	General Technical	hydrographs	5-35	Fig 2-12b	Hydrograph for 01D02	Why the 60 ft rise in WLE from October 2023 and March 2024 when over the previous +/-50 yrs the annual WLE fluctuation was in the 10-20 ft range?
TM-20	TMorgan	General Editorial	hydrographs	5-35	Fig 2-12b	Data point labels	Data point labels for 01G01S and 10J01S have missing letters.
TM-21	TMorgan	General Technical	project suite	3-2	3.1.2	Expanded project suite to include:	Suggest adding "potential" to phrase. "Expanded potential project suite to include:..."
TM-22	TMorgan	General Technical	recommendations	3-2	3.1.3	This could include the construction of new dedicated monitoring wells	Suggest adding a phrase to this sentence - "This could include the construction of new dedicated monitoring wells, incorporation of additional monitored stakeholder owned wells, and the development...."
CT-1	Chad Taylor	Editorial	typo	i	ES, 4th paragraph	In the WLPMA, the volume of groundwater in storage increased by approximately 4,400 AF in water year 2024, with the largest increases occurring in the western portion of management area, near the Oxnard Subbasin.	In the WLPMA, the volume of groundwater in storage increased by approximately 4,400 AF in water year 2024, with the largest increases occurring in the western portion of the management area, near the Oxnard Subbasin.
CT-2	Chad Taylor	Technical	Water level declines and sustainable yield	ii	ES, last sentence of section	These ongoing groundwater elevation declines in eastern WLPMA and northern ELPMA indicate that groundwater production from the LPV Basin exceeds the sustainable yield.	While it may be true that production has exceeded sustainable yield basin-wide, groundwater elevation declines could occur in these areas even if basin-wide groundwater use was less than the sustainable yield. This statement should be expanded to provide more detail.
CT-3	Chad Taylor	Editorial	Acronym definition	1-1	1.1.1, first sentence of first paragraph	and all agricultural and M&I users	Define M&I
CT-4	Chad Taylor	Technical	Recent weather conditions	1-4	1.2.1	The average annual precipitation in the LPV between 2016 and 2024 was 16.4 inches per year, which is approximately 6% higher than the 1956 to 2024 average.	Recommend indicating why this statistic matters
CT-5	Chad Taylor	Technical	Recent streamflow and precipitation	1-4 - 1-5	1.2.2; Table 1-1 and last paragraph of section	Average daily flows in Arroyo Las Posas reflect the water year precipitation (Section 1.2.1) with the highest daily average flows (over 30 cfs) measured at gauge 841A during the 2010 to 2024 period occurring in 2010, 2011, 2017, 2023, and 2024. Water years 2010, 2011, and 2017 were above normal water years in which water year precipitation was approximately 140% of the long-term mean. Water years 2023 and 2024 were wet water years in which water year precipitation was approximately 185% of the long-term average (Table 1-1; Figure 1-4).	Why was flow in 2010 and 2011 greater than 2023 and 2024 when precipitation was greater in 2023 and 2024? If this is correct then the statement in the first sentence of the paragraph may be a partial explanation of the relationship between flow in the Arroyo and precipitation.
CT-6	Chad Taylor	Technical	Report organization	1-5	1.3	This annual report is organized according to the GSP Emergency Regulations.	What about organizing and including formats and information indicated in the October 2023 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation: A Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, & Plan Amendments guidance document from DWR?
CT-7	Chad Taylor	Editorial	Technical terminology	2-1	2.1, first paragraph	These maps show the seasonal low (fall 2023) and high (spring 2024) groundwater elevations for the 2024 water year. Groundwater elevations are best constrained in the FCA (Figures 2-7 and 2-8), and least constrained in the GCA (Figures 2-9 and 2-10).	Consider defining the term "constrained" for non-technical readers.
CT-8	Chad Taylor	Editorial	Heading title	2-1	2.1.1 heading name	Groundwater Elevation Contour Maps	While groundwater elevation contour maps are discussed in this section, it presents other information about location specific elevation changes etc. Consider changing heading to reflect contents of the section.
CT-9	Chad Taylor	Editorial	Heading title	2-7	2.1.2 heading name	Groundwater Elevation Hydrographs	This section appears to deal more with comparison to sustainable management criteria than presentation and/or discussion of hydrographs. Consider changing heading to reflect the contents of the section.

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Comment ID	Commentor	Technical or Editorial Comment	Topic	Page Number	Section ID	Quoted Text	Comment
CT-10	Chad Taylor	Technical	Groundwater elevation monitoring	2-7	2.1.2.1 and 2.1.2.2	<p><i>Fall 2023 groundwater elevations were measured in three of the five key wells in the WLPMA. The elevations at two of these wells were below the measurable objectives (Table 2-1; Figure 2-11). Spring 2024 groundwater elevations were above the measurable objective groundwater elevations at two (02N20W08F01S and 02N21W12H01S) of the three of the key wells measured in the WLPMA (Table 2-1; Figure 2-11).</i></p> <p><i>Fall 2023 groundwater elevations were measured in three of the five key wells in the WLPMA. The elevations at two of these wells, wells 02N20W06R01S and 02N21W11J03S, were below the minimum thresholds (Table 2-1). Spring 2024 groundwater elevations were above the minimum threshold groundwater elevations at all of the key wells measured in the WLPMA (Table 2-1; Figure 2-11).</i></p>	3 out of 5 is 60 percent of key wells in the WLPMA, which is problematic for monitoring sustainability. 2/3 of the monitored wells below the MT speaks to a greater need to monitor all the Key Wells.
CT-11	Chad Taylor	Technical	Groundwater use records	2-8	2.2	<i>[Water year 2024 groundwater extraction data were not available at the time of reporting. Accordingly, Tables 2-2 and 2-3 summarize extraction information through the end of water year 2023. These tables, and the narrative to this section, will be updated upon receipt of 2024 extraction data. Additionally, because water year 2024 data are not available, Figure 2-14, which displays the spatial distribution of groundwater extractions in the LPV Basin, has not been prepared. This figure will be prepared upon receipt of 2024 extraction data.]</i>	These missing data make a complete technical assessment of conditions in the LPV Basin challenging.
CT-12	Chad Taylor	Editorial	Typo	2-14	2.5, second paragraph	<i>Similar to Table 2-2 and 2-3, the groundwater extractions for water years 2021 and 2022 presented in Table 2-5</i>	Appears that this reference should be Table 2-6.
CT-13	Chad Taylor	Editorial	Acronym definition	2-14	2.5, second paragraph	<i>a combination of reported AMI-estimated extractions for the period</i>	Consider defining the acronym AMI
CT-14	Chad Taylor	Editorial	Footnotes	2-14	Table 2-6	<i>2022^c 2023^d</i>	These footnotes in the table appear to be applied to the wrong years.
CT-15	Chad Taylor	Technical	Change in storage estimation	2-14 to 2-15	2.6	<i>Because neither model simulates water years 2023 and 2024, the change in storage for those two water years was calculated using the series of linear regressions used in previous annual reports (FCGMA 2022, 2023, 2024a). The estimated change in storage calculated using this method differs from the estimates presented in the Periodic Evaluation, which were based on measured groundwater elevation changes from a smaller subset of wells. The series of linear regressions employed here better capture the spatial variability in storage change but are limited to the FCA (Table 2-7b; Figure 2-15).</i>	Is a comparison of the model-based and regression-based change in storage estimates available? How much difference is there in the changes in storage presented previously to those in this annual report?
CT-16	Chad Taylor	Technical	Water level declines and sustainable yield	3-1	3.1.1	<i>The periodic evaluation found that groundwater production exceeding the sustainable yield is the primary cause of groundwater level declines in the eastern WLPMA and northern ELPMA.</i>	As in Comment CT-2, while it may be true that production has exceeded sustainable yield basin-wide, groundwater elevation declines could occur in these areas even if basin-wide groundwater use was less than the sustainable yield. This statement should be expanded to provide more detail.
CT-17	Chad Taylor	Editorial	typo	3-3	3.2, bullet 4	<i>*Consulted with the LPV TAC to inform development of the LPV Basin Optimization Yield Study, a study planned for completion in 2025 that will inform the Rampdown Rate required to achieve long-term groundwater sustainability by 2040.11</i>	The 11 after 2040 appears to be a typographical error
CT-18	Chad Taylor	Editorial	typo	3-4	3.3	<i>On December 9, 2024, FCGMA submitted the initial draft Basin Optimization Plan for review and consultation to the LPV PAC and TAC.</i>	The draft of the Basin Optimization Plan was submitted to the TAC on December 12, 2024
CT-19	Chad Taylor	Technical	Groundwater contours	5-11 and 5-13	Figures 2-1 and 2-2		How were the contours upstream of 07G01 defined in both shallow alluvial aquifer maps and also the contours downstream of 09Q08 in Figure 2-1? There do not appear to be wells with measured water levels up and downstream of these wells for generating contours.
CT-20	Chad Taylor	Technical	Groundwater contours	5-15 and 5-17	Figures 2-3 & 2-4		Recommend explaining why there are no contours for the Epworth Gravels Area in these two figures, both of which are titled 'Groundwater Elevation Contours...'

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Comment ID	Commentor	Technical or Editorial Comment	Topic	Page Number	Section ID	Quoted Text	Comment
CT-21	Chad Taylor	Technical	Groundwater contours	5-19	Figure 2-5		Why weren't the wells in WLPMA included in the contouring for the USP aquifer? There are measurements not in parentheses in WLPMA.
CT-22	Chad Taylor	Technical	Groundwater contours	5-21	Figure 2-6		Why are there no contours drawn on this figure? Recommend explaining why contours weren't created for the USP aquifer for this period.
CT-23	Chad Taylor	Technical	Groundwater contours	5-23	Figure 2-7		The 20 foot contour interval makes the northern ELPMA appear flat when there is significant complexity in the area. Recommend either modifying the contour interval for this area
CT-24	Chad Taylor	Technical	Groundwater contours	5-23 and 5-25	Figures 2-7 & 2-8		How were the contours in the neighboring basins developed, what is the assumed relationship between the Oxnard basin and the WLPMA and the Pleasant Valley basin and ELPMA, and how was this relationship used in the preparation of these contours. If the areas were contoured separately, recommend removing the contours from the neighboring basins from the maps. Otherwise, the apparent hydrologic disconnection between the basins should be discussed.
CT-25	Chad Taylor	Technical	Groundwater contours	5-31 through 5-39	Figures 2-11 through 2-13		Finding the locations of the hydrograph wells is challenging. Consider including a map with pointers to well locations if continuing to present multiple hydrographs on a single figure. Otherwise, the recommended format from the DWR October 2023 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation: A Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, & Plan Amendments guidance document is a good way to show all the information a reader is interested in seeing on hydrographs.

LAS POSAS VALLEY WATERMASTER RESPONSE REPORT

Date: March 15, 2025

To: Las Posas Valley Watermaster Board of Directors

From: Kudzai Farai Kaseke, Assistant Groundwater Manager (FCGMA)

Re: Response Report to TAC Recommendation Report – Draft Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan 2025 Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024

The Las Posas Valley Watermaster (Watermaster) requested consultation from the Las Posas Valley Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on the Draft Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 2025 Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024. The Watermaster requested consultation in a memo to TAC dated January 15, 2025.

The TAC discussed and developed its recommendation report at January 21, February 4, and February 11, 2025, meetings. TAC's February 11, 2025, recommendation report included eight recommendations and an attachment with 84 comments by each of the TAC members on specific sections of the draft Annual Report. Each of these recommendations is listed below followed by Watermaster's response. Watermaster's responses to the 84 specific recommendations are attached.

Recommendation 1: CLARIFY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WATER LEVELS IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE BASIN AND SUSTAINABLE YIELD

Sustainable yield is a basin-wide, long-term metric for assessing overall groundwater basin conditions. There are two locations in the text where ongoing water level declines in the eastern part of the West Las Posas Management Area (WLPMA) and northern East Las Posas Management Area (ELPMA) are attributed to basin-wide production in excess of sustainable yield. It is overly simplistic to say that these localized declines are the result of basin-wide exceedance of sustainable yield. There must be a local reason that water levels in these specific areas are declining when they are relatively stable in other parts of the Las Posas Valley Basin (Basin).

1.1 Recommendations:

To reduce the number of model simulation iterations required to identify the volume of in lieu delivery that would achieve local sustainability the TAC recommends the following:

- Consider revising these specific statements regarding local water level declines and sustainable yield at the end of the Executive Summary and in section 3.1.1.
- Edits should at a minimum indicate that local pumping in excess of recharge is the likely cause of water level declines.
- Consider also indicating that additional information and analysis may be necessary to define the affected areas and identify projects and management actions to address the ongoing declines. Additional information could include more consistent groundwater elevation monitoring at increased geographic density and analyses could include local pumping and water level change rates.

Response to Recommendation 1:

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), sustainable yield is defined as “the maximum quantity of water, calculated over a base period representative of long-term conditions in the basin and including any temporary surplus, that can be withdrawn annually from a groundwater supply without causing an undesirable result.” The GSP (FCGMA 2019) defined minimum thresholds at key wells in the WLPMA, ELPMA, and Epworth Gravels Management Area, which may indicate an undesirable result is occurring if groundwater elevations are below one or more minimum thresholds.

Groundwater elevation declines in the eastern portion of the WLPMA are in an area of a long-term groundwater depression near the Somis Fault that forms the boundary between the ELPMA and the WLPMA. Groundwater elevations at one key well in this area are typically below the minimum threshold. Pumping in this area at a rate greater than recharge is causing depression of groundwater elevations. Groundwater modeling indicates that a proposed project to purchase imported water from Calleguas Municipal Water District for delivery in lieu of pumping in this area, that was proposed in the GSP, discussed in the First Periodic Evaluation of the GSP (FCGMA 2024), and in the draft Basin Optimization Plan (FCGMA 2024), would likely mitigate the declining groundwater elevations in this area.

Groundwater elevations have exhibited a declining trend in key wells in the northern portion of the ELPMA. Recharge to the Fox Canyon Aquifer in this area appears to be primarily from slow leakage from the overlying Upper San Pedro Formation, which exhibits little influence from precipitation or water-year type. While groundwater elevations have not yet declined below the minimum thresholds, groundwater modeling conducted for the GSP and the First Periodic Evaluation of the GSP forecast that groundwater elevations will decline below minimum thresholds unless projects are implemented and/or extractions reduced. Pumping in this area is occurring at a rate greater than recharge can support. A feasibility study to identify possible supplemental water supply sources for the northern ELPMA was added to the GSP list of projects in the 2022 Annual Report (FCGMA 2022), discussed in the First Periodic Evaluation of the GSP (FCGMA 2024), and in the draft Basin Optimization Plan (FCGMA 2024). Supply of imported water in lieu of pumping in this area should help to mitigate the long-term groundwater elevation decline in this area.

The text in section 3.1.1 of the Annual Report has been revised to better coincide with the findings in the First Periodic Evaluation:

The Periodic Evaluation found that the depressed groundwater elevations in the eastern WLPMA and declining groundwater elevations in the northern ELPMA reflect ongoing groundwater production in areas of limited groundwater recharge. Projects identified in the Periodic Evaluation would provide imported water in lieu of pumping in these areas of the LPV Basin.

Text in the Executive Summary was similarly revised.

The analysis recommended in TAC’s the third bullet is beyond the scope of the Annual Report, which is essentially a data report. This analysis was addressed in the First Periodic Evaluation of the GSP and will be in the Basin Optimization Plan. As addressed, it will be discussed in the implementation section of future annual reports.

Recommendation 2: ADD DISCUSSION AND COMPARISON OF THE REGRESSION CHANGE IN STORAGE ESTIMATION METHOD AND THE MODEL-BASED METHOD

The TAC is interested in seeing a comparison of the results of the change in storage methods referenced in the Annual Report. In the discussion of change in storage, the Annual Report indicates that previously presented change in storage estimates for the period from 2015 through 2022 were updated following extensions of the models for both the WLPMA and ELPMA completed as part of the 2025 Periodic Evaluation of the LPV GSP. However, the Annual Report does not present the difference these change in storage volume updates represent compared to those reported previously. An accounting of the difference between the changes in storage presented in previous annual reports and those in the WY Annual Report should be included along with a discussion of the differences between the model-based and regression-based methods for estimating change in storage.

2.1 Recommendations:

1. Include comparison of model-based change in storage estimates presented in the WY 2024 Annual Report to those for the same years in previous annual reports derived from the regression-based method.
2. Discuss the differences in change in storage estimates between these two methods.
3. Consider completing a thorough assessment of the differences in outcome of these two methods for estimating changes in storage and presenting it in future annual reports
4. Consider developing a plan for how future model updates and resulting differences in change in storage estimates presented in annual reports and other publications will be retroactively adjusted. This plan should be included in future annual reports (and the WY 2024 Annual Report, if possible) and summarized or referenced in other documents that include change in storage estimates.
5. Standardize the years for which changes in storage are reported for all management areas. Table 2-7a shows change in storage for 2019 through 2024 for the Lower Aquifer System of the WLPMA while Table 2-7b shows 2016 through 2024 changes in storage for all ELPMA and Epworth Gravels Management Area aquifers.

Response to Recommendation 2:

Consistent with Watermaster's current understanding of the groundwater conditions in the LPV Basin, the annual and cumulative change in storage in the LPV Basin are reported as a mix of both modeled estimates and estimates from linear regression correlations based on the United Water Conservation District (UWCD) and Calleguas Municipal Water District (CMWD) models used during development of the GSP. While the two methods do not provide the same estimate of storage change, and should not be expected to provide the same estimate of storage change, the mix of approaches reflects the best available tools available to the Watermaster at this time.

The modeled estimates, which extend through water year 2022, are taken from the updated change-in-storage estimates calculated as part of groundwater modeling for the Periodic Evaluation. These estimates are more constrained and, therefore, provide a more comprehensive assessment of storage change in the LPV Basin than the linear regression estimates. Consequently, these estimates were used where available. SGMA regulations do not, however, require groundwater

modeling to be conducted for each annual report. Therefore, in order to estimate the change in storage for water years 2023 and 2024, which were not included in the updated modeling for the Periodic Evaluation, Watermaster relied on the previously developed linear regressions to estimate change in storage for these water years. The calculation methods are provided for the reader to better understand the data presented, but a detailed comparison of model-based change in storage estimates to the linear regression-based estimates, is beyond the scope of the Annual Report.

Since the system of linear regressions was developed, UWCD has updated the numerical groundwater model for the WLPMA. In the upcoming year, Watermaster will review the need to revise and update the system of linear regressions based on the updated model to see if the correlation can be improved for future annual reports. If revisions to the 2023 and 2024 estimates of storage change are required as a result of this update, Watermaster will include these revisions in the next annual report. Historically, Watermaster has not retroactively revised previous reports, but rather treats the current annual report as the most up-to-date understanding of basin conditions. Updated values in tables that report historical data are footnoted when those values have changed from previous annual reports so that the reader is aware of the difference.

In the final TAC comment above, TAC noted that Tables 2-7a and 2-7b show different time periods. Watermaster notes that they both begin in water year 2016, although Table 2-7a spans two pages. Water years 2016, 2017, and 2018 are reported on the page above, while the table header spans both pages.

Finally, Watermaster notes that estimates of change in storage are constrained by available monitoring facilities and monitoring data. Watermaster is actively working to improve the monitoring network. These improvements will reduce data gaps and better constrain future estimates of storage change.

Recommendation 3: PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON WATER YEAR 2024 GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION MISSING FROM THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

The draft WY 2024 Annual Report was submitted to the TAC for review without groundwater production records for the water year. Not having these data makes assessing groundwater sustainability conditions in the Basin challenging. We understand there were difficulties compiling groundwater use records in the first year of implementation of a new data collection system. However, comparison of groundwater use over time in to monitored water level conditions and estimated changes in storage is an important function of GSP annual reporting. The TAC anticipated the Watermaster would provide these missing data during the WY 2024 Annual Report review period, but they have not been made available to date.

3.1 Recommendations:

1. Provide groundwater use data to the TAC for review as soon as possible.
2. Review and revise groundwater use reporting and data processing procedures so that these important data are available for inclusion in future draft annual reports prior to committee review.

Response to Recommendation 3:

The Watermaster does not receive groundwater production data from pumpers in time to review, compile, and incorporate it into the draft Annual Report prior to the January 15 deadline set by the Judgment for TAC and PAC review. The extraction data will be incorporated into the Annual Report that is provided to DWR.

Recommendation 4: CONTINUE WORKING TO CONSISTENTLY COLLECT WATER LEVEL AND OTHER DATA FROM THE BASIN MONITORING NETWORK

The TAC noted that there are monitoring wells designated as Key Wells in the GSP for which sustainable management criteria (SMCs) have been established that are inconsistently monitored. The TAC acknowledges that these problems were identified and commented on in the TAC review of the first GSP periodic evaluation for the Basin and that the period reflected in the WY 2024 Annual Report is the same as that discussed in the periodic evaluation. However, the TAC also notes that previous annual reports have included statements recognizing these deficiencies and the Watermaster's efforts to address them when first discussing the missing data. The WY 2024 Annual Report does not present a similar statement or commitment to addressing the problem until discussion of the periodic evaluation in section 3.

4.1 Recommendations:

- Continue to include statements regarding Watermaster efforts to address groundwater monitoring consistency problems when presenting monitoring results.

Response to Recommendation 4:

Annual Report section 2.1 has been revised to include the following statement:

FCGMA is working to formalize agreements with partner agencies that monitor specific wells to help ensure that timely monitoring is conducted within the two-week window to reduce ongoing data gaps. Additionally, proposed projects identified in the First Periodic Evaluation of the GSP to install new multi-depth monitoring wells and install transducers in certain existing wells to further reduce data gaps.

Recommendation 5: CONSIDER ADDING TO THE DISCUSSION AND EXPLANATION OF GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOUR MAPS TO INCLUDE RATIONALE FOR CONTOURING DECISIONS

When reviewing the groundwater elevation contour maps and related discussion in the WY 2024 Annual Report, TAC members had questions regarding specific decisions to include and/or omit contour data for multiple aquifers and areas of the Basin. These questions included:

- Why were the values identified as not used in contouring omitted?
- How were the Shallow Alluvial aquifer contours upstream of 07G01 defined in both shallow alluvial aquifer maps (Figures 2-1 and 2-2) and also the contours downstream of 09Q08 in Figure 2-1? There do not appear to be wells with measured water levels up and downstream of these wells for generating contours.
- Why were contours not generated for the Epworth Gravels aquifer?
- Why was only a portion of the ELPMA contoured for the Upper San Pedro aquifer in fall

2023 when there were data for the WLPMA for that period and why were no contours created for this aquifer for spring 2024?

- Why is so little of the Fox Canyon aquifer contoured in Figures 2-7 and 2-8? Are all the omitted data really from the aquifer? Is there another way to better show the spatial distribution of groundwater elevations in this aquifer?
- How were the contours in the neighboring basins shown for the Fox Canyon Aquifer on Figures 2-7 and 2-8 developed? What is the assumed relationship between the Oxnard basin and the WLPMA and the Pleasant Valley basin and ELPMA, and how was this relationship used in the preparation of these contours?

5.1 Recommendations:

1. Consider including additional discussion regarding groundwater elevation contouring decisions in the text to help readers understand the information presented on the maps in Figures 2-1 through 2-10.
2. Consider removing groundwater elevation contours for the neighboring Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins or explain in the text the hydraulic relationship the contours illustrate.

Response to Recommendation 5:

Responses to the bulleted questions, which were extracted from the table of specific TAC member comments, are addressed in the attached table which provides responses to each specific comment. Responses to the two recommendations are:

1. The draft groundwater contour maps were constructed consistent with the approach used in the GSP and each of the previous five annual reports. Some of the maps were revised based on TAC comments, which should provide more clarity. However, a discussion of how each map was constructed is beyond the scope of the Annual Report.
2. The draft groundwater contour maps were constructed consistent with the approach used in the GSP and each of the previous five annual reports. Figures 2-7 and 2-8, the groundwater elevation contours for the Fox Canyon Aquifer in fall 2023 and spring 2024, respectively, show elevation contours in portions of the Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Basin adjacent to the WLPMA. When sufficient monitoring data are available in the western portion of the WLPMA, groundwater elevations are contoured across the boundary of the WLPMA and the Oxnard Subbasin for the Fox Canyon Aquifer, as there is no hydraulic barrier at this boundary. However, the Springville Fault Zone restricts groundwater flow between the WLPMA and the Pleasant Valley Basin to the south.

Watermaster notes that a new multi-depth monitoring well cluster was installed in the Oxnard Subbasin adjacent to the boundary with the WLPMA. Additionally, Watermaster is working to formalize agreements with partner agencies collecting groundwater monitoring data to help assure that these data are collected in a regular, timely manner, which will assist in preparing groundwater contour maps in the future.

Watermaster does not believe it appropriate to change the approach used to preparing the groundwater contour maps for the 2025 Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024 due to the present

time constraints of acceptance by the Watermaster Board and submittal to DWR by April 1, 2025. However, Watermaster plans to consult with TAC on the approach to preparing groundwater contour maps for future reports.

Recommendation 6: CHECK WATER LEVEL DATA FOR ACCURACY

In reviewing the WY 2024 Annual Report, TAC members had questions regarding the accuracy of multiple water level data records. These questions should be reviewed alongside the related water level data records and referenced values in the text and corrected or discussed.

6.1 Recommendations:

Review the anomalous, questionable, and/or incorrect values identified in TAC member comments BB-10, BB-12, BB-13, BB-19, TM-17, TM-18, and TM-19 in the attached tabulated comment matrix.

Response to Recommendation 6:

TAC members identified several potentially anomalous groundwater elevations in the draft Annual Report. A couple of clearly anomalous data points were removed from the hydrographs. In other cases, Watermaster does not have sufficient information regarding collection of data to justify rejection of certain data points. As discussed above, Watermaster notes that groundwater elevations are monitored by partner agencies and Watermaster is working to formalize agreements for those agencies to conduct timely monitoring. Additionally, the agreements should provide Watermaster with more detailed information regarding the monitoring methodologies and conditions observed during monitoring by the partner agencies.

Comments included suggestions to re-evaluate the aquifer designations or suitability of some of the wells for monitoring, especially in the Upper San Pedro (USP) Formation, which Watermaster agrees is a good suggestion. Watermaster notes that the USP is not identified as a primary aquifer.

Responses to each specific TAC member comment are included in the attached table.

Recommendation 7: CONSIDER REVISING GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC DATA AND BETTER EXPLAIN CONTOURING DECISIONS

In reviewing the WY 2024 Annual Report, TAC members had questions regarding the omission and inclusion of specific data for generating groundwater elevation contours of some aquifers and portions of the Basin. Individual TAC member comments in the attached tabulated comment matrix identified specific water level measurements that could have been included in contouring.

7.1 Recommendations:

Consider revising contours based on information provided in TAC member comments BB-11, BB-14, BB-15, BB-16, and BB-18 in the attached tabulated comment matrix.

Response to Recommendation 7:

Responses to specific TAC member comments are provided on the attached table and the groundwater contour maps and text have been revised, where appropriate. Please see the response to Recommendation 5 regarding the groundwater contour maps for the 2025 Annual Report Covering Water Year 2024.

Recommendation 8: CONSIDER ADDING CLARIFYING TEXT AND ADDRESSING TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS IN SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

TAC members identified multiple portions of the draft Water Year 2024 Annual Report that would benefit from the addition of clarification and/or correction of apparent typographical errors. The clarifications can be generally categorized into the following groups:

- New information
- Comparison of current conditions to 2015
- Presentation of streamflow data
- General text clarification
- Headings not matching text
- Map or graph title, labels, or legend edits

Recommendations relative to each category are summarized below and presented in the tabulated TAC comments attached to this Recommendation Report.

8.1 Recommendations:

1. Consider adding text related to the following new or additional information:
 - a. On page 2-4 in section 2.1.1.4 well 03N19W31D07S is identified as having shown groundwater elevation increases between fall 2022 and fall 2023. The reason for this change and difference to other local conditions may reflect the fact that Calleguas Municipal Water District (CMWD) was pumping their aquifer storage recovery (ASR) wellfield during fall 2022 and then switched to injection from February through September 2023.
 - b. The list of significant new information in section 3.1.2 (page 3-1) should be expanded to note the inclusion of data from the CMWD three multi-level groundwater monitoring wells, which provided new stratigraphic data for the hydrostratigraphic model, characterization of vertical gradients, and expansion of the groundwater level monitoring network.
2. Consider adding explanation for why current and recent conditions are compared to conditions in 2015. Readers unfamiliar with SGMA may not know the significance of 2015 in the context of sustainable groundwater management policy and may be confused.
3. Consider adding additional discussion of streamflow conditions, specifically:
 - a. The text in section 1.2.2 and Table 1-1 discuss and show average daily streamflow values, which are biased by peak storm flows. Median values may be more informative. Consider showing and/or discussing median daily streamflow values in addition to the average values.
 - b. Consider adding text in section 1.2.2 clarifying the factors that affect streamflow volumes in Arroyo Las Posas. The text states that annual streamflow reflects precipitation, but flow in 2010 and 2011 was greater than flow in 2023 and 2024, while precipitation was greater in 2023 and 2024. This implies that other factors are also affecting streamflow.
4. Consider editing and/or adding text to increase the clarity of the text as suggested in TAC member comments BB-3, BB-4, BA-6, TM-6, TM-21, TM-22, CT-3, CT-7, and CT-

13 in the attached individual tabulated TAC comments.

5. Consider revising the heading titles for sections 2.1.1 and 2.2.2.
 - a. The former is titled *Groundwater Elevation Contour Maps* but the text in the section discusses elevation changes by aquifer and specific well and does not exclusively include information relating to contour maps.
 - b. The latter is titled Groundwater Elevation Hydrographs but deals more with comparison to sustainable management criteria than to discussions limited to hydrographs.
6. Consider addressing the map and graph title, label, and/or legend changes and comments in TAC member comments BB-7, BB-22, BB-24, BA-9, BA-10, BA-11, BA- 12, TM-15, TM-16, TM-20, and CT-25.
7. Consider addressing the apparent typographical errors identified in TAC member comments BB-21, BB-23, BA-5, BA-13, TM-4, TM-5, CT-1, CT-12, CT-14, CT-17, and CT-18.

Consider assessing the organization of future Annual Reports and modifying to be consistent with the October 2023 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation: A Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, & Plan Amendments guidance document from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Response to Recommendation 8:

The first draft 2025 Annual Report was provided to TAC consistent with Judgment schedule, which precluded the level of review usually conducted before releasing a draft report. The accelerated schedule, regrettably, resulted in a number of typographical errors in this draft.

The draft 2025 Annual Report text was reviewed and revised where appropriate in response to TAC’s recommendations. The text and tables of the GSP 2025 Annual Report have been revised, where appropriate, in response to TAC member comments provided in the table attached to the recommendation report. Detailed responses to each of the TAC member comments are included in the attached table.

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Las Posas Valley Watermaster

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Annual Report for the Las Posas Valley Basin for Water Year 2024

Item 21

March 26, 2025



Robert Hampson
Hydrologist



Background

6th Annual Report

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirement

Due April 1, following adoption of the GSP (California Water Code, §10728)

Reports cover the water year October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024

Data report with additional requirements pursuant to the LPV Judgement, including Committee Consultation

Watermaster Rules 2.7.10 Exhibit A

- (a) Annual Allocation Accounting;
- (b) Progress on Basin Optimization Plan;
- (c) Comprehensive Accounting of Calleguas ASR Project Operations;
- (d) Watermaster Budget then in effect;
- (e) An annual fiscal report of the preceding Water Year's operation;
- (f) An audit of all assessments and expenditures;
- (g) A review of Watermaster activities;
- (h) An updated Groundwater Allocation Schedule;
- (i) The Annual Allocations Calculation;
- (j) The Annual Allocations Accounting;
- (k) A list of delinquent assessments;
- (l) Compilations of the following:
 - (i) Hydrologic data collection;
 - (ii) Purchase and recharge of imported water;
 - (iii) New or Replacement Well applications;
 - (iv) New Use Applications; and
- (m) Any other information required by the Judgment or these Rules.



Committee Consultation

Watermaster forwarded draft LPV Annual Report to Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) on January 15th, 2025.

PAC Discussed the Annual Report at its January 22nd, February 20th, and March 6th, 2025, meetings and included one recommendation.

TAC Discussed the Annual Report at its January 21, February 4, and February 11, 2025, meetings and submitted eight recommendations.

Committee Consultation - PAC

Recommendation report summary from PAC:

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

Response:

Watermaster Response Report clarified undesirable results occur when water levels in any individual key well is below the minimum threshold for either three consecutive monitoring events or three of five consecutive monitoring events.

Committee Consultation - TAC

Recommendation Report summary from TAC:

Over 80 specific comments which were summarized into 8 recommendations

- Clarifications - sustainable yield, contouring, typos
- Adding discussion on changes in storage
- Water Levels – data collection and accuracy

Response:

Watermaster response report incorporated corrections, and clarifications to the Annual Report where appropriate, and responded to all other recommendations directly.

Recommendations

- 1) Approve and authorize staff to submit the WY 2024 Annual Report for the Las Posas Valley Basin to the Department of Water Resources
- 2) Receive and file this presentation



Questions?