

## Las Posas Valley Groundwater Basin Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

Tuesday May 6, 2025, 2:00 PM

Via Zoom:

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

Webinar ID: 841 6807 1218

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### NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Las Posas Basin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will hold a regular meeting via Zoom at **2 PM on Tuesday May 6, 2025**.

### AGENDA

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Roll Call**
- C. Agenda Review**
- D. Public Comments**
- E. TAC Member Comments**
- F. Regular Agenda**
  - 1. Approve Minutes from April 15, 2025 TAC Regular Meeting** (attached, agenda page 3)
  - 2. Recommendation Report Review – Basin Optimization Yield Study Preferred Modeling Alternative and Impacts to Schedule**

The TAC reviewed the Basin Optimization Yield Study (BOYS) Preferred Modeling Alternative and Impacts to Schedule in its previous regular meeting held on April 15, 2025. The TAC Administrator prepared the attached (agenda page 8) draft Recommendation Report summarizing TAC comments on the BOYS preferred modeling alternatives and schedule and the draft Recommendation Report will be discussed by the TAC. Feedback will be provided to the TAC Administrator and the TAC will consider voting to authorize the Administrator to finalize and submit it to the Watermaster.

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

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

<b>Consultation Description</b>	<b>Expected Request Date</b>	<b>Expected Review Due Date</b>
Presentation of Basin Optimization Yield Study Model Scenario Results by Dudek	TBD	TBD
Calleguas ASR Project Operations Plan	TBD	TBD

**4. Schedule for Completing Committee Consultations and Related Recommendation Reports**

The TAC will discuss the schedule for completing consultation requests from the Watermaster.

**G. Items for Future Agenda**

Potential items for future agenda will be considered by the TAC

**H. Adjourn**

## **Attachment 1**

### **Minutes of the April 15, 2025 TAC Regular Meeting**

## **Las Posas Valley Groundwater Basin Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting**

Meeting Minutes  
for  
April 15, 2025

### **A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chad Taylor at 2:00 pm.

### **B. Roll Call**

All voting TAC members were present (via Zoom):

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

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

- Bryan Bondy – Present
- Robert Hampson (filling in for Kim Loeb on behalf of Watermaster) – Present

Chair Taylor reported a quorum with all three voting members of the Las Posas Valley Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) present.

### **C. Agenda Review**

Chair Taylor indicated an agenda was published and notified on April 11, 2025 and he opened the meeting for comments on the agenda from TAC members or the public. No comments were presented.

### **D. Public Comments**

Mr. Taylor asked for public comments on items not on the agenda.

Mr. Steven Murata, a member of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) representing the West Las Posas Mutual Water Company let the TAC know that his agencies, including plum Vista and Del Norte, have significant well, water level, and pumping historical data that they are happy to share with the TAC.

Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Murata, indicated that groundwater professionals can never get enough water level and pumping data, and suggested the Watermaster staff may be interested in these data if they don't already have access to them.

### **E. TAC Member Comments**

Chair Taylor asked TAC members for comments on items not on the agenda.

Mr. Bondy indicated that in addition to his role on the TAC representing Calleguas Municipal Water District, he also manages the Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The Mound GSA historically relied on the model constructed and maintained by the United Water Conservation District (UWCD), as in the West Las Posas Management Area (WLPMA). Recently it has been hard to get details from UWCD from that model, which is necessary for the Mound GSA to prepare their Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation.

Mr. Bondy noted that this information should be accessible for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation and the fact that it is not being made available is a problem. Mr. Bondy expressed hope that a solution to this problem could be reached in the future.

## **F. Regular Agenda**

### **1. Approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2025 Regular Meeting**

Mr. Taylor asked TAC members for comments on the minutes from the March 18, 2025 regular meeting, which were included in the agenda packet. No TAC member or public comments were submitted.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Morgan moved to approve the March 18, 2025 TAC Meeting minutes

**SECOND:** Dr. Abrams seconded the motion

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved

### **2. Committee Consultation Request – Basin Optimization Yield Study Preferred Modeling Alternative and Impacts to Schedule**

Chair Taylor summarized the request for consultation on the preferred modeling alternative and schedule impacts submitted to the TAC by the Watermaster. His remarks included a reminder to the TAC and attendees that the original plan for evaluation of Basin optimization yield was to use the groundwater models for both Las Posas Valley Basin (LPVB) management areas. However, modeling of the WLPMA has historically been undertaken in cooperation with UWCD using their Coastal Plain model. The Watermaster was not able to develop an agreement with UWCD to use that model for the Basin Optimization Yield Study (BOYS). The consultation request included identification of a new preferred alternative to analyze optimization of LPVB yield and estimation of the updated schedule. This preferred option would utilize model files provided by UWCD to the Watermaster during preparation of the recently completed GSP Periodic Evaluation to perform basin optimization simulations.

Mr. Hampson informed the other members of the TAC that Watermaster legal counsel informed Watermaster staff that there may be limitations on information sharing from the model files. Mr. Hampson read the following statement to the TAC:

Some of the model files that Watermaster will use to prepare the LPV basin optimization yield study (specifically in the West Las Posas Management Area) include files received from United Water Conservation District. These files and the information embedded in them may be subject to a protective order in the OPV [Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Subbasin] Adjudication. Requests for access to or disclosure of those files will be reviewed against that protective order by FCGMA [Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency] counsel on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Bondy asked if that meant some of the work product from the BOYS may not be available to the public for review. Mr. Hampson responded that counsel will have to review each requests for information from the model.

Mr. Taylor reminded the TAC that in their review of the scope of work and budget for the BOYS they asked for an extended review period to facilitate requests to receive and review information from the optimization simulations using the model. The uncertainty regarding availability of information from the model adds uncertainty to the TAC's review of the BOYS optimization simulations.

Mr. Bondy suggested that if there is data or information the TAC anticipates perhaps test cases can be provided to the Watermaster in advance. Mr. Hampson provided that this could be helpful to the Watermaster and that the test cases could include broad categories of data including water budget information, fluxes in specific areas of the model, etc.

Mr. Morgan asked if the concern was that the TAC would not receive requested model outputs, or that model input files would be unavailable. He provided the opinion that sharing model input files may be subject to the protections of the OPV Adjudication, but the model output should be available.

Dr. Abrams asked if model input files would be modified, or would the original inputs developed for the GSP Periodic Evaluation be used.

Mr. Hampson indicated that there was discussion within the Watermaster regarding whether modified model input files would be subject to the protective order

The TAC moved on to discussion of specific adjustments that might be implemented in the BOYS simulations. These included reduced pumping for projects that include in lieu components, baseline conditions for simulations, optimization criteria, and the boundary between the WLPMA and the East Las Posas Management Area.

All TAC members agreed that the preferred alternative presented by the Watermaster was the best solution identified.

Mr. Bondy indicated that he had previously completed simplified analyses of water levels and pumping that could be used to cross-check the magnitude of yield optimization and rampdown identified by the planned modeling work.

The TAC also discussed the schedule as presented by the Watermaster and their consultant, Dudek. They noted that the TAC review periods remained the same and were consistent with requests made by the TAC in previous reviews of BOYS scope and budget proposals.

Mr. Taylor reviewed the schedule with the TAC and all agreed that a Recommendation Report should be prepared presenting the concept of test questions for counsel review. That Recommendation Report would be presented in the agenda for the next regular TAC meeting scheduled for May 6, 2025.

No public comments were provided.

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

Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Hampson for an update on upcoming committee consultation requests and Mr. Hampson indicated that the list in the agenda was up to date.

No public comments were received.

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

Mr. Taylor indicated that the only outstanding committee consultation was the BOYS preferred modeling alternative and schedule and a Recommendation Report on that topic would be drafted for TAC review in the next regular meeting.

No public comments were received.

**G. Items for Future Agenda**

Mr. Taylor asked for recommendations for items to consider including in future agendas from the TAC and public; none were identified.

**H. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Mr. Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:47 pm

**SECOND:** Dr. Abrams seconded the motion

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved

## **Attachment 2**

**Recommendation Report – Preferred Modeling Alternatives and Impacts to  
Schedule, Basin Optimization Yield Study**



# LAS POSAS VALLEY

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 1, 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 – Preferred Modeling Alternatives and Impacts to Schedule, Basin Optimization Yield Study

The Las Posas Valley Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provides this Recommendation Report regarding the Basin Optimization Yield Study Preferred Modeling Alternatives and Impacts to Schedule. This Recommendation Report was prepared in response to the Las Posas Valley Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) committee consultation request transmitted to the TAC on April 3, 2025.

### BACKGROUND

The Watermaster requested TAC consultation on a preferred alternative method to assess basin yield optimization in the BOYS. The Las Posas Valley Adjudication judgment requires preparation of a Basin Optimization Yield Study (BOYS) to evaluate Basin Optimization Yield, set the Operating Yield, and identify the need for and quantification of the rate of pumping rampdown to achieve sustainable groundwater management by 2040. The Watermaster originally planned to use the two groundwater models to simulate conditions related to optimization in the east and west management areas of the Las Posas Valley Basin (LPVB). However, the model for the West Las Posas Management Area (WLPMA) is owned and maintained by United Water Conservation District (UWCD). The Watermaster attempted to develop an agreement with UWCD to facilitate UWCD's services in applying their model to simulate yield optimization scenarios. The Watermaster has reported that an agreement for this purpose could not be reached and alternatives to the original approach must be implemented.

The Watermaster informed the TAC in a December 23, 2024 memorandum that another technical approach may be required. That memorandum also identified three potential alternatives, which were:

- (i) Estimating the Basin Optimization Yield and Rampdown using Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) periodic evaluation model simulations

- (ii) Estimating the Basin Optimization Yield and Rampdown using historical groundwater elevation measurements and extraction reports
- (iii) Developing a new numerical groundwater flow model for the WLPMA.

In early 2025, the Watermaster removed the new numerical model development alternative (iii above) from consideration due to the associated schedule impacts. The Watermaster and its consultant, Dudek, have also identified an additional alternative, described as estimating the Basin Optimization Yield using the model provided by UWCD as part of the LPVB GSP Periodic Evaluation completed in 2025.

The Watermaster Board of Directors asked Dudek to review and select its preferred modeling alternative and submit its analysis to the LPV Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and TAC for consultation. Dudek analyzed the modeling alternatives and their respective impacts to the BOYS schedule and identified the recently developed alternative that would use the model scenario provided by UWCD as part of the Periodic Evaluation as the preferred alternative. Dudek has estimated inclusion of this alternative would result in the BOYS being completed in April 2026 for adoption at the May 2026 Watermaster Board of Directors meeting.

The Watermaster requested the TAC specifically consider and provide consultation on the following topics:

1. Should the Watermaster use the UWCD Periodic Evaluation model files to run scenarios for preparation of the Basin Optimization Yield Study rather than estimating the Basin Optimization Yield and Rampdown (i) using GSP periodic evaluation model simulations or (ii) using historical groundwater elevation measurements and extraction reports?
2. Is the schedule to implement the alternative in (1) and complete the Basin Optimization Yield Study in April 2026 for adoption at the May 2026 Watermaster Board of Directors meeting, approximately four months before the start of Water Year 2026 (October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027), a reasonable alternative for timely completion of the Basin Optimization Yield Study?

The TAC considered the BOYS preferred modeling alternative and schedule impacts in a regular TAC meeting on April 15, 2025. TAC comments on the BOYS preferred modeling alternative and schedule were discussed in that meeting and are summarized in this Recommendation Report.

The TAC will review this Recommendation Report and discuss and consider voting to approve it in a regular meeting on May 6, 2025.

## COMMENTS

In consideration of the options for assessing optimal yield of the WLPMA the TAC agreed that the preferred method identified by Dudek and the Watermaster is the best available approach. The TAC also agreed that the schedule is appropriate and reasonable.

Further, the TAC is grateful to the Watermaster for working diligently to develop an agreement with UWCD to access and use the current version of the Coastal Plain groundwater model and to Watermaster staff and Dudek for identifying this alternative. The proposed approach preserves the original technical methodology for basin optimization and maintains consistency with the GSP and other analyses that also employed the two models representing the LPVB.

## **TAC RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. RECOMMENDATION 1: PREEMPTIVELY CONSIDER WHAT INFORMATION FROM THE BASIN OPTIMIZATION MODEL SCENARIOS CAN BE SHARED WITH THE TAC AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES**

The Watermaster informed the TAC that some information from the model that they and Dudek plan to use for the basin optimization assessments of the West Las Posas Management Area (WLPMA) are subject to a protective order in the Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Subbasin (OPV) Adjudication. Specifically:

Some of the model files that Watermaster will use to prepare the LPV basin optimization yield study (specifically in the West Las Posas Management Area) include files received from United Water Conservation District. These files and the information embedded in them may be subject to a protective order in the OPV Adjudication. Requests for access to or disclosure of those files will be reviewed against that protective order by FCGMA [Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency] counsel on a case-by-case basis.

In reviewing the scope of work for the BOYS, the TAC requested additional time and consultation to allow opportunities to receive and review information from the optimization model scenarios. The uncertainty regarding the TAC's ability to review information from the WLPMA optimization modelling concerns the TAC. As a means of avoiding this uncertainty and delays associated with legal review of requests for model information, the TAC proposes to provide test case requests for types of information for Watermaster counsel to review before the optimization modeling of the WLPMA is complete.

#### **1.1 Recommendations:**

The TAC specifically recommends that Watermaster staff and legal counsel consider whether the following types of information can be provided from the Coastal Plain model simulations planned for assessing basin optimization yield from the WLPMA:

- Time series datasets showing comparison of model inputs representing simulation of project and alternative pumping scenarios to the baseline scenario.
- Time series of simulated head data at key wells and other important locations for baseline, project, and alternative pumping scenarios.

- Total and zonal water budgets for the entire model area, portions of the model area, boundaries at the edges of the model, and boundaries between specific portion of the model for the baseline, projects, and alternative pumping scenarios.
- Time series of simulated streamflow by reach for baseline, project, and alternative pumping scenarios.

### 1.2 Technical Rationale for Recommendation:

The schedule for completion of the BOYS does not allow for delays and the TAC may require specific technical information from the model scenario simulations planned and completed for testing optimal yield from the WLPMA. Given that some of the information within the Coastal Plain model that includes the WLPMA may be protected under the OPV Adjudication, it is appropriate for Watermaster legal counsel to consider what specific information can and cannot be shared with the TAC before the request for committee consultation is sent to the TAC.

### 1.3 Summary of Facts in Support of Recommendation:

- The TAC is the technical representative of the Watermaster providing expertise in evaluation of technical and scientific assessments relating to the LPVB.
- Review of comparative groundwater management scenarios simulated using numerical groundwater models typically includes detailed evaluation of model inputs, results, outputs, and statistics.
- In order to provide appropriate technical review and recommendations to the Watermaster, the TAC should know what information it can expect to have access to with as much advanced notice as possible.

## TALLY OF COMMITTEE MEMBER VOTES

[this section will be modified as necessary following discussion and voting by the TAC]

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

## 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. [this will be modified as necessary following discussion and voting by the TAC]