

LAS POSAS BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Las Posas Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) will hold a HYBRID meeting at 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 15, 2025.

In Person:

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

via ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84816327542?pwd=Y-bN4zt674FOphU6wRyxXw9swYTqvA.9bNuXf3yWWBZyrae>

Webinar ID: 848 1632 7542 | Passcode: 400774

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Agenda Review

D. Public Comments

E. PAC Member Comments

F. Regular Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the May 1, 2025 Regular Meeting

2. BOYS Preferred Modeling Alternative and Impacts to Schedule

The PAC will consider the attached draft recommendation report regarding the Basin Optimization Yield Study preferred modeling alternative and impacts to schedule.

3. Attendance

Section 6.6 of the Judgment provides attendance and participation requirements for PAC and TAC members. Committee members are required to “regularly” attend committee meetings and those who fail to attend at least 75 percent of meetings in a calendar year “shall be removed by action of Watermaster.” Section 6.10.2 states that PAC members “may be removed by Watermaster, following consultation with PAC, for cause where a PAC member fails to comply with requirements for Committee Attendance and Participation in Section [6.6].”

Given the discrepancy between “shall” in Section 6.6 and “may” in Section 6.10.2, and the requirement in Section 6.10.2 that Watermaster seek committee consultation prior to action to remove a committee member, Watermaster requested committee consultation on the issue of attendance.

The PAC will discuss attendance and recommend to the Watermaster a process to evaluate and implement the potential removal of PAC members.

2025-05-15 PAC Agenda

4. Watermaster FY2025-26 Budget

The PAC may discuss issues related to the fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 Watermaster budget.

G. PAC Subcommittee Reports

PAC representatives on subcommittees will provide reports

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

H. Written Communication

1. Recommendation Report regarding Overuse Assessment
2. Recommendation Report Surplus Watermaster Budget

I. Future Agenda Items

The PAC will consider items for future agendas.

J. Adjourn

Attachments

F-1. PAC 2025-005-01 Meeting Minutes

F-2. Draft Recommendation Report regarding BOYS Preferred Modeling Alternative and Impacts to Schedule

H-1. Recommendation Report regarding Overuse Assessment

H-2. Recommendation Report Surplus Watermaster Budget

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for May 1, 2025

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a regular hybrid meeting at 3:00 PM on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at Calleguas Municipal Water District, 2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, CA, and via Zoom.

A. Call to Order: Chair Ian Prichard called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM.

B. Roll Call:

The following PAC members were present:

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

The following PAC members were absent:

1. Ventura County Waterworks Districts 1 and 19 – Jeff Palmer
2. East Las Posas Small Agriculture – Josh Waters

C. Agenda Review: There were no agenda review items raised by the committee or the public.

D. Public Comments:

- 1) Daryl Smith, a local grower, commented that he is seeking an allocation via an appeal to the Judgment, and through his research he has determined that the Epworth Gravels Aquifer is not acknowledged as an LPV Basin resource. He asked if there had been any hydrogeological study of the aquifer and would like to know whether this is a viable resource for consideration of (additional) water in the LPV Basin; he asked the PAC to raise this issue with the Watermaster/FCGMA.
- 2) Debra Tash, a local landowner, finds herself without an allocation and asked the PAC for guidance.
- 3) Reddy Pakala, Calleguas board member and FCGMA alternate board member, introduced himself to the PAC and attendees; Reddy plans to participate and learn about the committee's mission and ongoing projects.

E. PAC Member Comments:

Chair Prichard spoke about the need for consistent attendance at PAC meetings to ensure continuity in discussions and that all members are well informed about issues that require a vote. Further, it is important to meet quorum requirements at every meeting, and Chair Prichard requested that members contact him in advance to notify him if they are not planning to attend so he can determine if an upcoming meeting may need to be rescheduled due to low attendance.

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Chair Prichard also reported that a system issue with the mailing of weekly automatic recurring meeting notices to PAC members has been identified and corrected.

F. Regular Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2025, Regular PAC Meeting

Richard Cavaletto moved to approve the minutes as stated for the April 17, 2025, meeting; Vice-chair Grether seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 8-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstentions; 2-Absent.

2. Overuse Assessment

On April 10, Watermaster requested a PAC recommendation on the establishment of an overuse assessment in the LPV for Water Rights Holders who exceed their annual allocation. At its April 17, 2025 meeting, the PAC voted to pin the overuse assessment to the Calleguas Municipal Water District Tier 1 rate pending final review by the PAC Fiscal Committee.

The PAC Fiscal Committee identified additional issues for consideration of this assessment for further discussion with the entire committee. Specific issues that were discussed are listed here:

- a) Would it be more appropriate to pin the overuse assessment to the retail cost of water in the Las Posas Valley; as Calleguas is a wholesaler, its Tier 1 rate does not capture the full cost of delivering an acre-foot of water to end users in the basin?
- b) Should the rate be based on a straight percentage of an entity's exceedance over its annual allocation?
- c) Should the fees be tiered by percentage of exceedance over annual allocation?
- d) PAC member Steve Murata raised a concern about the propriety of charging assessments related to overuse/replenishment to Del Norte Mutual Water Co. and the others in the west end of the LPV who receive replenishment from United Water Conservation District (UWCD) and not Calleguas; there was a discussion about the type of replenishment and the calculation of such. A discussion on this issue was deferred to a later date.

Kate Neiswender asked the PAC to add a sentence to its recommendation report stating that there are outstanding issues which may impact users with no allocation.

Neal Maguire remarked that the Judgment distinguishes between Overuse and New Use, and suggested that this recommendation should be specific to determining a fee structure for Overuse only, and any fees for New Use should be handled separately, as applicable.

After a detailed discussion of the options for Overuse assessment fees, the PAC settled on its recommendation: Vice-chair Grether moved to approve and submit the initial recommendation letter with the assessment Overuse fee tied to the prevailing Tier 1 Calleguas rate; fees for New Use are not included in this recommendation. Laurel Servin seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 8-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstentions; 2-Absent.

2. Surplus Budget

On April 10, Watermaster requested input from the PAC for policy decisions related to the surplus Watermaster budget and whether the surplus amount should result in an elimination of the fourth quarter Basin Assessment, serve to reduce future years' Basin Assessments, or be kept in a reserve account to fund future Basin replenishment projects.

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The PAC discussed the pros and cons of each approach, and considered the impact on the constituents and Watermaster operations. It was determined that there is ample money in the operating account now to meet the needs of the current FY 2024-25 budget, and the issues related to replenishment expenses for those in the UWCD service area should be resolved before it would be advisable to collect and segregate funds in reserve for Basin replenishment projects.

For the reasons stated above, Vice-chair Grether moved to recommend the elimination of the Q4 Basin Assessment for 2024-25; Steve Murata seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 8-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstentions; 2-Absent.

3. Basin Optimization Yield Study (BOYS)

On April 25, 2025, the PAC Administrator submitted a letter to the Watermaster board asking for more information on the costs and feasibility of getting updated modeling information from UWCD within a reasonable timeframe for use in completion of the BOYS. Additionally, Chair Prichard made public comments at the FCGMA/Watermaster Board meeting on April 23 indicating the PAC's preference to wait for United to perform the modeling services under contract to the FCGMA/Watermaster.

Contract negotiations between UWCD and FCGMA are ongoing and no definitive answers have been provided. The PAC's recommendation report is due on May 9, however with no answers to the PAC's questions, the PAC cannot provide a definitive recommendation. Chair Prichard asked Rob Hampson of Watermaster and Jill Weinberger of Dudek whether the date could be extended to May 15, and both parties agreed to the extension; the PAC will finalize and submit its report to Watermaster by May 15, 2025, after the PAC meeting on that date.

4. Carryover and Transfers

The PAC held an initial discussion on how unused allocation carryover and allocation transfers will work under the Judgment; these items are covered in Sections 4.11 and 4.12 of the Judgment, respectively. The Watermaster Transfer Request Form was reviewed and some reported difficulty in understanding how to complete the form.

There are many new procedures for management of carryover and allocation transfers as prescribed by the Judgment, and there were questions raised that will require further research and discussion at a future date. Some PAC members expressed that there are mutual exclusive shareholders in their mutual water companies who are inquiring about transfers and carryover for the current Water Year, so these issues are of high importance to some constituents.

G. PAC Subcommittee Reports:

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

H. Written Communication: None.

I. Future Agenda Items:

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1. The PAC will discuss possible changes to the meeting calendar dates for June and July as some meeting dates fall on holidays or short weeks due to holidays, and many planned vacations and absences have been reported. Meeting dates will be scheduled in consideration of member availability, FCGMA/Watermaster board meetings, and due dates for PAC recommendation reports.
2. The PAC will discuss the updated Watermaster budget for FY 2025/26 and any other related results from the FCGMA/Watermaster Fiscal Committee or Board Special Meetings.

J. Adjournment: Chair Prichard adjourned the meeting at 4:56 PM, until the next regular hybrid PAC meeting, which is scheduled for May 15, 2025, at 3:00 PM.

DRAFT

TO: Las Posas Valley Watermaster

FROM: Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee

RE: Recommendation Report – BOYS Preferred Modeling Alternative and Impacts to Schedule

DATE: May 15, 2025

Dear Las Posas Valley Watermaster,

The Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) provides this Recommendation Report on the **Basin Optimization Yield Study (BOYS) Preferred Modeling Alternative and Impacts to Schedule**.

Recommendation:

See memo below for recommended course of action.

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

Report of Bases for Majority and Minority Committee Member Positions:

DRAFT

PAC Recommendation Report Regarding the BOYS Preferred Modeling Alternative and Impacts to Schedule

Regarding the Watermaster's April 3, 2025 memo on preferred modeling alternative and impacts to schedule of the Basin Optimization Yield Study, the PAC concurs with the Watermaster and Dudek that the alternative providing for the use of the *Estimation of the BOY Using the UWCD Periodic Evaluation Model Files to Run New Scenarios* is the most favorable approach.

The PAC recognizes that the BOYS will be an important management tool for the Watermaster and will aid in the development of a groundwater extractions ramp-down scheme that has the potential to impact all stakeholders in the basin. With that understanding, the PAC would prefer the model used for the BOYS not be just "good enough" or what's most expedient but rather be based on the latest understanding of the hydrogeologic conditions in the basin.

The PAC has considered the pros and cons of using the *UWCD Periodic Evaluation Model Files* in the BOYS and would like to explore the potential of augmenting that approach to better address the key policy questions facing the PAC and Watermaster. Committee members debated the merits of using the periodic evaluation model files without modification and alternatively augmenting those model files to address key concerns recognized during the preparation of the 5-Year Periodic Evaluation.

The creation of a completely new groundwater model for the WLPMA was determined to be a costly alternative and had unacceptable impacts to the timeline for completion of the BOYS. However, using the pre-existing model files provides a major jumpstart to the modeling effort. The PAC would like to explore the cost and schedule impacts to upgrading the periodic model to address the following topics:

- Extension of the modeling period to 2024 (instead of 1979)
- The Somis fault was changed from a NO FLOW to GENERAL HEAD BOUNDARY for the periodic evaluation, but the model was not recalibrated. In-lieu water delivery projects are proposed in the vicinity of that fault and a more refined understanding of how the water levels would respond with these revised assumptions about the fault are important.
- Perform the model recalibration, as well as the model validation, sensitivity, and uncertainty analyses needed to support the model. The Dudek memorandum dated March 31, 2025 reported that the necessary documentation of the periodic evaluation model was not available. The PAC recommends that this deficiency be eliminated for any model used in the BOYS. These technical evaluations of the model can make.

Receiving this additional information will help the Watermaster make a more informed decision about the tradeoffs between advancing the study with Dudek and waiting for United to contract to do the modeling.

DRAFT

TO: Las Posas Valley Watermaster

FROM: Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee

RE: Recommendation Report – Establishment of an Overuse Assessment for Las Posas Valley Basin

DATE: May 1, 2025

The Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) provides this Recommendation Report on the **Establishment of an Overuse Assessment for Las Posas Valley Basin**.

Recommendation:

See memo below for recommendation.

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, Calleguas 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			

Report of Bases for Majority and Minority Committee Member Positions:

DRAFT

PAC Recommendation Report Regarding Establishment of an Overuse Assessment for Las Posas Valley Basin

On April 10, 2025, Watermaster sent the Las Posas Valley Basin Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) a committee consultation for the establishment of an “Overuse Assessment,” as defined in Section 1.79 of the Judgment, for Las Posas Valley Basin. The PAC discussed this issue at its regular meeting on April 17, 2025.

By unanimous vote of those present, the PAC recommends that the Watermaster establish an Overuse Assessment that meets the following criteria:

- The Overuse Assessment shall be charged at the prevailing Calleguas Tier 1 rate at the end of the Water Year. Calleguas updates its rates annually and posts them on the Calleguas website, <https://www.calleguas.com>.
- Overuse Assessments, once collected, shall be sequestered in a separate Watermaster account reserved for replenishment.



Ian Prichard, Chair

DRAFT

TO: Las Posas Valley Watermaster

FROM: Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee

RE: Recommendation Report – Surplus Watermaster Budget

DATE: May 1, 2025

The Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) provides this Recommendation Report on the **Surplus Watermaster Budget**.

Recommendation:

See memo below for recommendation.

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, Calleguas 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			

Report of Bases for Majority and Minority Committee Member Positions:

DRAFT

PAC Recommendation Report Regarding Surplus Watermaster Budget

On April 10, 2025, Watermaster sent the Las Posas Valley Basin Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) a committee consultation regarding a policy for surplus Watermaster budget.

Ideally, surplus budget would be sequestered in a replenishment fund. Technicalities regarding the dispensation of those funds for basinwide projects in light of Section 7.9 of the Judgment, "Adjustments to Basin Assessments for UWCD Assessments," complicate accomplishing that in the immediate term.

By unanimous vote of those present, the PAC recommends that the Watermaster forgo the fourth-quarter 2025 basin assessment. The PAC does not intend this to establish the regular practice regarding budget surpluses and requests that Watermaster return to the PAC for consultation on any future budget surpluses.



Ian Prichard, Chair