

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY



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February 28, 2024

Board of Directors
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1610

**SUBJECT: Las Posas Valley Basin Adjudication Judgement Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Nominee Update [LPV Watermaster] – (New Item)**

RECOMMENDATION: Receive an update on nominees to the Las Posas Valley Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION:

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is the primary advisory body to the LPV Watermaster on all matters requiring technical expertise to be considered by the Watermaster relating to Groundwater management and sustainability of the Basin. The Judgment defines 3 permanent voting members in the TAC appointed to 2-year terms: a TAC administrator and two representatives appointed one each by the East and West Las Posas Management Area Constituency Groups.

The Judgment provides criteria for the nomination of the three permanent voting members of the TAC: they shall be professional consultants, California licensed professional geologist or registered civil engineer in accordance with the California Business and Professions Code and have at least 10 years of relevant experience that will help the Watermaster with Basin Management, and the consulting fees charged by these professionals shall be paid from the funds raised from the Basin Assessment. (Judgment § 6.11.2.1). In addition to the 3 permanent voting members, the Judgment allows a non-voting Watermaster representative and each PAC member an option to appoint a non-voting member to the TAC at their discretion, but these members will not be compensated from the Basin Assessment.

The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) established a process whereby they solicited and evaluated potential candidates for appointment to the TAC. The PAC selected their nominees at the February 15, 2024, meeting and forwarded the nominees to the Watermaster on a letter dated February 16, 2024 (Item 11A). The LPV Watermaster must consent to appoint nominees or demonstrate cause for declining such appointment and the TAC member (permanent or not) shall meet the requirements under Judgment § 6.11.2.1 and shall as part of their contract with the Watermaster annually submit a statement of economic interests in a form approved by the Watermaster. The following are the TAC nominees:

- TAC Administrator, Chad Taylor
- West Las Posas West Constituency Group, Robert Abrams
- East Las Posas West Constituency Group, William Tony Morgan

800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1610
(805) 654-2014 or 645-1372 FAX: (805) 654-3350
Website: www.fcgma.org

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Staff is in the process of vetting the nominees and are currently working on the required paperwork to fulfil contracting with the TAC nominees and hope to bring them before your Board to receive consent to appointment at the March 27, 2024, meeting.

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 'Kudzai Farai Kaseke', written in a cursive style.

Kudzai Farai Kaseke Ph.D., PMP, CSM
Assistant Groundwater Manager

Attachments Item 11A – February 16, 2024, PAC Letter re TAC Nominations

Gene West, Chair
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

February 16, 2024

Chair West:

The Las Posas Basin Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) is pleased to present, after a thorough vetting process, our nominees to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The PAC established a nomination subcommittee, in December 2023, composed of four members representing the East, West, and Basinwide Constituency Groups. The subcommittee solicited recommendations, resulting in an initial pool of 17 candidates. From there, the subcommittee held initial interviews with seven candidates, ultimately bringing six before the entire PAC for formal interviews.

From the beginning, the PAC proceeded as a unit, evaluating candidates with an eye to how they would work together as a team, rather than simply relying on the East and West Constituency Groups to nominate their TAC representative in a vacuum. The latter process one reading of the Judgment certainly would have allowed, but the PAC hoped to model the kind of collaboration and consensus-building in the selection of the TAC members that we expect of them in their work on our constituents' behalf. Ultimately, the East and West Constituency Groups conferred separately and nominated their TAC representative independently, but there was consensus across the PAC that the three individuals we landed on as a group were the best three, in terms of qualifications, experience, and complimentary skillsets, that we could have chosen. The PAC was unanimous in its selection of TAC Administrator.

With sincere thanks to all the candidates who applied and went through the process with us; to Rob Grether, chair of the nomination subcommittee, for all his work organizing us, the candidates, and their materials; and to Care Wesley for setting up the meetings and her meticulous notetaking; and with congratulations to the nominees, it is my pleasure to nominate to the TAC the following individuals:

- For TAC Administrator, Chat Taylor
- Representing the West Constituency Group, Robert Abrams
- Representing the East Constituency Group, Tony Morgan

The candidates' resumes, billing rates, and contact information have been forwarded to Watermaster staff to fulfill contracting. We request and anticipate that our TAC nominees receive consent to appointment by Watermaster at the February 28, 2024 Watermaster Board meeting.

Sincerely,



Ian Prichard, Chair
Las Posas Valley Basin Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee