

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY



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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: 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.)

FCGMA Board Meeting
March 26, 2025
Item 13 – Calleguas ASR Study Group Nomination

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