

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*
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Lynn Maulhardt, *Director, United Water Conservation District*
Tony Trembley, *Councilmember, City of Camarillo*

INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jeff Palmer

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA), also sitting as watermaster for the Las Posas Valley Basin (LPV) and the groundwater sustainability agency for the Las Posas Valley Basin, the Pleasant Valley Basin, and the Oxnard Subbasin, will hold a **Fiscal Committee Meeting** at **10:00 A.M.** on **Tuesday, July 15, 2025** in the **Multi-Purpose Room**, at the Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Administration at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California.

FISCAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**July 15, 2025
10:00 A.M.**

Members: Chair Eugene West
Vice Chair Tony Trembley

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Introductions**
- C. Public Comments** – Audience members may speak about matters not on today's Agenda.
- D. LPV Watermaster Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Development Study Session** – Proposed LPV Watermaster Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Draft Budget evaluation; opportunity to provide feedback or discuss recommendations for modifications prior to submittal to the Board. Handout materials provided.
- E. FCGMA Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Development Study Session** – Evaluating the FCGMA Fiscal Year 2025-26 Draft Budget; opportunity to provide feedback or discuss recommendations for draft documents. Handout materials provided.
- F. Reserve Policy Development Priority** – As recommended in the March 18, 2025, meeting, one policy development item will be prioritized in every subsequent Fiscal Committee Agenda. Discussion of reserve policy, reserve accounts, and annual contributions.

G. Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the Multi-Purpose Room.

H. Adjourn Meeting.

STANDING NOTICES

The FCGMA Board and its less-than-a-quorum advisory committees strive to conduct accessible, orderly, and fair meetings where everyone can be heard on the issues. The Committee Chair will conduct the meeting and establish appropriate rules and time limitations for each item.

Public Comments – Public comment is the opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing the Fox Canyon Executive Committee in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items.

If you wish to make a written comment, please follow the steps below.

1. 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 Fiscal Committee Special 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 No. 9). Your email will be read by the Committee members and placed in the record.
2. If you would like to make a general public comment 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, limited to 250 words or less, to the Clerk of the Board at FCGMA@ventura.org. 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 Committee 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 24 hours prior to the meeting so staff can make the necessary arrangements.

Continuance of Items: The Committee will endeavor to consider all matters listed on this agenda. However, time may not allow the Committee to hear all matters listed. Matters not heard at this meeting may be carried over to the next Committee meeting or to a future Committee 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 and its Committees 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. To learn more about the Committee, please visit <https://fcgma.org/committee-meetings/>. If you would like to be added to our email notification list or speak to a staff member, please contact the FCGMA Clerk of the Board at (805) 654-2014 or via email at FCGMA@ventura.org.

Las Posas Valley Watermaster
Draft Budget FY 2025-26

1		Description	Actuals FY 2023-24	Adopted Budget FY 2024-25	Actuals YTD FY 2024-25 (through Jun. 30, 2025)	Budget FY 2025-26	Budget FY 2025-26 (without 4th Assessment 2024-4) ¹	Increase/ Decrease over PY Budget	% Change over PY
2		REVENUES							
3		Operating:							
4		Basin Assessment Fee	\$ 1,259,607	\$ 2,583,200	\$ 1,864,759	\$ 2,454,504	\$ 1,840,878	\$ (128,696)	-5%
5		Basin Assesment Interest	\$ 20,026	\$ -	\$ 24,469	\$ 36,818	\$ 27,613	\$ 36,818	
6		Non-Operating:							
7		Investment Income (from County Pooled Investment fund)	\$ 9,846	\$ -	\$ 27,335	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	
8		Total REVENUES	\$ 1,289,479	\$ 2,583,200	\$ 1,916,563	\$ 2,516,322	\$ 1,893,491	\$ (66,878)	-5%
9		EXPENSES							
10		PWA Labor Cost							
11		Watermaster Administration		\$ 106,848	\$ 80,624	\$ 89,653	\$ 89,653	\$ (17,195.27)	-16%
12		Allocations & Record Keeping		\$ 217,088	\$ 71,196	\$ 121,144	\$ 121,144	\$ (95,944.41)	-44%
13		Basin Management		\$ 156,880	\$ 52,349	\$ 26,257	\$ 26,257	\$ (130,623.50)	-83%
14		Committee Coordination and Consultations		\$ 71,232	\$ 37,102	\$ 40,813	\$ 40,813	\$ (30,418.65)	-43%
15		Budget and Assessments		\$ 136,528	\$ 48,465	\$ 58,429	\$ 58,429	\$ (78,099.23)	-57%
16		IT Services and Support		\$ 40,704	\$ 20,434	\$ 23,794	\$ 23,794	\$ (16,910.23)	-42%
17		Calleguas Aquifer Storage & Recovery Project		\$ 81,408	\$ 717	\$ 10,087	\$ 10,087	\$ (71,321.13)	-88%
18		Staff time (ongoing or anticipated litigation)		\$ -	\$ 6,813	\$ 8,507	\$ 8,507	\$ 8,506.63	
19		Total PWA Labor Cost ² :		\$ 810,688	\$ 317,700	\$ 378,682	\$ 378,682	\$ (432,005.78)	-53%
20		Contract Costs							
21		Allocations & Record Keeping							
22		Extraction Monitoring and Reporting ³ (Ex A ⁴ , Article V)	\$ 17,244	\$ 20,000	\$ 44,442	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,000	\$ 33,000	165%
23		Subtotal - Allocations & Record Keeping	\$ 17,244	\$ 20,000	\$ 44,442	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,000	\$ 33,000	165%
24		Basin Management							
25		Initial Basin Optimization Plan ⁵ (5.3)	-	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,840	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (78,000)	-100%
26		2025 Basin Optimization Yield Study ⁶ (4.10)	-	\$ 122,000	\$ 31,698	271,302	\$ 271,302	\$ 149,302	122%
27		GSP Update (Periodic Evaluation) ⁷		\$ 43,440	\$ 6,579	-	\$ -	\$ (43,440)	-100%
28		Annual Report ⁸		\$ 48,860	-	-	\$ -	\$ (48,860)	-100%
29		Watermaster Technical Support ⁹				\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
30		Subtotal - Basin Management	\$ -	\$ 292,300	\$ 117,117	\$ 321,302	\$ 321,302	\$ 29,002	10%
31		Committee Coordination and Consultations							
32		PAC Administrator ¹⁰	-	\$ 170,000	\$ 22,349	\$ 175,100	\$ 175,100	\$ 5,100	3%
33		Technical Advisory Committee ¹¹ (6.11, Ex A Article IV)	-	\$ 97,440	\$ 66,694	\$ 100,363	\$ 100,363	\$ 2,923	3%
34		TAC Member Cost ¹²	-	\$ 259,200	\$ 148,399	\$ 276,480	\$ 276,480	\$ 17,280	7%
35		Insurance ¹³		\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (5,000)	-100%
36		Subtotal - Committee Coordination and Consultations	\$ -	\$ 531,640	\$ 237,441	\$ 551,943	\$ 551,943	\$ 20,303	4%
37		Budget and Assessments							
38		Basin Assessments (7.1-7.3,7.6, Ex A 2.8)	-	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (25,000)	-100%
39		Processing Fees (7.4)	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	
40		Audits (7.7)	-	\$ 20,000	\$ 17,650	\$ 14,150	\$ 14,150	\$ (5,850)	-29%
41		CSD Fiscal Services Staff ¹⁴	-	\$ -	\$ 33,900	\$ 37,290	\$ 37,290	\$ 37,290	
42		Subtotal - Budget and Assessments	\$ -	\$ 45,000	\$ 51,550	\$ 76,440	\$ 76,440	\$ 31,440	70%
43		IT Services and Support							
44		Data Management and Support ¹⁵	-	\$ 200,000	\$ 90,200	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	0%
45		Subtotal - IT Services and Support	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ 90,200	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	0%
46		Calleguas Aquifer Storage & Recovery Project							
47		Calleguas ASR Project Operations Study ¹⁶ (8.4)	-	-	-	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	
48		Subtotal - Calleguas Aquifer Storage & Recovery Project	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	
49		Legal Services*							
50		Agency Counsel (Ventura County Counsel's Office)**	\$ 59,959	\$ 248,640	\$ 185,434	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ (73,640)	-30%
51		LPV WM Special Counsel (Stoel Rives)***	-	-	\$ 602,941	\$ 375,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 375,000	
52		LPV Water Rules Appeal ¹⁷ (9.2)	-	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (200,000)	-100%
53		Subtotal - Legal Services*	\$ 59,959	\$ 448,640	\$ 988,375	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 101,360	23%
54		Total Contract Costs:	\$ 77,203	\$ 1,537,580	\$ 1,529,125	\$ 1,852,685	\$ 1,852,685	\$ 315,105	20%
55		TOTAL EXPENSES:		\$ 2,348,268	\$ 1,846,824	\$ 2,231,367	\$ 2,231,367	\$ (116,901)	-5%
56		Beginning Year Account Balance	\$ -	\$ 1,127,505	\$ 1,127,505	\$ 1,012,561	\$ 1,012,561	\$ (114,944)	-10%
57		Revenues	\$ 1,289,479	\$ 2,583,200	\$ 1,916,563	\$ 2,516,322	\$ 1,893,491	\$ (66,878)	-3%
58		Total Expenditures	\$ 161,974	\$ 2,348,268	\$ 1,846,824	\$ 2,231,367	\$ 2,231,367	\$ (116,901)	-5%
59		Net Operating Results	\$ 1,127,505	\$ 234,932	\$ 69,739	\$ 284,954	\$ (337,876)	\$ 50,022	21%
60		Ending Year Account Balance (Before Reserves)	\$ 1,127,505	\$ 1,362,437	\$ 1,197,243	\$ 1,297,515	\$ 674,685	\$ (64,921)	-5%
61		Transfer to Reserves:		\$ 234,827	\$ 184,682	\$ 223,137	\$ 223,137	\$ (11,690)	-5%
62		Ending Year Account Balance		\$ 1,127,610	\$ 1,012,561	\$ 1,074,379	\$ 451,548	\$ (53,231)	-5%
63			FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26			Reserve Budget ¹⁸		
64		Total Annual Allocation (AF):	40,000	40,000			Contributions from Operating Fund:		
65		Basin Assessment per AF:	\$ 64.58	\$ 61.36			2024-25	\$	184,682
66		Quarterly Assessment	\$ 16.14	\$ 15.34			2025-26	\$	223,137
67							Reserve Expenses:		
68							\$	-	
69							Net Reserves	\$	407,819

Las Posas Valley Watermaster
Draft Budget FY 2025-26

Footnotes

- 1
- LPV-2024-4 Basin Assessment (July - September 2025) falls into FY 2025-26
- 2
- Labor cost estimate based on Ventura County Public Works Agency providing LPV Watermaster staff at actual rates for FY 24-25.
For FY 25-26, Labor cost estimates are based on Ventura County Public Works Agency providing LPV Watermaster staff at actual rates, assuming a 10% increase from FY 24-25 actual rates.
- 3
- Contract costs for Regional Government Services assisting Extraction Monitoring and Reporting (approved 09/25/2024)
- 4
- Reference to LPV Adjudication Judgment section; "Ex A" is Exhibit A of the Judgment.
- 5
- Contract costs for Dudek for assissting with preparation of BOP \$76,025 (approved 01/12/2024)
- 6
- Contract costs for Dudek for assissting with BOYS \$303,000 (modification approved 06/01/2025)
- 7
- Contract estimates for Dudek assisting with GSP Periodic Evaluation (Task 10.2.1, Committeee Evaluation Review and Response)
- 8
- Contract estimates for Dudek assisting with Annual Report
- 9
- Consultant to provide technical support to Watermaster as needed on Basin Management, proposed for FY 25-26
- 10
- PAC Adminstrator contract \$170,000 (approved 09/25/2024)
- 11
- Contract cost estimate for Dudek for assissting as Watermaster TAC member \$97,440. Assumes two meetings per month. (approved 05/22/2024)
- 12
- Contract cost estimate for three TAC members including preparation of Recommendation Reports. Assumes two meetings per month.
- 13
- PAC request for PAC and TAC members insurance; covered under FCGMA Budget
- 14
- CSD Fiscal services is an annual allocation. Costs are allocated quarterly between FCGMA and Watermaster
- 15
- IT Services and Support costs are split evenly between FCGMA and Watermaster. Increasing FTEs to 0.825 from 0.5 proposed for FY 25-26
- 16
- Estimate provided by Calleguas Municipal Water District
- *
- Agency Counsel and Special Counsel FY 25-26 budget estimates are best estimates based on LPV WM legal work/services to date, current status of LPV ADJ, and experience in other similar matters. Estimates do include costs for work/services related to uncertainties/variables such as whether LPV ADJ overturned, and remand for further trial court proceedings.
- **
- Agency Counsel services include advising on LPV ADJ implementation, administration, compliance, and enforcement; LPV WM Board, PAC, TAC meetings, staff reports, presentations; coordination with LPV WM Special Counsel.
- ***
- Special Counsel services include representing LPV WM in post-judgment trial court proceedings, appellate proceedings, discussions with opposing counsel; initiation of compliance, enforcement actions; interpretation of LPV ADJ; coordination with Agency Counsel.
- 17
- Share of legal expenses for LPV Watermaster Rules Appeal (approved 9/13/2024)
- 18
- Operating reserves are calculated at 10% of annual budget and are cummlative.

Labor Cost Support, as of June 2025

OPERATING EXPENSES ¹		Budget FY 2024-25 Labor Hours	Budget FY 2024-25 Labor Cost	Actuals YTD FY 2024-25 Labor Hours	Actuals YTD FY 2024-25 Labor Cost	Projections FY 2024-25 Labor Cost	Budget FY 2025-26 Labor Hours Estimate	Budget FY 2025-26 Labor Cost Estimate	Increase/ Decrease over PY Labor Cost	% Change over PY Labor Cost
PWA LABOR COST										
1										
2	Watermaster Administration									
3	Watermaster Meetings and Notice (Ex A 2.5)	384	\$ 81,408	190	\$ 36,971	\$ 55,456	205	\$ 44,396	\$ (37,012)	-45%
4	Review of Records (Ex A 2.4)	96	\$ 20,352	98	\$ 13,936	\$ 20,904	95	\$ 14,368	\$ (5,984)	-29%
5	Website (Ex A 2.4.1)	24	\$ 5,088	84	\$ 11,454	\$ 17,181	90	\$ 13,811	\$ 8,723	171%
6	Administration (customer inquiries and data requests, emails, staff meetings)	-		110	\$ 18,263	\$ 27,395	108	\$ 17,079	\$ 17,079	
7					\$ -					
8	Subtotal - Watermaster Administration	504	\$ 106,848	482	\$127,392 (\$80,624)	\$ 120,936	498	\$ 89,653	\$ (17,195)	-16%
9	Allocations & Record Keeping									
10	Annual Allocations & Allocation Schedule (4.2, 4.3)	40	\$ 8,480	64	\$ 11,499	\$ 17,248	40	\$ 6,372	\$ (2,108)	-25%
11	New Uses / Subscription Projects (4.6)	40	\$ 8,480	-	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ (8,480)	-100%
12	Transfers (4.12) and change in WMID ownership	96	\$ 20,352	60	\$ 11,392	\$ 17,088	110	\$ 20,695	\$ 343	2%
13	Change of Point of Extraction (4.13)	96	\$ 20,352	35	\$ 6,567	\$ 9,851	90	\$ 17,296	\$ (3,056)	-15%
14	New or Replacement Well (4.14)	96	\$ 20,352	-	\$ -	\$ -			\$ (20,352)	-100%
15	Carryover (4.11)	192	\$ 40,704	25	\$ 4,800	\$ 8,228	30	\$ 5,002	\$ (35,702)	-88%
16	Overuse (4.15)	80	\$ 16,960	-	\$ -	\$ -			\$ (16,960)	-100%
17	Extraction and use Monitoring and Reporting (Ex A, Article V)	384	\$ 81,408	206	\$ 29,445	\$ 44,168	200	\$ 30,672	\$ (50,736)	-62%
18	Enforcement	-		37	\$ 7,492	\$ 11,239	300	\$ 41,107	\$ 41,107	
19	Subtotal - Allocations & Record Keeping	1,024	\$ 217,088	426	\$57,360 (\$71,196)	\$ 107,822	770	\$ 121,144	\$ (95,944)	-44%
20	Basin Management									
21	GSP Update (5-year evaluation) (4.9.1)	220	\$ 46,640			\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ (46,640)	-100%
22	2025 Basin Optimization Yield Study (4.10)	220	\$ 46,640	119	\$ 22,873	\$ 34,310	130	\$ 26,257	\$ (20,383)	-44%
23	Annual Report (5.2.3, Ex A 2.7.10)	120	\$ 25,440			\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ (25,440)	-100%
24	Initial Basin Optimization Plan (5.3)	180	\$ 38,160	146	\$ 29,475	\$ 44,213	-	\$ -	\$ (38,160)	-100%
25	Subtotal - Basin Management	740	\$ 156,880	265	\$50,579 (\$52,349)	\$ 78,523	130	\$ 26,257	\$ (130,623)	-83%
26	Committee Coordination and Consultations									
27	Policy Advisory Committee (6.1, Ex A Article III)	288	\$ 61,056	100	\$ 18,642	\$ 27,963	90	\$ 18,937	\$ (42,119)	-69%
28	PAC Administrator			9	\$ 1,164	\$ 1,746	10	\$ 1,422	\$ 1,422	
29	Technical Advisory Committee (6.11, Ex A Article IV)	48	\$ 10,176	96	\$ 17,297	\$ 25,945	100	\$ 20,454	\$ 10,278	101%
30	TAC Member Cost			-	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -	
31	Insurance			-	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -	
32	Subtotal - Committee Coordination and Consultations	336	\$ 71,232	205	\$30,456 (\$37,102)	\$ 55,653	200	\$ 40,813	\$ (30,419)	-43%
33	Budget and Assessments									
34	Watermaster Budget (7.5, Ex A 2.7.6)	80	\$ 16,960	113	\$ 19,236	\$ 28,854	100	\$ 20,689	\$ 3,729	22%
35	Basin Assessments (7.1-7.3, 7.6, Ex A 2.8)	192	\$ 40,704	205	\$ 24,353	\$ 36,529	210	\$ 27,320	\$ (13,384)	-33%
36	Processing Fees (7.4)	192	\$ 40,704	0	\$ -	\$ -	16	\$ 3,628	\$ (37,076)	-91%
37	Audits (7.7)	180	\$ 38,160	33	\$ 4,877	\$ 7,315	35	\$ 6,791	\$ (31,369)	-82%
38	CSD Fiscal Services Staff	-				\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	
39	Subtotal - Budget and Assessments	644	\$ 136,528	351.25	\$30,565 (\$48,465)	\$ 72,698	361	\$ 58,429	\$ (78,099)	-57%
40	IT Services and Support									
41	Data Management and Support	192	\$ 40,704	137	\$ 20,434	\$ 30,651	140	\$ 23,794	\$ (16,910)	-42%
42	Subtotal - IT Services and Support	192	\$ 40,704	137	\$18,204 (\$20,434)	\$ 30,651	140	\$ 23,794	\$ (16,910)	-42%
43	Calleguas Aquifer Storage & Recovery Project									
44	Calleguas ASR Project Operations Study (8.4)	384	\$ 81,408	4	\$ 717	\$ 1,076	50	\$ 10,087	\$ (71,321)	-88%
45	Subtotal - Calleguas Aquifer Storage & Recovery Project	384	\$ 81,408	4	\$ 717	\$ 1,076	50	\$ 10,087	\$ (71,321)	-88%
46	Legal Services									
47	Advisory (Implementation, administration, Board meetings, Staff reports)	576	\$ 149,184			\$ -			\$ (149,184)	-100%
48	Staff time (ongoing or anticipated litigation)			32	\$ 6,813	\$ 10,219	45	\$ 8,507	\$ 8,507	
49	Judicial Review (County Counsel) (9.2)	384	\$ 99,456			\$ -			\$ (99,456)	-100%
50	Judicial review (outside counsel)					\$ -			\$ -	
51	LPV Water Rules Appeal (9.2)	-	\$ -			\$ -			\$ -	
52	Subtotal - Legal Services	960	\$ 248,640	32	\$ 6,813	\$ 10,219	45	\$ 8,507	\$ (240,133)	-97%
53	Total PWA LABOR COST:	4,784	\$ 1,059,328	1,903	\$317,708 (\$317,700)	\$ 477,578	2,194	\$ 378,682		

Footnote:

1 Labor cost estimate based on Ventura County Public Works Agency providing LPV Watermaster staff at actual rates for FY 24-25.

For FY 25-26, Labor cost estimates are based on Ventura County Public Works Agency providing LPV Watermaster staff at actual rates, assuming a 10% increase from FY 24-25 actual rates.

PAC Recommendation Report Regarding Surplus Watermaster Budget

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:

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.

Exhibit E1 - July 15, 2025, Fiscal Committee Meeting

**FCGMA FY 2025-26 DRAFT BUDGET
COMBINED**

	FY25-26 Combined Accounts	2022-23 Year-End Actuals	2023-24 Year-End Actuals	2024-25 Adopted Budget	2024-25 Actuals Through June 2025	2025-26 Draft Budget	Increase / Decrease Over Previous Year	% Change Over PY
1	<u>Revenues</u>							
2	Pump Charge ¹	\$801,486	\$841,816	\$726,000	\$874,038	\$800,000	\$74,000	10%
3	Groundwater Sustainability Fee ²	\$1,626,366	\$2,756,100	\$3,509,000	\$3,546,969	\$2,904,000	(\$605,000)	-17%
4	Penalties / Interest	\$47,965	\$299,408	\$130,000	\$158,717	\$150,000	\$20,000	15%
5	GMA Pumping Surcharges	\$1,027,229	\$895,179	\$1,000,000	\$1,085,523	\$1,000,000	\$0	0%
6	GEMES (Reserve Fee) ³	\$1,776,295	\$2,137,678	\$2,420,000	\$2,472,441	\$2,420,000	\$0	0%
7	SGM Impl Grant Round 1 (OPV) - DWR ⁴	\$0	\$0	\$2,577,800	\$2,577,800	\$0	(\$2,577,800)	-100%
8	SGM Impl Grant Round 1 (OPV) - Admin ⁵	\$0	\$92,944	\$46,472	\$46,472	\$51,502	\$5,030	11%
9	Interest Earnings ⁶	\$88,098	\$277,445	\$287,000	\$134,362	\$130,000	(\$157,000)	-55%
10	LPV Watermaster Legal Fees for Rules Appeal ⁷	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0	(\$200,000)	-100%
11	Misc. Revenue	\$2,950	\$163	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
12	Total Revenues	\$5,370,388	\$7,300,733	\$10,896,272	\$11,096,322	\$7,455,502	(\$3,440,770)	-32%
13	<u>Expenditures</u>							
14	Public Works Agency Charges ⁸	\$1,814,950	\$1,736,041	\$3,382,544	\$2,758,888	\$2,988,752	(\$393,792)	-12%
15	General Services Agency Charges ⁹	\$24,670	\$18,990	\$25,000	\$19,784	\$20,000	(\$5,000)	-20%
16	FCGMA Online Support / GIS ¹⁰	\$189,440	\$173,025	\$247,061	\$93,332	\$300,000	\$52,939	21%
17	LAFCO Funding ¹¹	\$2,551	\$2,995	\$3,510	\$3,510	\$5,192	\$1,682	48%
18	General Legal (County Counsel) ¹²	\$129,490	\$185,852	\$170,000	\$119,711	\$255,000	\$85,000	50%
19	Special Counsel (Stoel, SMW, GMSR, Rutan Tucker)	\$2,049,926	\$1,466,690	\$1,655,000	\$1,001,490	\$1,560,000	(\$95,000)	-6%
20	County Counsel (Litigation) - GEMES	\$249,100	\$242,813	\$230,000	\$73,507	\$215,000	(\$15,000)	-7%
21	Board Member Insurance	\$3,796	\$4,118	\$4,085	\$4,085	\$5,045	\$960	24%
22	Biennial Audit	\$16,000	\$4,000	\$20,000	\$26,820	\$20,848	\$848	4%
23	AWA Dues / Symposium / Conference	3,973	\$2,501	\$2,500	\$2,786	\$3,000	\$500	20%
24	Public Notices	\$880	\$991	\$1,000	\$1,111	\$1,500	\$500	50%
25	GSP Annual Reports ¹³	\$19,798	\$59,085	\$97,000	\$65,248	\$110,000	\$13,000	13%
26	Watershed Contributions / Match ¹⁴	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	0%
27	Computer Equipment, Software & Website	\$0	\$3,355	\$5,000	\$1,473	\$7,500	\$2,500	50%
28	Office Equipment / Supplies / Printing	\$0	\$126	\$1,000	\$1,347	\$1,500	\$500	50%
29	Misc Expense / Misc Payment	\$451	\$2,033	\$2,500	\$383	\$2,500	\$0	0%
30	<u>Special Expenditures</u>							
31	New FCGMA Data Management System ¹⁵	\$10,860	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
32	GSP Implementation ¹⁶	\$266,995	\$554,562	\$989,000	\$592,213	\$150,000	(\$839,000)	-85%
33	SGM Impl. Grant Monit Well Install (OPV) ¹⁷	\$0.0	\$0	\$4,870,000	\$2,768,117	\$0	(\$4,870,000)	-100%
34	SGM Impl. Grant Round 1 (OPV) - App. ¹⁸	\$56,560	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
35	SGM Impl. Grant Round 1 - Administration ¹⁹	\$14,011	\$68,705	\$60,000	\$102,393	\$44,800	(\$15,200)	-25%
36	SGM Round 2 Grant Application	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000	
37	Monitoring Network Improvement Planning	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000	
38	Public Outreach & Strategic Planning ²⁰	\$2,666	\$16,086	\$25,000	\$15,879	\$100,000	\$75,000	300%
39	AMI Data Support	\$0	\$12,352	\$61,648	\$36,627	\$0	(\$61,648)	-100%
40	Oxnard Well Destruction	\$0	\$86,976	\$0	\$0	\$0		
41	Rate Counsel & Consultant ²¹	\$93,176	\$12,623	\$17,000	\$1,976	\$25,000	\$8,000	47%
42	Recruitment - Executive Officer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	

Footnotes:

(1) FY 24-25 projected pump charge revenue assuming 121,000 AFY extraction at \$6.00 per AF.

(2) Projected groundwater sustainability fee revenues at \$24/AF assuming 121,000 AF extractions and a recommended \$5 reduction in fee for FY 2025-26.

(3) Projected reserve fee (\$20/AF) revenues assuming 121,000 AFY extractions.

(4) Projected reimbursement from DWR for SGM Implementation Grant Round 1 funds for FCGMA projects in the Oxnard & Pleasant Valley Basins.

(5) Reimbursement from subgrantees City of Camarillo, UWCD, and PVCWD for consultant grant administration services per Board direction (7/20/2022).

(6) Annual interest earnings apportionments projected to be received from the County Pooled Investment Fund.

(7) Recommendation of Fiscal Committee for LPV Watermaster to repay 50% legal fees for LPV Watermaster Appeal.

(8) Projected PWA charges to implement FY 2025-26 Annual Workplan. Includes Executive Officer and Fiscal allocation and assumes all positions fully staffed.

(9) County General Services Agency (GSA) fees for conference room and AV fees, etc.

(10) FY 25-26 Estimate for IT services to support, maintain, and improve FCGMA Online Data Management System. Includes recommended additional 0.65 FTE for redundancy and additional tasks.

(11) Payment to LAFCO Per Govt. Code Sect. 56381 (b)(1).

(12) County Counsel services for regular FCGMA legal advisory services. Increased 50% to provide additional support and redundancy.

(13) GSP Annual Report expense. Modification 4/23/25 extended Dudek contract to 10/1/25

(14) Includes contributions to Watershed Coalition of Ventura County (\$2,200) and Santa Clara Watershed Committee (\$1,500).

(15) New FCGMA data management system procurement planning-level projections; funding not allocated currently. IT staff improvements ("FCGMA Online Support / GIS") are more efficient and cost effective.

(16) Projected GSP implementation consultant costs (e.g. project coordination, analyze incentive programs)

(17) DWR SGM Implementation Grant Round 1 for Oxnard & Pleasant Valley Basins; this \$2.7mm will be moved as an asset on the balance sheet now that grant is closed out; line 46 shows a 50-year straight line depreciation.

(18) Consultant expenses for grant application for DWR SGM Implementation Grant Round 1 for projects in Oxnard & Pleasant Valley Basins.

(19) Consultant to assist with DWR SGM Implementation Grant Round 1 Administration for OPV Basins. Reimbursement from City of Camarillo, PVCWD, UWCD.

(20) FY 24-25 reflected Hallmark contract costs (staffing needs analysis); FY 25-26 line item cost estimate, independent of Hallmark, is per Board / Fiscal Committee recommendation to develop 5 year plan and build rampdown outreach strategy.

(21) Rate counsel and consultant for fee schedule development.

(22) Additional line items may be added to Expenditures pending Fiscal Committee July 2025 review and discussion (Light Gabler contract estimate, Board Member Compensation estimate). **Note:** Not listed in the Combined Budget is the \$1,000,000 internal loan from Designated Surcharges Account to Operating Account approved by Board as part of FY 2022-23 Budget to be repaid in FY 2024-25. FY 24-25 Budget adoption postponed repayment to FY 25-26. See Special Expenditures in Operating Account worksheet.

(23) Fiscal Committee recommends eliminating Contingency and instead allocating this line item as an annual staircase contribution to Reserves. This brings reserve allocation to \$1,250,000 for FY 2025-26.

FCGMA FY 2025-26 DRAFT BUDGET
OPERATING ACCOUNT

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Footnotes:

(1) FY 25-26 projected pump charge revenue assuming 121,000 AFY extraction at \$6.00 per AF.

(2) Projected groundwater sustainability fee revenues assuming 121,000 AF extractions.

(3) Projected reimbursement from DWR for SGM Implementation Grant Round 1 funds for FCGMA projects in the Oxnard & Pleasant Valley Basins.

(4) Reimbursement from subgrantees City of Camarillo, UWCD, and PVCWD for consultant grant administration services per Board direction (7/20/2022).

(5) Annual interest earnings apportionments projected to be received from the County Pooled Investment Fund.

(6) Loan from Designated Surcharges Account approved by Board as part of FY 2022-23 Budget to be repaid in FY 2024-25. FY 24/25 Budget postponed repayment to FY 25/26.

(7) Projected PWA charges to implement FY 2024-25 Annual Workplan. Includes Executive Officer and Fiscal allocation.

(8) County General Services Agency (GSA) fees for Board room and AV fees, etc.

(9) FY 25-26 Estimate for IT services to support, maintain, and improve FCGMA Online Data Management System

(10) Payment to LAFCO Per Govt. Code Sect. 56381 (b) (1).

(11) County Counsel services for regular FCGMA legal services.

(12) GSP Annual Report expense updated based on new Dudek scope approved by Board 12/9/2022 and amended 3/22/24.

(13) Includes contributions to Watershed Coalition of Ventura County (\$2,200) and Santa Clara Watershed Committee (\$1,500).

(14) New FCGMA data management system procurement planning-level projections. Not included this FY in favor of upgrading current system per FY 24-25 Operations Committee recommendation.

(15) Projected GSP implementation consultant costs. Updated with based on new Dudek scope approved by Board 12/9/2022 and subsequent amendments.

(16) Monitoring well installation in OPV basins projected expense. Majority funded by DWR SGM Implementation Grant.

(17) Consultant to assist with DWR SGM Implementation Grant Round 1 administration for the OPV Basins. Reimbursement from City of Camarillo, PVCWD, and UWCD. FCGMA net share was \$9,748 annually.

(18) Consultant expenses for grant application for DWR SGM Implementation Grant Round 2 for projects in Las Posas Valley Basin.

(19) Hallmark contract costs FY 24-25 (staffing needs analysis); FY 25-26 line item cost estimate, independent of Hallmark, is per Board / Fiscal Committee recommendation to develop 5 year plan and build rampdown outreach strategy.

(20) FY 23-24; Projected cost to destroy Oxnard well. Delayed due to interest from County Airport in taking over well.

(21) Rate counsel and consultant for planned replenishment fee. Projected expense in FY 2024-25 for GEMES by Jarvis Fay.

(22) Additional line items may be added to Expenditures pending Fiscal Committee July 2025 review and discussion (Light Gabler contract estimate, Board Member Compensation estimate).

**FCGMA FY 2025-26 BUDGET - DRAFT
DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS**

	Designated Accounts	2022-23 Year-End Actuals	2023-24 Year-End Actuals	2024-25 Adopted Budget	2024-25 Actuals Through June 2025	2025-26 Draft Budget	Decrease Over Previous Year	% Change Over PY
1	GEMES ACCOUNT							
2	Beginning Balance	(954,399)	(1,477,130)	(1,048,955)	(1,048,955)	548,490		
3	GEMES Reserve Fee ¹	\$1,776,295	\$2,137,678	\$2,420,000	\$2,472,441	\$2,420,000	\$0	0.00%
4	LPV Watermaster legal fees for Rules Appeal				\$200,000			
5	Special Counsel ²	(\$2,049,926)	(\$1,466,690)	(\$1,655,000)	(\$1,001,490)	(\$1,560,000)	\$95,000	-5.74%
6	County Counsel ³	(\$249,100)	(\$242,813)	(\$230,000)	(\$73,507)	(\$215,000)	\$15,000	-6.52%
7	Ending Balance	(1,477,130)	(1,048,955)	(513,955)	\$548,490	\$1,193,490	\$110,000	-27.77%
8	SURCHARGES ACCOUNT							
9	Beginning Balance	\$3,233,981	\$3,337,855	\$4,474,411	\$4,474,411	\$5,559,934		
10	GMA Pumping Surcharges ⁴	\$1,027,229	\$895,179	\$1,000,000	\$1,085,523	\$1,000,000	\$0	0.00%
11	Repayment of Loan to Operations ⁵					\$1,000,000		
12	Loan to Operations ⁶	(\$1,000,000)						
13	Ending Balance (Before Reserves)	\$3,337,855	\$4,474,411	\$5,474,411	\$5,559,934	\$7,559,934	\$2,085,523	38.10%
14	Contribution to Reserves					\$250,000		
15	Designated Operating Reserves	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,250,000	\$250,000	25%
16								

Footnotes:

- (1) Reserve Fee of \$20.00 per AF to replenish GEMES Account per Resolution 2020-05 effective 1/1/2021, renewed for four years on 9/25/24 with Resolution 2024-05.
- (2) Special Counsel fees related to ongoing and anticipated litigation. Includes Stoel Rives, Shute Mihaly Wineberger (LPV Basin Adj., City Oxnard, OPV Coalition).
- (3) County Counsel costs for ongoing and anticipated litigation; Includes GEMES litigation (LPV Basin Adj., City Oxnard, OPV Coalition).
- (4) Projected surcharge revenue.
- (5) Repayment of loan (transfer from Designated Surcharges Fund to Operating Accounts in FY 22-23).
- (6) Transfer from Designated Surcharges Fund to Operating Accounts in FY 22-23.