

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, March 19, 2026,

at the Calleguas Municipal Water District offices:

2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

and via Zoom at the following address:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83642637400?pwd=8KSqxi2GG2ijPZvNplAcUNyuxDBa1Y.1>

Webinar ID: 836 4263 7400 | Passcode: 160873

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 February 5, 2026 Meeting

2. Committee Consultation: Reduction of Basin Assessments

There are various geologic and jurisdictional areas within the Las Posas Basin. The Las Posas Valley Adjudication Judgment (Judgment) recognizes several of these, including that about 20% of WMIDs fall within the United Water Conservation District (UWCD) service area. Section 7.9 of the Judgment states that, "Water Right Holders located in the western portion of the Basin within UCWD's service area presently pay assessments to UWCD, a portion of which is used to finance UWCD's ongoing activities that are designed to replenish the Basin and neighboring basins. Watermaster may reduce the amount of the Basin Assessments levied on Water Right Holders that pay an assessment to UWCD if Watermaster determines, following Committee Consultation, that such a reduction is appropriate as a matter of equity."

The Judgment defines "replenishment," in Section 1.91, as "the augmentation of Groundwater in the Basin (either by directly increasing the amount of available Groundwater or through deliveries of In Lieu Water) to: (i) enhance the Sustainable Yield; (ii) reduce or narrow, if not eliminate, the difference between the initial Operating Yield and the Sustainable Yield, for the purpose of also mitigating the eliminating any Rampdown; or (iii) avoid or mitigate Undesirable Results."

On March 5, 2026, Watermaster submitted the attached Committee Consultation, requesting PAC's recommendation on the following questions:

1. Should Watermaster reduce the amount of the Project Basin Assessment levied on Water Right Holders that pay an assessment to UWCD?
2. If PAC recommends Watermaster reduce the Project Basin Assessment levied on Water Right Holders that pay an assessment to UWCD, what fraction of the Project Basin Assessment should these Water Right Holders pay?

Watermaster requests the PAC's recommendation and feedback by April 6, 2026.

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

None.

I. Future Agenda Items

The PAC will consider items for future agendas.

J. Adjourn

Attachments

February 5, 2026 Minutes

Watermaster memo requestion committee consultation regarding the Reduction of Basin Assessments Levied on Water Right Holders that Pay Assessments to United Water Conservation District

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2026

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a regular hybrid meeting at 3:00 PM on Thursday, February 5, 2026, 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 3:02 PM.

B. Roll Call

The following PAC members were present:

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

The following PAC members were absent:

1. Ventura County Waterworks Districts 1 and 19 – Paul Chan
2. West Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Steven Murata
3. East Las Posas Small Agricultural – Patty Martinez

C. Agenda Review: No changes or corrections to the agenda were requested.

D. Public Comments:

1. Local grower Darryl Smith referred to comments made by the PAC in December 2025 stating that water levels in the Epworth Gravels Management Area of the Basin are declining and at risk of overdraft. Mr. Smith stated that he has worked with Calleguas and the FCGMA over the years and has offered his well as a monitoring well. Comparing his recorded water levels over time, Mr. Smith reports there has been no decline in water levels in the area of his wells.
2. Local grower Doug Homze echoed Mr. Smith's remarks and stated that his well is also located in the Epworth Gravels Area. He said he has monitoring records dating back 50 years and that water levels have remained stable since his family purchased the land in 1976.

E. PAC Member Comments: There were no PAC member comments.

F. Regular Agenda

1. **Approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2026, Regular PAC Meeting**

John Menne moved to approve the minutes as stated for the January 15, 2026, meeting; Richard Cavaletto seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstentions; 3-Absent.

2. Draft Basin Optimization Yield Study

On December 17, 2025, LPV Watermaster issued a Committee Consultation request for the PAC to perform a review of their draft Basin Optimization Yield Study (BOYS). The deadline for submission of the PAC's Recommendation Report is February 16, 2026.

During this meeting, the PAC discussed the draft Recommendation Report and Recommendation Report cover memo. The report and cover memo were developed based on previous PAC discussions and individual committee members' comments which were collected and consolidated by PAC Administrator Tony Morgan.

The following four key points are listed in the PAC's Recommendation Report:

- Recommendation 1: Apply the BOYS strictly as defined in the Judgment; initiate Rampdown only where necessary to achieve the 2040 endpoint
- Recommendation 2: Prioritize in-lieu water and other non-allocational management tools
- Recommendation 3: Do not apply Differential Rampdown; distinguish allocation changes from extraction controls
- Recommendation 4: Base Rampdown decisions on demonstrated need and observed Basin conditions

The PAC noted that certain assumptions in the draft BOYS report are not fully consistent with the Judgment. For example, the report assumes that Rampdown must occur to achieve sustainable groundwater management by 2040, whereas the Judgment requires that Rampdown decisions be based on demonstrated need, informed by observed Basin conditions and sufficiently complete and reliable data, and revisited through future Basin Optimization Yield Studies.

Because of the potential impact that Rampdown will have on growers and all landowners in the Basin, the PAC strongly encourages the Watermaster to revise the BOYS report as recommended to avoid unnecessary implementation of Rampdown.

All PAC members reported that their comments were reflected in the draft Recommendation Report, and they approved the contents of the draft report and cover memo. Vice-Chair Grether moved to approve the release of the Recommendation Report and cover memo as presented on or before February 16, 2026; John Menne seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 7-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstentions; 3-Absent.

3. Draft Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan WY 2024 Annual Report

On January 15, 2026, Watermaster submitted to the PAC a written request for consultation on the draft Las Posas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan WY 2024 Annual Report (Annual Report). The committee's Recommendation Report is due to Watermaster on February 15, 2026.

The PAC discussed the draft Annual Report and the comments it intends to include in its Recommendation Report. Vice-Chair Grether initiated a discussion with Farai Kaseke/Watermaster regarding certain calculations and field titles in the report, seeking clarification of definitions and identifying minor calculation corrections. The PAC and the Watermaster agreed to empower Vice-Chair Grether to work with Farai Kaseke to implement the proposed minor modifications.

David Schwabauer moved to approve the release of the Recommendation Report to include the pending minor corrections to calculations and column titles/headings as discussed in the meeting with final approval by Vice-Chair Grether. Richard Cavaletto seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 7-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstentions; 3-Absent. The Recommendation Report will be delivered to Watermaster on or before February 15, 2026.

4. Regional Desalter

On January 28, 2026, Watermaster submitted to the PAC a memo regarding the East Las Posas Management Area (ELPMA) regional desalter Basin Optimization Project.

The Basin Optimization Plan (BOP) lists a feasibility study for a regional desalter as a Basin Optimization Project to be carried out during this cycle. Calleguas Municipal Water District is pursuing a study regarding groundwater desalination in the Upper Calleguas Creek Watershed.

The ELPMA lies entirely within the Calleguas service area and the geographical area of focus for their desalter study. The Calleguas plan already covers much of the scope of work developed for the Watermaster regional desalter project and can easily be expanded to incorporate any additional scope specific to the Watermaster BOP project.

Watermaster proposes partnering with Calleguas as an “efficient, cost-effective, and strategic approach for completing the regional desalter feasibility study and advancing the basin optimization project required by the judgment.”

The PAC discussed the proposed collaboration with Calleguas. Farai Kaseke, on behalf of the Watermaster, noted that the collaboration would help avoid duplicative work and associated costs. Ian Prichard, Deputy General Manager of Calleguas, added that the study being pursued by Calleguas would cover the Watermaster scope and that Watermaster would fund only those portions of the study not included in Calleguas’ plan.

The PAC discussed the need to evaluate water quality in addition to quantity, noting that the desalinated water will be blended with Calleguas water and must meet applicable quality standards to be viable. The PAC further indicated that cost transparency and ongoing visibility into project expenses will be a condition of its support as the project progresses.

After the discussion, the PAC indicated its approval for Watermaster to join forces with Calleguas for the study, provided that the PAC is allowed to review project costs as the work progresses. John Menne made a motion to approve moving forward with the Regional Desalter BOP feasibility study in partnership with Calleguas, with the condition that the Watermaster will have ongoing transparency and visibility into project costs. Richard Cavaletto seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 7-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstentions; 3-Absent.

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: February 3 meeting; nothing was reported.
5. FCGMA Monthly Regular Board Meeting: Vice-Chair Grether attended the FCGMA Regular Board Meeting on January 28, 2026, and reported that the board heard a presentation on the Watermaster's treatment and processing of groundwater use by a Zone Mutual Water Company shareholder without a water right allocation. In accordance with the Judgment, any water used beyond their allocation of 0 AF must be cured or will be treated and charged as Overuse.

H. Written Communication: No new written communication was presented.

I. Future Agenda Items: The Watermaster advised that, in the near future, the PAC will receive a consultation request regarding payment of Basin Assessments by those in the West-West portion of the Basin who do not consider it equitable for them to contribute to the funding of Basin replenishment projects.

J. Adjournment

Chair Prichard adjourned the meeting at 4:31 PM until the next regular hybrid meeting scheduled for February 19, 2026, at 3:00 PM.

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

LAS POSAS VALLEY WATERMASTER



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 06, 2026
To: Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee
From: Kudzai F. Kaseke, Assistant Groundwater Manager
Subject: Reduction of Basin Assessments Levied on Water Right Holders that Pay Assessments to United Water Conservation District

Dear Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee (PAC):

The Las Posas Valley Adjudication Judgment (Judgment) determines and adjudicates all groundwater rights within the LPV Groundwater Basin (LPV Basin), “whether based on appropriation, overlying right, prescriptive right, or any other possible basis of right.” (Judgment, ¶ A). While the LPV Basin is managed as one, the Judgment recognizes the existence of different management areas and jurisdictional boundaries that may have an impact on Judgment implementation; about 80% of the groundwater allocations fall within the Calleguas Municipal Water District Service area, while the remainder fall within the United Water Conservation District’s (UWCD) Service Area. The Judgment contemplates replenishment activities as determined by the Basin Optimization Plan (BOP) to bring the basin to sustainability by 2040, however, the section of the basin under UWCD Service Area already pays such replenishment fees to UWCD. As such, the Judgment provides that, “Watermaster may reduce the amount of the Basin Assessments levied on Water Right Holders that pay an assessment to UWCD if Watermaster determines, following Committee Consultation, that such a reduction is appropriate as a matter of equity”. (Judgment, § 7.9)

On June 25, 2025, Watermaster adopted the BOP and on September 24, 2025, approved a \$7.25 Basin Assessment to fund the implementation and work on projects included in the BOP for WY 2025-26. This cost will increase, likely substantially, as implementation of BOP projects ramps up as outlined in the BOP budget; however, section 7.9 of the Judgment has not been addressed. The interpretation and application of the provisions of section 7.9 will have a significant impact on BOP project revenue and BOP implementation in subsequent years, as well as the fees that Water Rights Holders are assessed.

CONSULTATION REQUEST

Pursuant to Section 7.9 of the Judgment, Watermaster requests the PAC provide its recommendations on the following:

1. Should Watermaster reduce the amount of the Project Basin Assessments levied on Water Right Holders that pay an assessment to UWCD?
2. If PAC recommends Watermaster reduce the Project Basin Assessments levied on Water Right Holders that pay an assessment to UWCD, what fraction of the Project Basin Assessments should these Water Right Holders pay?

An item regarding this issue will be included on an upcoming FCGMA Board of Directors (acting as the Watermaster Board) meeting agenda. Watermaster requests your committee’s recommendations and feedback via the email below by April 06, 2026.

Please contact me at 805 654 2010 or LPV.Watermaster@venturacounty.gov with any questions or concerns.