

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 31, 2023

The Regular Meeting of August 31, 2023, of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency was called to order at 3:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai, CA 93023.

Attendees were: Board Members: Richard Hajas, Jim Finch, Peter Thielke and Andrew Whitman. Interim General Manager Julia Aranda and Clerk of the Board/Administrator Cece VanDerMeer.

Also in attendance: Jordan Kear, Consultant, Peter Candy, Attorney was present on Zoom.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chair Hajas called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. VanDerMeer called the roll.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Hajas.

3. **Director Announcements/Reports/Comments:**

Mutuals: None

Ojai Water Conservation District: None

City of Ojai: None

Casitas Municipal Water District: None

Community Facilities District Report: None

4. **GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Julia Aranda stated that she has either completed the tasks from her list or they are in progress: setting up the bank account, completing the State Controller's Report, the Well Verification Application Registration, FY 23-24 Budget, updating past meeting minutes, and a new website.

Aranda proposed an agreement between OBGMA and CMWD be prepared for her continued role as General Manager.

5. **BASIN STATUS REPORT:**

Jordan Kear's presentation "Hilary, Sisar, Artesian". Kear reported the Key Well was 72.26 feet on 8/31/23. Kear's presentation included how the earthquake did not affect the Basin.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA:**

Bert Handy, on Zoom, requested an updated chart to be put on the website.

7. CONSENT ITEMS:

a. Approve Minutes and Financial Report:

Finch motioned to approve the consent agenda; Thielke seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Finch, Thielke and Chair Hajas.

Noes: None

Abstain: -Whitman

8. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget:

Aranda presented the FY 2023-24 Budget. The Budget included a 3% increase in expenses each year. Thielke motioned to approve the FY 2023-2024; Whitman seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Finch, Thielke, Whitman and Chair Hajas.

Noes: None

b. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation:

The Board discussed approval of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Schedule. Candy stated that he would research if Proposition 218 does not apply to the SGMA implementation fee (GSP fee). -Thielke motioned to approve the plan; Whitman seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Finch, Thielke, Whitman? and Chair Hajas.

Noes: None

c. Proposed Ordinance To Protect the Southwest Upper Saturated Zone (SWUSZ) From Groundwater Extraction and Depletion (Ordinance No. 12):

The Board discussed the Upper Saturated Zone and if the DWR would require information in the report. -Kear suggested that it would be proactive to have the Ordinance state that a requirement for drilling a well would be a seal through the saturated zone 25' – 50'. The Board discussed setting a date for a public hearing. Finch motioned to set a public hearing for September 28, 2023; Theilke seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Finch, Thielke, Whitman, and Chair Hajas.

Noes: None

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Draft Agreement between Casitas Municipal Water District and Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency for General Manager Services:

The Board discussed the Draft Agreement. Finch suggested a 5% increase instead of a 3% annual increase. The Board approved the draft agreement. The draft will be circulated to CMWD for review/comment and a final version will be presented to each board.

10. ADJOURNMENT-- The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be September 28, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai.

ATTEST: _____