

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 25, 2023

The Regular Meeting May 25, 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:** Board Members: Richard Hajas, Jim Finch, Peter Thielke, Bob Daddi, and Andy Whitman. Interim General Manager, Julia Aranda and Rebekah Vieira, serving as Clerk of the Board.

Also in attendance: Jordan Kear, Trevor Jones (Dudek)

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

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

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

Mutuals: None.

Ojai Water Conservation District: None.

City of Ojai: None.

Casitas Lake Level: None.

Community Facilities District Report: Whitman reported issues with artesian conditions impacting leech fields for septic tanks. There have been higher bacteria readings and water run-off flowing down streets. It's not clear who is responsible and what resources are available. This is a multi-agency question. Primarily, it is the Regional Water Quality Control's responsibility, but they don't get involved in small homeowner situations. The City Manager, James Vega, is directing this. Supervisor Matt Lavere is aware of the problem, and the County Public Works office is involved.

4. **GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS:**

OBGMA was not selected for Prop 2, implementation grant for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Need to prioritize projects in the GSP and how to fund them in a rate study.

In the process of creating a cost-effective system for the Pumper's quarterly statements/payments.

No records of Form 700 were on file for last year. Discussion on getting them filled out and filed.

Ventura River Watershed Leadership Committee included OBGMA in an email requesting to add a seat to include a Chumash tribal government representative. This committee wants to vote on it by the end of May. Discussion on whether OBGMA needs to be involved.

A replacement well application for Reeves Orchard was discovered, the Board wasn't familiar with it. The General Manager will reach out to the applicant to see if they are still interested.

The 2022 Government Compensation Report was due on 4/30/2023. This would be for Roberta's payroll for all last year. The General Manager will have the Bookkeeper do the report.

**5. BASIN STATUS REPORTS:**

Jordan Kear had a presentation, "The Mossy Mossy Month of May". Attached to meeting minutes.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA: None.**

**7. CONSENT ITEMS:**

**a. Approve the Minutes of April 27, 2023.**

Daddi motioned to approve; Thielke seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Finch, Thielke, Whitman, Chair Hajas

Noes: None

**8. ACTION ITEMS:**

**a. Well Permit Application – APN 024-0-031-160, 1205 Country Club Dr.**

Finch motioned to approve, Thielke seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Finch, Thielke, Whitman, Chair Hajas

Noes: None

**b. Well Permit Application – APN 029-0-020-040, 4274 Thacher Rd.**

Thielke motioned to approve, Dadd seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Finch, Thielke, Whitman, Chair Hajas

Noes: None

**c. Seasonal Groundwater Monitoring Report**

Finch motioned to approve, seconded by Whitman

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Finch, Thielke, Whitman, Chair Hajas

Noes: None

**d. Resolution for Signature Authority**

Daddi motioned to approve; Thielke seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Finch, Thielke, Whitman, Chair Hajas

Noes: None

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- a. The IGM asked the Board if any of the task items need to be reprioritized and/or new tasks added. The State Controller Annual Report is due, and the IGM is

working on it. An audit update was given. Dudek to do the DWR reporting. A 5-year budget plan will be in the works. A brief LAFCO update was shared.

- b. Julia presented a draft Well Verification Request application. This included a process granting the General Manager some authority to administratively approve certain types of well applications. Discussion on what questions and requirements should be on the application. IGM will revise based on comments received.

- 10. **ADJOURN** – The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be June 29, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Mossy Mossy Month of May

Ojai Basin conditions, spring 2023

OBGMA  
Ojai, California

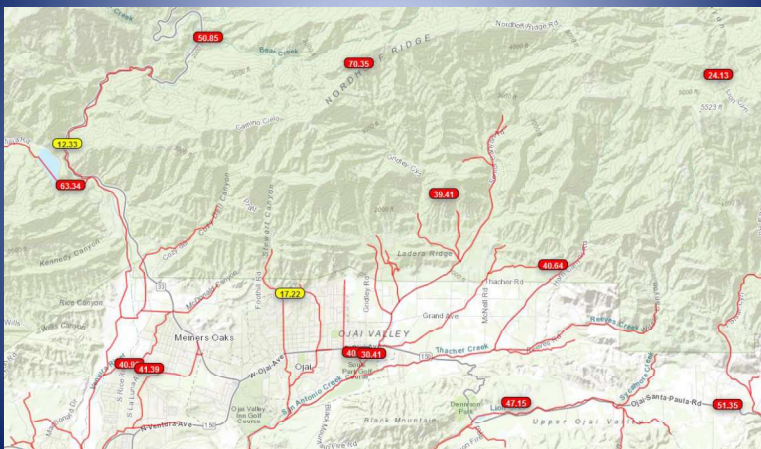
Jordan Kear, PG, CHG  
25 May 2023



## How much is this?

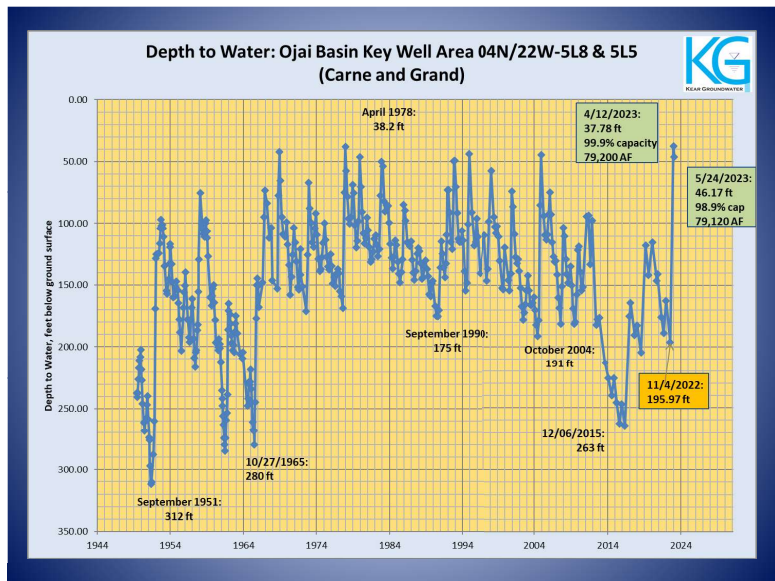
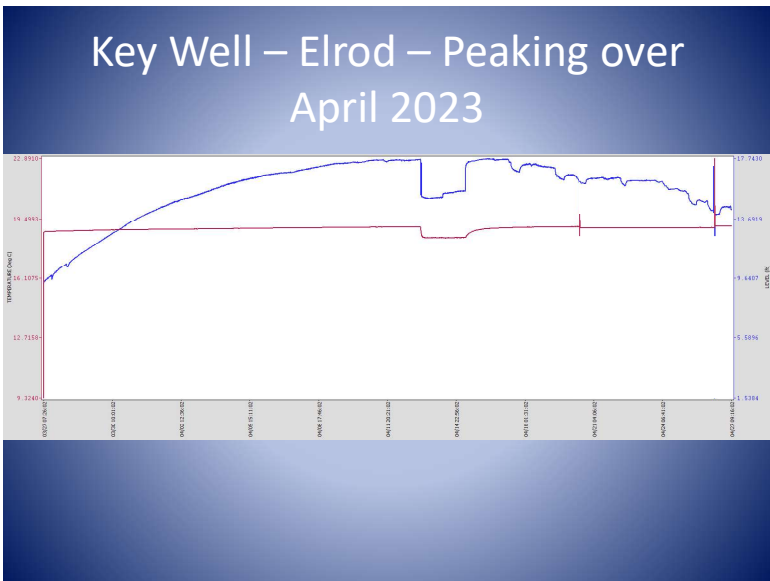
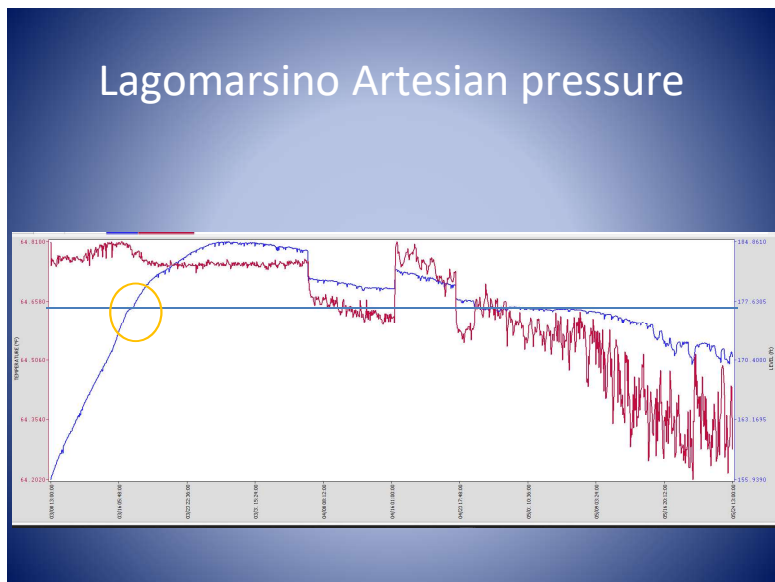
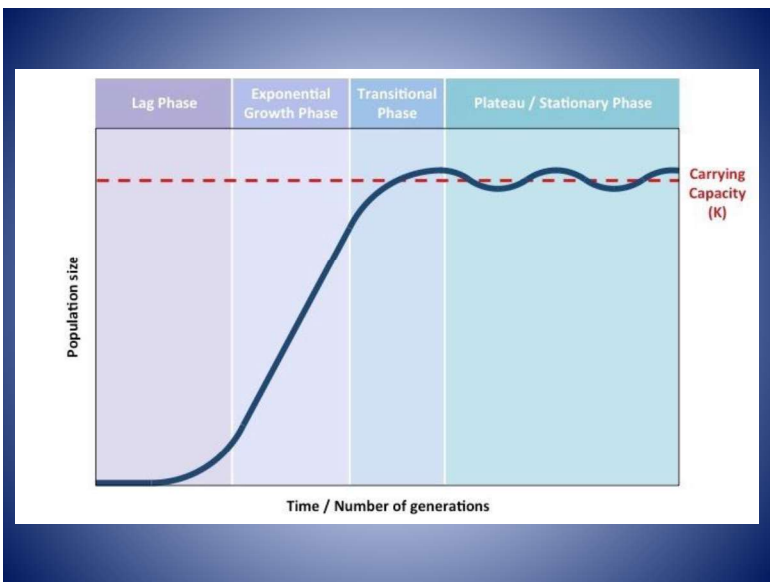
- 41.01 inches on valley floor to date
- 71.76 inches on ridgetop
- 198.3% of average
  
- Driest April on record (well, a tie... at zero)

## Year to Date Rainfall Totals

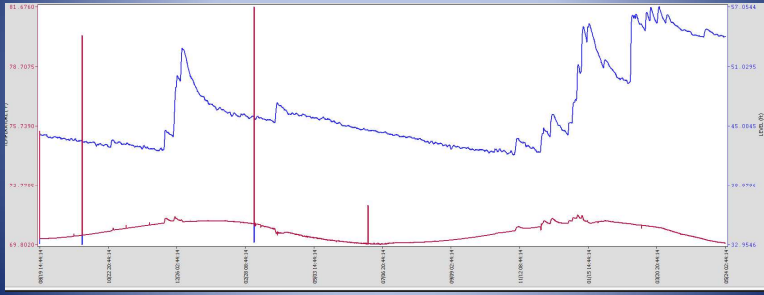


## How has the basin responded?

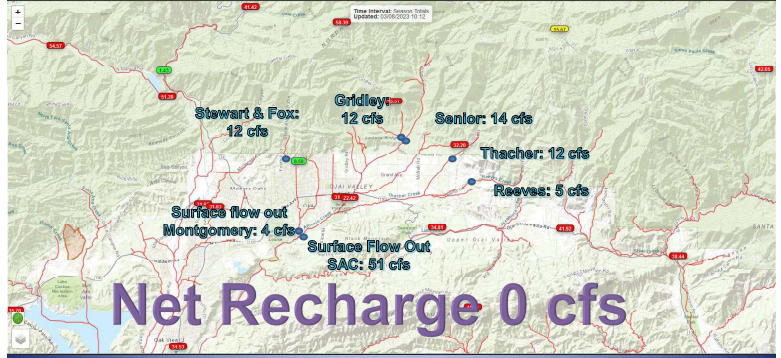
- Surface water continuous flow from Late December through late January
- Continuous flow returned with February 24 storms (Reeves Creek now discontinuous)
- Likely full with a peak on April 13
- Historic High?



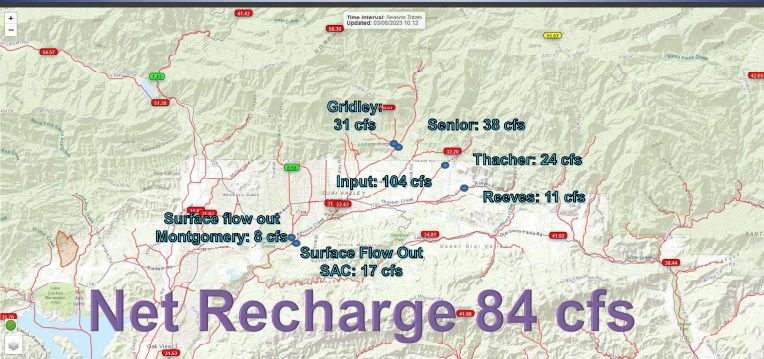
# Perched system South Fulton Street DDMW



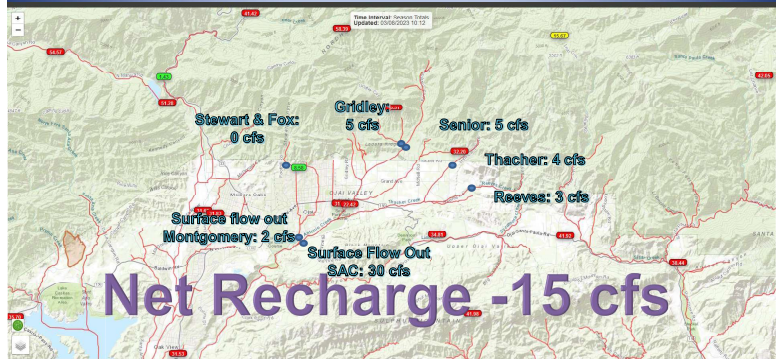
# Inflow 20 April 2023



# Inflow 6 March 2023

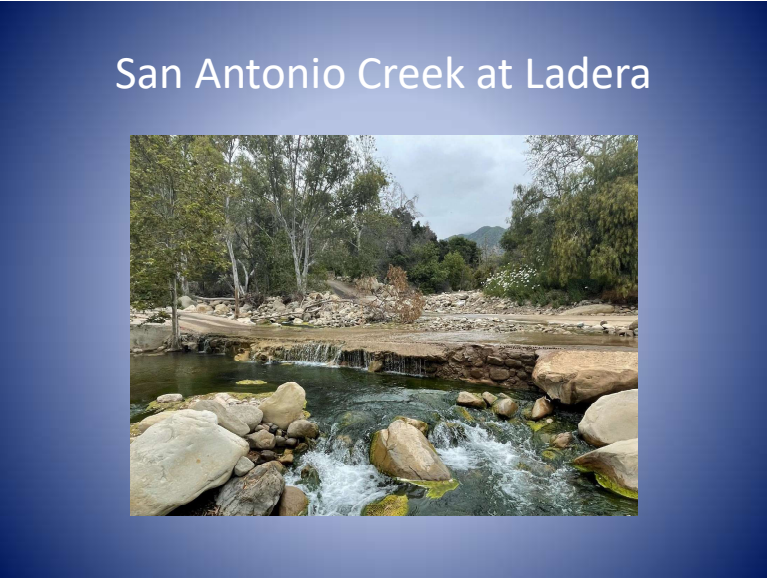


# Inflow 24 May 2023



30+/- artesian wells @ 0.1 cfs=3 cfs?

Perched system contribution = 12 cfs?



Reeves Creek near basin entry



Downstream from Grand



San Antonio Creek at Grand



Thacher at Boardman Road

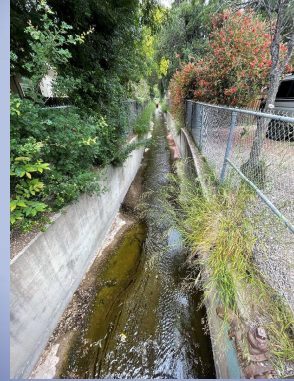




Artesian Well near Boardman and  
Ojai Avenue



Flow increasing through city



Creek near Daly Park



Outflow Point



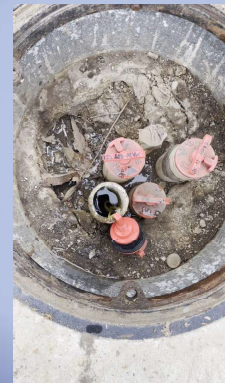
SAC at Ventura River

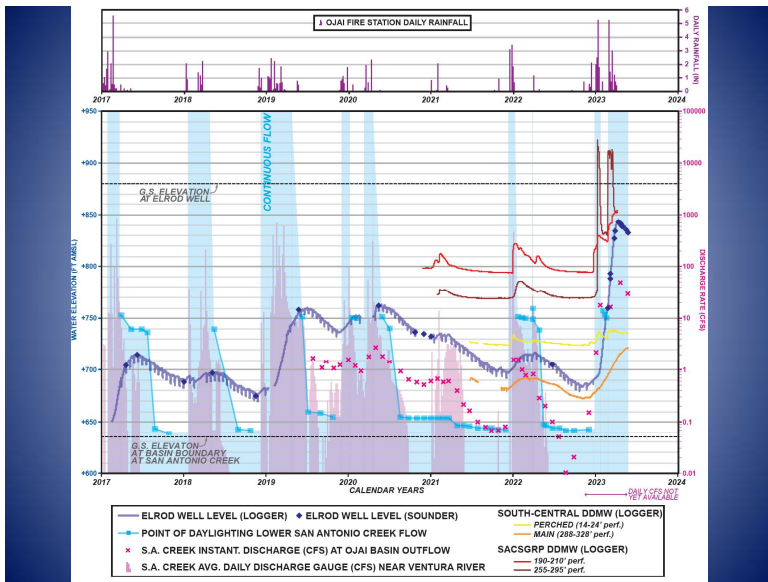


SAC at Old Creek Road



Artesian Flow in Monitoring Well





## Forward

- Better estimates of perched system aquifer  
Storativity and transmissivity  
Extent and gradient
- Water quality in wells and creeks
- Replace logger in SAC near discharge