

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 5, 2024

The Regular Meeting of December 5, 2024, 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, Bob Daddi, and Peter Thielke. General Manager Julia Aranda and Secretary/Treasurer Cece VanDerMeer.

Also in attendance: Peter Candy (via Zoom), Attorney and Jordan Kear, Consultant.

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: Absent

Casitas Municipal Water District: None

Community Facilities District Report: None

4. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS: Aranda passed out samples of the newly revised quarterly well owner statements implemented for the period of October 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Aranda stated the statements were customized to add a note at the top to let well owners know of current updated information applicable to the reporting period. Aranda stated the revised statements were also personalized for the well owner as to whether they are domestic or agricultural, as well as if the well owner is using a meter or crop factor. Finch stated the acre-feet (AF) on the report for crop factor should be corrected to be 0.5 AF instead of 1.7 (AF) for domestic and for agricultural it should be 1.0 AF instead of 2.0 AF.

Aranda reported the Department of Water Resources (DWR) reached out to all of the GSAs regarding a Listening Session for SGMP compliance, stating there will be a Zoom meeting on January 15, 2025, and she has

registered to attend the meeting. Aranda reported the DWR has updated their SGMA portal to make self-reporting possible. Aranda stated she has scheduled a presentation with the Ojai Valley Board of Realtors at their meeting on January 8, 2025.

Aranda reported DWR has awarded a \$25,000 grant for the San Antonio Creek stream gauge and the Board will need to take action at their next meeting to accept the award.

5. BASIN STATUS REPORT:

Jordan Kear presented his Basin Status Report named "Hydrosticce". Kear reported the Key Well was 102.7' below ground level and there was 64,000 acre-feet in the basin which is at 80% capacity.

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

Three well owners in attendance spoke on the meter compliance letters they received.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Daddi motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Thielke seconded the motion. The Financial Report for October 2024 and the minutes for October 24, 2024, were approved unanimously.

Roll Call vote:

Ayes: Hajas, Finch, Daddi, Thielke

Noes: None

8. ACTION ITEMS:

Item: Well Verification – 3622 Reeves Road

- Determine that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by OBGMA for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin.
- Determine that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not decrease the likelihood of achieving any sustainability goal for the Basin as covered by the Plan; and
- Adopt Resolution No. 2024-05 Authorizing Well Verification for a Proposed New well Located Within the Boundaries of the Agency on APN 035-0-290-165, 3622 Reeves Road.

Aranda stated that another condition for the drilling of the well at 3622 Reeves Road would be that Jordan Kear would be in attendance when the well is being drilled.

Finch motioned to approve Resolution 2024-05 with the new conditions. Thielke seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Hajas, Finch, Daddi, Thielke

Noes: None

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Legislative Ad-Hoc Committee Update:

The Ad-Hoc Committee did not meet, no report.

b. Meter Compliance Ad-Hoc Committee Update:

Aranda reported the second notice for well owner meter compliance will be mailed out on December 6, 2024.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be January 30, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai.

ATTEST: _____