

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 26, 2023

The Regular Meeting of October 26, 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, Bob Daddi, Peter Thielke and Andrew Whitman. General Manager Julia Aranda and Clerk of the Board/Administrator Cece VanDerMeer.

Also in attendance: Jordan Kear, Consultant, Peter Candy, Attorney.

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 reported the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has approved the Groundwater Sustainable Plan. Aranda thanked Jordan Kear and Dudek for their work on the plan. Aranda stated the new website went live on October 13, 2023. Aranda stated she would put a news flash on the website regarding the DWR approval. Aranda reported she is working on revising the quarterly groundwater statements sent to the well owners to make them more user friendly and easier to complete. Aranda stated she is preparing a Request for Proposal for the 2020-2023 audit.

5. **BASIN STATUS REPORT:**

Jordan Kear reported that the Basin level is 87.36 feet and capacity is at 83%.

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

None

7. CONSENT ITEMS:

a. Approve Minutes and Financial Report:

Finch motioned to approve the consent agenda; Daddi seconded.

Roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

8. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Proposed Public Hearing for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Fee Increase:

- The Board discussed setting a Public Hearing to consider adoption of a resolution increasing the GSP extraction fee from its current rate of \$37 per acre-foot to \$75 per acre-foot, effective January 1, 2024, and then from \$75 per acre-foot to \$100 per acre-foot, effective October 1, 2024.

Whitman motioned to approve the Public Hearing; Thielke seconded.

Roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

- The Board discussed approving the Notice of Public Hearing for: (i) publishing in a local newspaper for two consecutive weeks prior to the November 30, 2023 meeting; (ii) posting to the agency's website within a reasonable amount of time prior to the November 30, 2023 meeting; and (iii) forwarding by mail to any interested party who has made a written request for service by mail within a reasonable amount of time prior to the November 30, 2023 meeting.

Daddi motioned to approve publishing the Notice of Public Hearing; Whitman seconded.

Roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

- The Board discussed the "cost of service" analysis and related data supporting the need for the fee increase, which will be posted to agency's website no later than November 10, 2023.

Roll call vote:

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

Noes: None

9. **ADJOURNMENT--** The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be November 30, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai.

ATTEST: _____