

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 29, 2024

The Regular Meeting of February 29, 2024, of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency was called to order at 3:04 PM in the Council Chambers, Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai, CA 93023.

Attendees were: Board Members: Richard Hajas, Bob Daddi, Andrew Whitman and Peter Thielke. General Manager Julia Aranda (via Zoom) and Secretary/Treasurer Cece VanDerMeer.

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

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chair Hajas called the meeting to order at 3:04pm. VanDerMeer called the roll.

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

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

Mutuals: Thielke reported that Senior Canyon has applied for 2 grants from FEMA.

Ojai Water Conservation District: Absent

City of Ojai: None

Casitas Municipal Water District: Hajas reported that the lake was 87% full.

Community Facilities District Report: None

4. **GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS:** Julia Aranda reported that the process of updating the access database from 32-bit to 64-bit was successful and we will be working on updating the extraction statements. Aranda stated she reached out to the Small GSA Coalition, which included GSAs from Northern California and some lobbyists, she is planning to continue discussions with them. Aranda reminded the Board that the Form 700s are due by April 1, 2024, and are filed in our office.

5. **BASIN STATUS REPORT:**

Jordan Kear had a presentation "Leaping Recharge Supercharged". Kear reported the Key well was at 87.96' and the Basin was at 94% capacity and there was 66,000 acre-feet in the basin.

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

None.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Whitman motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Daddi seconded.

Roll Call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Whitman, Thielke and Hajas

Noes: None

8. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Community Facilities Director:

Appoint a Director to Represent the Community Facilities District.

Hajas talked to John Willey about remaining as the alternate and asked Daddi if he would be willing to remain as the Director. Hajas asked for comments from the Board, and there were none. Thielke motioned to appoint Daddi for another term on the Board; Hajas seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Thielke and Hajas

Abstain: Whitman

Daddi motioned to appoint John Willey as the alternate; Thielke seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Whitman, Thielke and Hajas

Noes: None

b. Well Verification

Recommended Actions:

- Determine that groundwater extraction by 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. 2024-01 Authorizing Well Verification for a Proposed New Well Located Within the Boundaries of the Agency on APN 014-0-040-200, 1388 Orange Road

Aranda stated that this is the well verification that was on the January 25, 2024 Board Meeting located at 1388 Orange Road. Aranda stated that the hydrogeologist issues were addressed and taken care of and a revised memorandum from DBS&A (included in the agenda). Aranda mentioned that the Resolution 2024-01 in the agenda has been revised with no significant changes and has been given separately from the agenda.

Thielke motioned to approve the actions including Resolution 2024-01; Whitman seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Whitman, Thielke and Hajas

Noes: None

c. Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin Annual Report:

Receive and File the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin Annual Report. Aranda reported that the Annual Report that is due to the DWR to comply with SGMA, is in draft form in the Agenda and Devin Pritchard-Peterson with Dudek, who prepared the Annual Report, gave a presentation on the Annual Report Covering Water Year 2023.

Kevin Delano with the DWR State Water Resource Control Board, stated that he would like to help with the Ojai Basin's approval letter from the DWR on the corrective actions that were mentioned in the letter.

Daddi motioned to accept and file the Annual Report Covering Water Year 2023; Whitman seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Whitman, Thielke and Hajas

Noes: None

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Well Application Cost Recovery and Agreement:

Aranda discussed the various resources that are required to approve a well application and there were examples in the agenda of other agencies who had implemented policies and resolutions for well applicants. Hajas directed staff and legal counsel to come up with similar documents for review.

b. Legislative Ad-Hoc Committee Update:

Thielke reported that he had contacted Assembly Member Steve Bennett's assistant, Michelle Sevilla, and they will be meeting on

March 19, 2024. Aranda stated that she will submit some talking points to their staff ahead of time. Whitman stated that he would be interested in looking at issues regarding the massive documents that are required by SGMA. Aranda stated that the Small GSA Coalition she contacted has lobbyists who are working with them regarding assembly bills related to groundwater.

c. Meter Compliance Committee Update:

Hajas reported that he would like to get some data regarding meters that is in our database. Aranda stated that since the Access database is being updated, she will be able to gather the information.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be March 28, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai.

ATTEST: _____