

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 27, 2023

The Regular Meeting of July 27, 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 and Peter Thielke. Andrew Whitman was absent. 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.

Item 8a was moved to this position on the agenda to accommodate Director Thielke.

**8. ACTION ITEMS:**

**a. Letter to Delinquent Well Owners:**

Julia Aranda presented the proposed Letter to Delinquent Well Owners. Hajas stated that the letter be sent as proposed. Peter Candy also recommended tracking who the letter is being sent to and the well owner's response; either active or abandoned and exempt or destroyed. Daddi motioned to approve sending the letter; Thielke seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Finch, Thielke, Chair Hajas. Whitman was absent

Noes: None

Item 9a was moved to this position on the agenda.

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**a. Draft Fiscal Year 23-24 Budget and Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation:**

Aranda presented the Draft Fiscal Year 23-24 Budget and Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation schedule. The Board discussed how the formation of the GSP and Bulletin 118 could affect the 23-24 budget. The Board discussed the possibility of raising the extraction fee.

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

Mutuals: Thielke stated that Senior Canyon has not needed to purchase water from Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) since the rains.

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 the Draft Ordinance for the perched aquifer will be presented at a later date. Aranda proposed an agreement between OBGMA and CMWD be prepared for her continued role as General Manager.

**5. BASIN STATUS REPORT:**

Jordan Kear had a presentation "Puppy Dog Days". Kear reported the Key Well was 62.45 feet on 7/26/23 and rising and the Basin was about 90% capacity/72,000 acre-feet in 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; Daddi seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Finch, Thielke, Chair Hajas

Noes: None

**10. ADJOURNMENT--** The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be August 31, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai.

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