

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 30, 2023

The Regular Meeting of November 30, 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 and Bob Daddi. General Manager Julia Aranda and Clerk of the Board/Administrator Cece VanDerMeer were also in attendance.

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 well application for 300 Longhorn Lane was administratively approved. Aranda stated she received an audit quote in the amount of \$17,500.00 for the years: 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. Aranda will request a proposal from Farber Hass Hurley LLP and will present to the Board for approval.

5. **BASIN STATUS REPORT:**

Jordan Kear reported that the Basin level is 90.52 feet and capacity is at 82% with 65,600 acre-feet.

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 Daddi and Chair Hajas.

Noes: None

8. PUBLIC HEARING:

a. Proposed Resolution Increasing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Extraction Fee:

Chair Hajas opened the Public Hearing at 3:15pm. The Board discussed 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.

Public Comments:

Brandon Hanson asked about why the increase was necessary. Robert Davis stated that he has been a rancher in the valley for 70 years.

Chair Hajas closed the Public Hearing at 3:25pm.

Finch discussed the history of the basin and the possibility of getting legislation involved. Daddi stated that the basin has been stable for a long time. Daddi requested a short list of what the Department of Water Resources is requiring.

Finch motioned to approve Resolution 2023-05; Daddi seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Finch, Daddi and Chair Hajas.

Noes: None

9. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation
 - o Approve proposal from Dudek to provide GSP Implementation Support Services.

Daddi motioned to approve the proposal from Dudek; Finch seconded.

On a roll call vote:

Ayes: Finch, Daddi and Chair Hajas.

Noes: None

- b. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation
 - o Approve proposal from Kear Groundwater to provide GSP Implementation Support Services.

Daddi motioned to approve the proposal from Dudek; Finch seconded.

On a roll call vote:

Ayes: Finch, Daddi and Chair Hajas.

Noes: None

- c. Consider cancellation of December 28, 2023, Board Meeting

Finch motioned to cancel the December 28, 2023 Board Meeting; Daddi seconded.

Ayes: Finch, Daddi and Chair Hajas

Noes: None

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. Formation of Two Ad-Hoc Committees in 2024
 - o Outreach to State legislators and regulatory agencies to seek modifications to GSP reporting requirements. Daddi requested to be on the Ad-Hoc Committee for outreach.
 - o Explore strategies to enforce compliance with OBGMA metering and reporting requirements.

- 11. **ADJOURNMENT**-- The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be January 25, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai.

ATTEST: _____