



BOARD MEETING AGENDA
September 24, 2026, at 3:00 pm
Council Chambers, Ojai City Hall
401 South Ventura Street, Ojai, CA 93023
Phone: 805.640.1207 **Web site:** obgma.com
Email: obgma@aol.com

Board of Directors	
Richard Hajas, Casitas Municipal Water District	Jim Finch, Ojai Water Conservation District
Michael Weaver, Mutual Water Companies	Bob Daddi, Community Facilities District
Andrew Whitman, City of Ojai	

Zoom Teleconferencing for Public Call in Participation:

1. Zoom Dial in Information: 1-669-900-9128, Meeting ID: 827 5712 7464, Password: 218792.

For Public Viewing

2. Zoom Meeting

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82757127464?pwd=Rm5JenhNUDNvRVovaEUwMzdScnFRdz09>

3. www.OBGMA.com

4. City of Ojai YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3DhCB5Z1DynNC7n8qcNeDQ/live> (2 Minute delay of transmission)

5. In Ojai, CA: Spectrum Channel 10.

Public Comments: Members of the public may provide public comments under Item 6 or on each agenda item presented herein. Please wait until the Board Chair asks if any members of the public wish to comment. This will provide for orderly participation during the meeting.

Members of the public may also submit written public comments in advance via e-mail no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Public comment e-mails should be sent to OBGMA@aol.com "Attention Board of Directors".

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS/COMMENTS

- Mutual Water Companies
- Ojai Water Conservation District
- City of Ojai

- Casitas Municipal Water District
- Community Facilities District – CMWD Ojai Service Area

4. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

5. BASIN STATUS REPORTS

- Current Status of Basin: Input, Output, and Storage

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

The Board will receive comments from the public at this time. Other than for emergency items, no action can be taken during this period. Matters raised at this time may be briefly discussed by the Board and will generally be referred to staff and/or placed on a subsequent agenda.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Financial Report for August 2026
- b. Minutes of September 9, 2026, meeting

8. ACTION ITEMS

a. Appoint General Manager

- Appoint Miranda Patton, PE, as General Manager and Approve Employment Agreement with Miranda Patton for the period October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027

b. Employment Agreements

- Approve the Employment Agreement with Cece VanDerMeer for the period October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027
- Approve the Employment Agreement with Tara Ransom for the period October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027

c. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget

- Adopt the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget

d. Resolution 2026-03

- Approve Banking Resolution 2026-03

e. Proposed New Well Located Within the Boundaries of the Agency on APN 014-0-030-205

- Determine that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with the 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. 2026-04 Authorizing Written Verification of a Proposed New Well Located Within the Boundaries of the Agency of Assessor's Parcel No. 014-0-030-205.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Legislative Ad-Hoc Committee Update

b. Meter Compliance Ad-Hoc Committee Update

10. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meetings of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency are scheduled for the last Thursday of each month. The meeting agenda will be posted at Ojai City Hall and the OBGMA website 72 hours prior to the meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency is scheduled for October 29, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. to be held in the Council Chambers at Ojai City Hall and by Zoom Teleconferencing. Please contact OBGMA by email at obgma@aol.com or by calling 805.640.1207 with any questions.

OBGMA EXTRACTION CHARGES BY PERIOD

2025/2026

Oct/Nov/Dec 2025		(1-2026)	(\$25/acre foot)			
	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	314.62	\$8,329.05				
Dom/Land	59.04	\$1,964.69				
Mutual	15.67	\$391.69				
CMWD	355.40	\$8,885.00				
Totals	744.73	\$19,570.43	\$11,247.00	\$620.00	\$75,847.83	\$107,285.26

Jan/Feb/Mar 2026		(2-2026)	(\$25/acre foot)			
	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	396.56	\$10,374.84				
Dom/Land	85.58	\$2,572.27				
Mutual	10.65	\$278.63				
CMWD	308.30	\$7,707.50				
Totals	801.09	\$20,933.24	\$10,790.00	\$590.00	\$80,646.74	\$112,959.98

April/May/June 2026		(3-2026)	(\$25/acre foot)			
	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	620.92	\$15,780.77				
Dom/Land	109.51	\$3,078.38				
Mutual	453.60	\$11,340.00				
CMWD	21.45	\$548.72				
Totals	1205.48	\$30,747.87	\$9,490.00	\$525.00	\$119,946.60	\$160,709.47

Jul/Aug/Sept 2026		(4-2026)	(\$25/acre foot)			
	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture						
Dom/Land						
Mutual						
CMWD						
Totals	0.00	\$0.00				\$0.00

Total for water YTD 10/1/22- 9/30/23

Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head Fee	Recordation Fee	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
2751.30	\$ 71,251.54	\$31,527.00	\$1,735.00	\$276,441.17	\$380,954.71

OBGMA
Budget Actuals FYTD 25/26

	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	YTD	Annual Budget
Beginning Bank Balance													
Checking	227,919.84	383,907.54	379,923.27	378,484.95	437,305.56	435,122.03	367,071.75	382,578.65	344,421.92	345,033.12	406,786.05		
Savings	205,098.57	205,098.57	205,098.57	205,124.42	205,124.42	205,124.42	205,149.71	205,149.71	255,178.30	255,178.30	255,178.30		
	433,018.41	589,006.11	585,021.84	583,609.37	642,429.98	640,246.45	572,221.46	587,728.36	599,571.63	600,211.42	661,964.35		
Income													
Returned Check Charges													
Well Permit Fees				3,107.50								3,107.50	
GSP Extraction Fees	121,900.08	10,407.06	6,576.00	56,866.76	13,370.47	1,908.76	49,924.69	35,522.78	10,152.00	116,887.81	17,963.90	441,480.31	350,000.00
Well Head Fee	9,230.00	2,462.69	325.00	5,839.68	3,764.01	1,382.42	5,265.00	5,394.98	1,430.00	10,461.16	3,445.00	48,999.94	50,000.00
Late Fees	25.40	537.50	1.50	20.85	30.38	29.28	6.25	189.82	207.49	171.00	109.06	1,328.53	1,000.00
Recordation Fee	565.00	134.44	20.00	359.21	199.40	9.74	310.00	260.00	70.00	699.71	150.00	2,777.50	3,000.00
Extraction Charges	36,327.12	3,014.48	1,644.00	14,628.45	3,835.25	(495.79)	12,792.94	9,186.21	2,663.00	29,575.58	5,385.26	118,556.50	120,000.00
Savings Acct Interest			25.85			25.29			28.59			79.73	50.00
Total Income	168,047.60	16,556.17	8,592.35	80,822.45	21,199.51	2,859.70	68,298.88	50,553.79	14,551.08	157,795.26	27,053.22	616,330.01	524,050.00
Total Expense	168,047.60	16,556.17	8,592.35	80,822.45	21,199.51	2,859.70	68,298.88	50,553.79	14,551.08	157,795.26	27,053.22	616,330.01	
Equipment Purchased													
Advertising													
Outside Services	3,736.25	1,470.00	1,531.25	100.00	2,500.00	2,327.50	367.50			245.00	245.00	9,922.50	26,540.00
Dues & Subscriptions												2,600.00	
GSP Implementation		6,182.50		4,358.75	7,041.25	19,990.13	19,093.75	27,268.75		80,484.75	33,322.50	197,742.38	250,000.00
Printing and Reproduction													
Liability Insurance						3,944.00						3,944.00	4,500.00
Professional Development							337.00			9,707.38		10,044.38	
Bank Service Charges													
Workers Comp Ins	(75.00)						525.96	(100.00)				350.96	500.00
Office/Administrative Expenses	480.98	234.63	381.07	328.30	166.65	3,065.50	564.74	242.55	886.06	182.88	374.66	6,908.02	7,500.00
Payroll Expenses	3,608.26	3,993.98	3,964.32	3,827.31	4,009.01	3,845.46	4,738.78	3,477.56	3,821.87	4,824.82	3,988.05	44,099.42	50,000.00
Professional Fees	8,181.00	8,975.25	4,171.25	10,387.25	8,806.17	16,116.00	26,547.85	6,538.88	8,374.75	14,631.10		112,729.50	160,000.00
Website Expense													
Rent	931.00	931.00	931.00	931.00	931.00	931.00	931.00	931.00	931.00	931.00	936.00	10,246.00	15,000.00
Travel													3,000.00
Telecommunications													
Total Expense	16,862.49	21,787.36	10,978.89	19,932.61	23,454.08	50,219.59	53,106.58	38,358.74	14,013.68	96,375.83	53,497.31	398,587.16	517,040.00
Net Ordinary Income	151,185.11	(5,231.19)	(2,386.54)	60,889.84	(2,254.57)	(47,359.89)	15,192.30	12,195.05	537.40	61,419.43	(26,444.09)	217,742.85	7,010.00
Grant Activity													
WCB Grant Income													
WCB (WS) Expenses													
GSP Expenses													
Net Income	151,185.11	(5,231.19)	(2,386.54)	60,889.84	(2,254.57)	(47,359.89)	15,192.30	12,195.05	537.40	61,419.43	(26,444.09)	217,742.85	
Other Adjustments													
Permit Deposit Paid/Deducted													
Transfer to Savings	5,000.00												
Transfer From Savings								50,000.00					
Customer Well Deposit											5,000.00		
Payroll Tax Liab Paymts	1,185.39			3,105.73	982.10	1,031.24	988.11	1,285.71	917.21	1,027.87	1,311.37		
Payroll Liab on hold	966.48	1,016.17	1,007.57	1,003.00	1,053.14	1,009.11	1,302.71	928.93	1,019.35	1,311.37	1,078.26		
Customer Overpayments	101.25	217.25						5.00	0.25	50.00			
Key Card Deposit													
Refund- Work Comp Ins													
Customer Credits Applied													
Customer Refunds	66.25					20,642.97							
State Comp Fund Dividend													
Rent Reimbursement													
Returned Check				(33.50)									
Ending Bank Balance	13.50	(13.50)	33.50	(33.50)									
Checking	383,907.54	379,923.27	378,484.95	437,305.56	435,122.03	367,071.75	382,578.65	344,421.92	345,033.12	406,786.05	385,108.85		
Savings	205,098.57	205,098.57	205,124.42	205,124.42	205,124.42	205,124.42	205,149.71	205,149.71	255,178.30	255,178.30	255,178.30		
	589,006.11	585,021.84	583,609.37	642,429.98	640,246.45	572,221.46	587,728.36	599,571.63	600,211.42	661,964.35	640,287.15		

OBGMA
Cash Flow
As of August 31, 2026

Beginning Cash Balances as of July 31, 2026

Bank of the Sierra-Checking	356,786.05
Bank of the Sierra-Savings	305,178.30
	<u>661,964.35</u>

Inbounds

GSP Extraction	17,963.90
Well Head Fee	3,445.00
Late Charge On Extraction	109.06
Recordation Fee	150.00
Extraction Charges	5,385.26
Well Permit Deposit	5,000.00
	<u>32,053.22</u>

Outbounds

Office & Administrative Expense	374.66
GSP Implementation	33,322.50
Outside Services	245.00
Payroll Expenses	4,221.16
Professional Fees	14,631.10
Rent	936.00
	<u>53,730.42</u>

Ending Cash Balances as of August 31, 2026

Bank of the Sierra-Checking	335,108.85
Bank of the Sierra-Savings	305,178.30
	<u>640,287.15</u>

Net Change In Financial Position **(21,677.2)**

OBGMA
Disbursements
As of August 31, 2026

Date	Num	Name	Split	Amount
08/02/2026	ACH	Condor Self Storage	Rent	-136.00
08/10/2026	ACH	JStreet Technology Inc	Outside Services	-245.00
08/25/2026	ACH	Stamps.com	Postage and Delivery	-20.99
08/10/2026	ACH	USPS	Postage and Delivery	-22.95
08/10/2026	ACH	Stamps.com	Postage and Delivery	-49.90
08/13/2026	ACH	USPS	Postage and Delivery	-11.84
08/17/2026	ACH	Spectrum	Telephone	-180.56
08/24/2026	ACH	USPS	Postage and Delivery	-11.84
08/27/2026	ACH	Stamps.com	Postage and Delivery	-50.00
08/03/2026	E-pay	Employment Development Department	-SPLIT-	-165.63
08/03/2026	E-pay	IRS	-SPLIT-	-1,145.74
08/26/2026	3808	Casitas Municipal Water District	Accounts Payable	-1,996.58
08/26/2026	3809	Dudek	Accounts Payable	-31,727.50
08/26/2026	3810	Hollister & Brace, Attorneys at Law	Accounts Payable	-4,875.00
08/26/2026	3811	Kear Groundwater	Accounts Payable	-4,381.10
08/26/2026	3812	Pacific Policy Group	Accounts Payable	-5,000.00
08/26/2026	3813	Ransom, Tara R.	-SPLIT-	-1,321.39
08/26/2026	3814	VanDerMeer, Cece A	-SPLIT-	-1,588.40

-52,930.42

-52,930.42

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of September 9, 2026

The Special Meeting of September 9, 2026, 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, Bob Daddi and Mike Weaver. General Manager Julia Aranda and Secretary/Treasurer Cece VanDerMeer.

Also in attendance: 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: Absent

City of Ojai: Absent

Casitas Municipal Water District: None

Community Facilities District Report: None

4. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS:

Aranda provided an update on the Small GSA Coalition and Proposition 4 funding. Aranda reported that the unmetered wells and delinquent well owners are still being pursued with letters, phone calls and emails. Hajas requested to send a note to well owners that have complied with metering and requests for data.

5. BASIN STATUS REPORT:

Jordan Kear had a presentation "ALOJAI". Kear reported the Key Well was 103.29' below ground level and there was 64,000 acre feet in the basin.

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

None

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Daddi motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Weaver seconded. The financial report for July 2026 and the minutes of the July 30, 2026 meeting were approved unanimously.

Roll Call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Weaver and Hajas

Noes: None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS:

a. Daniel with Dudek gave a report on the 5-year periodic Evaluation Update with the Climate Change Scenarios.

b. Weaver gave a presentation on the Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company Tunnel Rehabilitation.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Aranda presented the Draft Fiscal Year 2026/27 Budget. Aranda stated that the Draft Fiscal Year 2026/27 Budget will be adopted at the September 24, 2026, Regular Board Meeting.

b. Legislative Ad-Hoc Committee Update: None

c. Meter Compliance Ad-Hoc Committee Update:
Aranda reported that meter compliance is ongoing.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be September 24, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai.

ATTEST: _____

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency

Memorandum

To: Board of Directors
From: Julia Aranda, PE, General Manager
Subject: General Manager
September 24, 2026

Recommendation

- Appoint Miranda Patton, PE, as General Manager and Approve the Employment Agreement with Miranda Patton effective October 1, 2026

The General Manager position has been filled by Julia Aranda, PE, an employee of Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD), since April 2023 under a reimbursement agreement. Ms. Aranda's position at CMWD requires her full attention so the agreement, which expires September 30, 2026, will not be extended.

Miranda Patton, PE, is recommended by Ms. Aranda as the new General Manager based on Ms. Patton's education and experience. Her resume is attached. Ms. Patton is a registered Professional Engineer with a background as an executive for a mid-size engineering firm. Ms. Aranda has known Ms. Patton professionally for many years and recommends her to the OBGMA Board. Director Hajas and Director Whitman have interviewed Ms. Patton and recommend her appointment.

Ms. Patton would be a part-time employee of OBGMA and the attached agreement outlines her rate of pay, benefits, and responsibilities. Paid sick leave of 40 hours is provided based on California law and is applicable to all employees who work at least 30 days within a year including part-time employees. OBGMA legal counsel has reviewed the Agreements.

Financial Impact

The pay rate in the Employment Agreement for Ms. Patton is included in the fiscal year 2026-27 budget, as well as office equipment needed for the position.

Attachments: Resume for Miranda Patton, PE
Employment Agreement for Miranda Patton

MIRANDA PATTON, PE

P 805-896-9374

E mwcummings@hotmail.com

W <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mwcpatton/>

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Accomplished engineering executive with 25+ years leading complex infrastructure programs, organizational growth initiatives, and high-performing multi-disciplinary teams. Recognized for strategic leadership and the ability to build enduring relationships with public agencies, community stakeholders, and industry partners. Proven track record of driving organizational performance and delivering innovative infrastructure solutions that enhance community well-being and long-term economic vitality throughout Ventura County.

EXPERIENCE

06/2004 – 03/2026 BKF (formerly MNS Engineers) | Santa Barbara, CA
Progressed from project management and technical roles to Chief Business Development Officer and Board Director, provided oversight of corporate strategy, market expansion, client development, and organizational performance. Experienced in corporate governance, operational leadership, talent development, contract negotiations, and public-sector infrastructure delivery. Trusted advisor to municipal leaders, agency executives, and industry partners with a reputation for collaborative leadership, strategic vision, and delivering results.

01/2021 – 03/2026

Board of Directors and Chief Business Development Officer

10/2014 – 01/2021

Vice President and Business Development Director

02/2012 – 10/2014

Branch Manager and Business Development Manager

06/2004 – 02/2012

Senior Project Engineer

01/2000 – 05/2004

Engineer I and Engineer II | City of Fremont, Fremont, CA
Project Engineer on several public works contracts. Managed budgets and staff time for projects ranging from \$50,000 to \$1,000,000. Produced engineering plans, specifications, and estimates in accordance with City of Fremont and Caltrans design standards. Prepared resolutions, ordinances, and staff reports to City Council on a regular basis. Facilitated and led public meetings. Developed informational brochures, newsletters, exhibits, and signage for impending construction projects. Acted as Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Liaison Officer.

EDUCATION

BS Civil Engineering
Santa Clara University, California

CORE COMPETENCIES

- EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP
- STRATEGIC GROWTH PLANNING
- BUSINESS OPERATIONS
- BUDGET PLANNING

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION (APWA), ADVOCACY CHAIR
- AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES (ACEC-CHANNEL COAST CHAPTER), IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
- VENTURA COUNTY CITIZENS & SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CHAIR

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT – MIRANDA PATTON

This Part-Time Employment Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into by and between Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (hereafter “OBGMA”), and Miranda Patton (hereafter “General Manager” and/or “You”/“Your”). This Agreement is to memorialize the compensation, conditions, and associated benefits for the position of part-time General Manager for OBGMA.

Position Title: General Manager

1. Employment, Duties and Responsibilities. Your employment shall be with OBGMA as the General Manager. The General Manager is an executive management position reporting to, and performing as directed by, the OBGMA Board of Directors.

The primary focuses of the position will be: to assist in the development, implementation and management of the Groundwater Sustainability requirements under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 and subsequent legislation; to provide leadership and direction to the organization; to ensure efficient and effective legislative and regulatory compliance, in accordance with Board directives; to collaborate with state and local agencies; and to facilitate outreach efforts with stakeholders to strategically comply with OBGMA goals and objectives. Other responsibilities of the position are outlined under Essential Duties.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

- Direct the operations and general administration of OBGMA including budget development and oversight, short- and long-range planning, and policy development and implementation.
- Plan and develop Board Meeting agendas.
- Ensure the timely and effective accomplishment of OBGMA goals and objectives as determined by the Board.
- Develop, implement, and manage the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP); update and/or revise plans as needed.
- Administer various contracts and agreements to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Oversee the consultant/contract selection process including determining scope of work, preparing Requests for Proposals (RFPs); negotiation of terms and contract development and review; monitor and evaluate consultant/contract performance.
- Prepare and present a variety of complex administrative and technical reports, recommending alternatives where appropriate; follow up on action items as required.

- Actively participate in, review, and interpret analytical work completed by consultants, and present results to the Board and member agencies.
- Identify future funding sources and develop and implement funding strategies.
- Conduct outreach to appropriate stakeholders and other appropriate agencies.
- Develop, plan, and implement measures to ensure the regulated public complies with OBGMA ordinances, resolutions, rules and requirements.
- Coordinate the activities and meetings of the Board and Committees.
- Make presentations to the Board, governing bodies, and a variety of Boards and commissions; attend and participate in professional group meetings; stay abreast of new trends and innovations in the field.
- Monitor changes in laws, regulations, and technology that may affect OBGMA; implement policy and procedural changes as required.
- Remain current on, review, analyze, and determine impact of legislative developments, State legislation, State and Federal regulations, local ordinances, trends, practices and procedures in the field. Advise and make recommendations to decision makers on appropriate position or action to take in response to changes.
- Work cooperatively with other agencies including other Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, and County, State and Federal agencies to identify and develop programs/projects to advance sustainability of the local groundwater resource.
- Identify stakeholders within the community and conduct public outreach relating to groundwater sustainability; develop and implement educational programs, including printed materials, web site information, and other activities.
- Implement programs and projects established by the Board of Directors.

2. Effective Date. This Agreement will be effective October 1, 2026, and expire September 30, 2027. Nothing in this Section 2 is intended to, and does not, alter or modify the at-will nature of the employment relationship between You and OBGMA described in Section 8 of this Agreement, or create a right to continued employment.

3. Hours and Schedule of Work. Your normal schedule of work shall be approximately 4 hours per day, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Your typical work week shall average 12 hours. Work may take place either at the OBGMA office or remotely. It is expected that at least one day of work per week will be at the OBGMA office. This Agreement does not create a full-time position, guarantee any minimum number of hours, or entitle General Manager to full-time compensation or benefits.

4. Equipment Provided and OBGMA Property. You will be provided with a laptop computer and related equipment and a cell phone by OBGMA to perform OBGMA-related work. OBGMA uses Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Access, etc.). The computer and cell phone provided to You by OBGMA shall remain the property of OBGMA. All records, documents, data, equipment, devices, keys, credentials, funds, and other property obtained or created in the course of employment are OBGMA property and shall be returned immediately upon request or separation from employment.

5. Minimum Requirements. The position requires a minimum of 5 years' experience of progressively increased duties and responsibilities similar to those outlined in Section 1 above. The position requires strong written and oral communication skills and the ability to represent OBGMA as a skilled professional. The position requires experience and knowledge in the operation of standard office software, including Microsoft Windows, Word, Excel, Access, and electronic office document systems. The position also requires an ability to learn new software applications and expand the use of standard applications to improve OBGMA operations.

The position requires possession of a valid California Driver's license. A California Professional Engineer's License is preferred.

6. Compensation. Payroll shall be issued on a monthly basis. You shall prepare a monthly timesheet detailing the date, hours and general description of work performed. OBGMA shall compensate You as follows:

Regular Hourly Rate of Pay: \$125.00 per hour

The position of General Manager is an exempt role and does not entitle You to overtime compensation. OBGMA does not offer any retirement plan or contribution to a 401K or 457 Plan. OBGMA does pay the employer's required contribution to Social Security for the benefit of the employee. All compensation payable to You will be subject to applicable United States federal and State of California withholding requirements.

7. Benefits. You are entitled to the following benefits:

a. Sick leave: 40 hours shall be annually awarded and will be assigned October 1 of each year. Unused sick leave shall not be carried over from year to year. No payment of accumulated but unused sick leave hours will be paid to You at fiscal year-end or at termination of employment. Sick Leave under this benefit has been established in compliance with California law.

b. Paid Holidays: Holiday pay will only be provided to You should the holiday fall on a workday You would otherwise be scheduled to work. The following holidays will be observed for fiscal year 2026-27:

Veteran's Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 27, 2026
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25, 2026
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1, 2027
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 18, 2027
President's Day	Monday, February 15, 2027
Memorial Day	Monday, May 31, 2027
Independence Day	Monday, July 5, 2027
Labor Day	Monday, September 6, 2027

c. Annual Compensation and Benefits Review: Annually the OBGMA Board will review Your compensation and the Board may adjust Your compensation or benefits. Should the Board authorize any change in compensation it will be adjusted either by the percentage change in the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) used by the Social Security Administration (SSA), or pursuant to an agreed-upon increase in Your hourly rate, but in the event the Board authorizes an increase in Your compensation, in no case will the increase be less than the COLA.

8. At-Will Employment and Termination. It is understood and agreed that Your employment with OBGMA and this employment relationship is at the mutual consent of both parties. Specifically, **Your employment will be on an “at-will” basis, meaning that either You or OBGMA may terminate the employment relationship with or without cause at any time, with or without notice.** It is further understood and agreed there are no express or implied agreements contrary to the foregoing, and no one other than OGBMA’s Board of Directors has any authority to enter into an employment agreement for a specified period of time or to make any agreement contrary to the foregoing. Any such agreement must be in writing and fully executed by both OBGMA’s Board of Directors and You.

9. Additional Requirements. By signing this agreement, You represent that You have a right to work in the United States, as required by law.

10. Arbitration. You and OBGMA mutually agree that all claims, disputes, controversies or disagreements of any kind whatsoever that may arise between You and OBGMA including any dispute or controversy arising out of or in connection with Your application for employment, employment, or the termination of Your employment with OBGMA, shall be submitted to final and binding arbitration under the California Arbitration Act, Code of Civil Procedure section 1280, *et seq.* The arbitration shall be conducted in Ventura County by a single

neutral arbitrator mutually agreed to by the parties. If the parties are not able to select an arbitrator, either party may petition the Superior Court for appointment of one under Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.6. The costs of the arbitrator and the arbitral forum shall be paid solely by OBGMA. To the extent permitted by law, You and OBGMA agree that any claim shall be brought in an individual capacity, and not as a collective or representative claim on behalf of any persons or class.

a. Disputes covered by this arbitration provision include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) alleged violations of federal, state or local constitutions, statutes, regulations or ordinances, including, but not limited to, claims for discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage-and-hour violations, failure to reimburse expenses, defamation, fraud, misrepresentation, invasion of privacy, and wrongful termination; (2) allegations of a breach of a contractual obligation, including this Agreement; (3) alleged violations of public policy; (4) claims against OBGMA officers, employees, agents, or representatives based on conduct within the course and scope of their OBGMA-related roles; and, (5) all claims regarding Your employment or termination/separation from employment by OBGMA.

b. The following are expressly excluded from this arbitration provision and are not covered by this Agreement: (1) disputes related to workers' compensation or unemployment insurance; (2) administrative claims filed with government agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"), Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH"), or the National Labor Relations Board ("NLRB"); and, (3) the exercise of rights that cannot lawfully be waived or restricted under California or federal law.

c. In consideration for and as a material condition of Your employment with OBGMA, You agree that final and binding arbitration is the exclusive means for resolving the disputes outlined in this Section 9. However, this Section 9 does not in any way alter Your employment status. You and OBGMA shall have full discovery rights in the arbitration, as set forth in the Discovery Act, Code of Civil Procedure section 2016.010, *et seq.* This Section 9 is a waiver of all rights You may have to a civil court action on any dispute outlined by this Agreement, provided that the award shall be reviewable by a court of law to the extent permitted by California Code of Civil Procedure section 1285 *et seq.* Accordingly, the arbitrator, not a judge or jury, will decide the dispute, although the arbitrator has the authority to award any type of relief or remedy consistent with law that could otherwise be awarded or issued by a judge or jury in a civil court action. The arbitrator may hear and decide dispositive motions, discovery motions, and other pre-hearing matters. You and OBGMA shall have a fair opportunity to present evidence and argument at the arbitration hearing. The arbitrator shall issue a written, reasoned award stating the essential findings of fact and conclusions of law on which the award is based.

d. You and OBGMA agree that each party shall bear their own attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing or defending a claim brought under this Section 9, except that the arbitrator shall have discretion to award attorneys' fees and costs to a prevailing party where such an award is authorized by applicable law at the time of the arbitration.

11. Complete and Final Agreement. Once signed by You and OBGMA, this Agreement constitutes the complete agreement between You and OBGMA regarding Your employment by OBGMA and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous written or oral agreements, understandings, or representations on these matters. This Agreement may only be modified by a written agreement signed by You and the OBGMA Board of Directors.

12. Severability. If any portion of this Agreement shall, for any reason, be held invalid or unenforceable or contrary to public policy or any law, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected by such invalidity or unenforceability but shall remain in full force and effect as if the invalid or unenforceable term or portion thereof had not existed within this Agreement.

13. Governing Law and Venue. This Agreement is governed by California law. Venue for any court action arising from this Agreement, including any action to compel arbitration, stay proceedings, confirm or vacate an arbitration award, or determine arbitrability, shall lie in Ventura County, California.

Accepted: _____
Miranda Patton

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency

Approved by the Board of Directors on September 24, 2026

President of the Board of Directors

Approved as to Form:

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Counsel

Date: _____

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency

Memorandum

To: Board of Directors
From: Julia Aranda, PE, General Manager
Subject: Employment Agreements
September 24, 2026

Recommendation

- Approve the Employment Agreement with Cece VanDerMeer effective October 1, 2026
- Approve the Employment Agreement with Tara Ransom effective October 1, 2026

OBGMA employs two part-time staff, an Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board and a Database Administrator. These positions are necessary to manage the business and official proceedings of OBGMA. The attached Employment Agreements for Cece VanDerMeer and Tara Ransom formalize the duties of each position and establish their respective hourly wage for fiscal year 2026-27.

Paid sick leave of 40 hours is provided based on California law and is applicable to all employees who work at least 30 days within a year including part-time employees. OBGMA legal counsel has reviewed the Agreements.

Financial Impact

The Employment Agreements for Ms. VanDerMeer and Ms. Ransom, including a 5 percent hourly wage increase from last year, are included in the fiscal year 2026-27 budget.

Attachments:

Employment Agreement with Cece VanDerMeer
Employment Agreement with Tara Ransom

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT – CECE VANDERMEER

This Part-Time Employment Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (hereafter "OBGMA"), and Cece VanDerMeer (hereafter "Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board" and/or "You"/"Your"). This Agreement is to memorialize the compensation and associated benefits for the position of part-time Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board for OBGMA.

Position Title: Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

1. Employment, Duties and Responsibilities. Your employment shall be with OBGMA as the Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board. You shall report to and perform as directed by OBGMA's General Manager and/or Board of Directors.

Under general direction, provide administrative, clerical, secretarial and office support to the General Manager, Board of Directors and Agency committees; receive general direction from the General Manager.

Serve as the OBGMA's Clerk of the Board; coordinate the swearing in ceremonies for new Board members; assure Board Members designated staff and consultants file Form 700 – "Conflict of Interest Statements", as required by law.

Responsible for the preparation of Agency agendas, in coordination with the General Manager, and for noticing the date, time and location of Agency public meetings. Distribute agendas to Board members and to members of the public, as requested; ensure the Board meeting room is properly set up and prepared; coordinate Board meeting facilities with City of Ojai.

Attend Board meetings and Board committee meetings, schedule meetings, and recordation of items and actions presented in agendas before the Board.

Prepare and maintain the official minutes of all Board and committee proceedings, records, ordinances, resolutions, contracts, and other official OBGMA documents and public records.

Attest, publish, post, index, and file ordinances and other OBGMA public records; maintain OBGMA records and files; make available public access to all Agency records as required by law; maintain, track and disseminate OBGMA policies and procedures.

Reply to letters, emails and phone inquiries requiring judgment, initiative and interpretation of policies, procedures, practices, codes, and laws.

Research and assemble information; verify that information or data is complete and accurate.

Prepare and mail Extraction Statements; receive completed Extraction Statements and payments; deposit extraction payments into the OBGMA's bank accounts. Assist in and resolve extraction statement discrepancies and delinquencies.

Perform other duties as required. Position, duties, and responsibilities may be modified from time to time at the sole discretion of the OBGMA.

2. Effective Date. This agreement will be effective October 1, 2026. In the event the Board approves the Agreement after October 1, 2026, the terms of the Agreement shall be retroactive to that date. Nothing in this Section 2 is intended to, and does not, alter or modify the at-will nature of the employment relationship between You and OBGMA described in Section 7 of this Agreement, or create a right to continued employment.

3. Hours and Schedule of Work. Your normal schedule of work shall be at OBGMA office approximately 4 hours per day, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Your typical work week shall average 12 hours. This schedule may be modified from time to time based upon necessity and approval of the General Manager or at the direction of the Board of Directors. This Agreement does not create a full-time position, guarantee any minimum number of hours, or entitle You to full-time compensation or benefits.

4. Minimum Requirements. The position of Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board requires a minimum of 5 years' experience of progressively increased duties and responsibilities similar to those outlined in Section 1. The position requires strong written and oral communication skills and the ability to represent OBGMA as a skilled professional. The position requires strong basic math skills as related to general bookkeeping, translating graphical representations of data generated by OBGMA operations. The position requires experience and knowledge in the operation of standard office software, including Microsoft Windows, Word, Excel, and electronic office document systems. The position also requires an ability to learn new software applications and expand the use of standard applications to improve OBGMA operations.

The position requires possession of a valid California Driver's license.

5. Compensation. Payroll shall be issued on a monthly basis. You shall submit to OBGMA a timesheet detailing the date, hours and general description of work performed. The General Manager shall approve your monthly timesheet. In the event a Board meeting is not held any member of the Board of Directors can sign

the payroll check for disbursement to you. OBGMA shall compensate you as follows:

Regular Hourly Rate of Pay: \$46.30 per hour

OBGMA does not offer any retirement plan or contribution to a 401K or 457 Plan. OBGMA does pay the employers required contribution to Social Security for the benefit of the employee.

All compensation payable to you will be subject to applicable United States federal and state of California withholding requirements.

6. Benefits. You are entitled to the following benefits:

a. Sick leave: 40 hours shall be annually awarded and will be assigned October 1 of each year. Unused sick leave shall not be carried over from year to year. No payment of accumulated but unused sick leave hours will be paid to you at fiscal year-end or at termination of employment. Sick Leave under this benefit has been established in compliance with California law.

b. Paid Holidays: Holiday pay will only be provided to you should the holiday fall on a workday You would otherwise be scheduled to work. The following holidays will be observed for fiscal year 2026-27:

<u>Veteran's Day</u>	<u>Wednesday, November 11, 2026</u>
<u>Day after Thanksgiving</u>	<u>Friday, November 27, 2026</u>
<u>Christmas Day</u>	<u>Friday, December 25, 2026</u>
<u>New Year's Day</u>	<u>Friday, January 1, 2027</u>
<u>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</u>	<u>Monday, January 18, 2027</u>
<u>President's Day</u>	<u>Monday, February 15, 2027</u>
<u>Memorial Day</u>	<u>Monday, May 31, 2027</u>
<u>Independence Day</u>	<u>Monday, July 5, 2027</u>
<u>Labor Day</u>	<u>Monday, September 6, 2027</u>

c. Annual Compensation and Benefits Review: Annually the General Manager will review Your compensation and present a recommendation at the OBGMA Board meeting held in September. Based on a satisfactory performance review the Board may adjust your compensation or benefits. Should the Board authorize any change in compensation it will be adjusted either by the percent change in the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) used by the Social Security Administration (SSA), or pursuant to an agreed-upon increase in your hourly rate, but in the event the Board authorizes an increase in Your compensation, but in no case will the increase be less than the COLA.

7. At-Will Employment and Termination. It is understood and agreed that Your employment with OBGMA and our employment relationship is at the mutual consent of both parties. Specifically, Your employment will be on an “at-will” basis, meaning that either You or the OBGMA may terminate the employment relationship with or without cause at any time, with or without notice. It is further understood and agreed there are no express or implied agreements contrary to the foregoing, and no one other than the OBGMA’s Board of Directors has any authority to enter into an employment agreement for a specified period of time or to make any agreement contrary to the foregoing. Any such agreement must be in writing and fully executed by both the OBGMA Board of Directors and You.

8. Additional Requirements. By signing this agreement, You represent that You have a right to work in the United States, as required by law.

9. Arbitration You and OBGMA mutually agree that all claims, disputes, controversies or disagreements of any kind whatsoever that may arise between You and OBGMA, including any dispute or controversy arising out of or in connection with Your application for employment, employment or the termination of Your employment with OBGMA, shall be submitted to final and binding arbitration under the California Arbitration Act, Code of Civil Procedure section 1280, *et seq.* The arbitration shall be conducted in Ventura County by a single neutral arbitrator mutually agreed to by the parties. If the parties are not able to select an arbitrator, either party may petition the Superior Court for appointment of one under Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.6. The costs of the arbitrator and the arbitral forum shall be paid by OBGMA. To the extent permitted by law, You and OBGMA agree that any claim shall be brought in an individual capacity, and not as a collective or representative claim on behalf of any persons or class.

a. Disputes covered by this arbitration provision include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) alleged violations of federal, state or local constitutions, statutes, regulations or ordinances, including, but not limited to, claims for discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage-and-hour violations, failure to reimburse expenses, defamation, fraud, misrepresentation, invasion of privacy, and wrongful termination; (2) allegations of a breach of a contractual obligation, including this Agreement; (3) alleged violations of public policy; (4) claims against OBGMA officers, employees, agents, or representatives based on conduct within the course and scope of their OBGMA-related roles; and (5) all claims regarding Your employment or termination/separation from employment by OBGMA.

b. The following are expressly excluded from this arbitration provision and are not covered by this Agreement: (1) disputes related to workers’ compensation or unemployment insurance; (2) administrative claims filed with government agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”), Department of Fair Employment and Housing (“DFEH”), or the

National Labor Relations Board (“NLRB”); and, (3) the exercise of rights that cannot lawfully be waived or restricted under California or federal law.

c. In consideration for and as a material condition of Your employment with OBGMA, You agree that final and binding arbitration is the exclusive means for resolving the disputes outlined in this Section 9. However, this Section 9 does not in any way alter Your employment status. You and OBGMA shall have full discovery rights in the arbitration, as set forth in the Discovery Act, Code of Civil Procedure section 2016.010, *et seq.* This Section 9 is a waiver of all rights You may have to a civil court action on any dispute outlined by this Agreement, provided that the award shall be reviewable by a court of law to the extent permitted by California Code of Civil Procedure section 1285 *et seq.* Accordingly, the arbitrator, not a judge or jury, will decide the dispute, although the arbitrator has the authority to award any type of relief or remedy consistent with law that could otherwise be awarded or issued by a judge or jury in a civil court action. The arbitrator may hear and decide dispositive motions, discovery motions, and other pre-hearing matters. You and OBGMA shall have a fair opportunity to present evidence and argument at the arbitration hearing. The arbitrator shall issue a written, reasoned award stating the essential findings of fact and conclusions of law on which the award is based.

d. You and OBGMA agree that each party shall bear their own attorneys’ fees and costs incurred in bringing or defending a claim brought under this Section 9, except that the arbitrator shall have discretion to award attorneys’ fees and costs to a prevailing party where such an award is authorized by applicable law at the time of the arbitration.

10. Complete and Final Agreement. Once signed by You and OBGMA, this Agreement constitutes the complete agreement between You and OBGMA regarding Your employment by OBGMA and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous written or oral agreements, understandings, or representations on these matters. This Agreement may only be modified by a written agreement signed by You and the OBGMA Board of Directors.

11. Severability. If any portion of this Agreement shall, for any reason, be held invalid or unenforceable or contrary to public policy or any law, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected by such invalidity or unenforceability but shall remain in full force and effect as if the invalid or unenforceable term or portion thereof had not existed within this Agreement.

12. Governing Law and Venue. This Agreement is governed by California law. Venue for any court action arising from this Agreement, including any action to compel arbitration, stay proceedings, confirm or vacate an arbitration award, or determine arbitrability, shall lie in Ventura County, California.

Accepted: _____
Cece Vandermeer

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency

Approved by the Board of Directors on September 24, 2026

President of the Board of Directors

Approved as to Form:

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Counsel

Date

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT – TARA RANSOM

This Part-Time Employment Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into by and between Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (hereafter “OBGMA”), and Tara Ransom (hereafter “Database Administrator” and/or “You”/“Your”). This Agreement is to memorialize the compensation and associated benefits for the position of part-time Database Administrator for the OBGMA.

Position Title: Database Administrator

1. Employment, Duties and Responsibilities. Your employment shall be with the OBGMA as the Database Administrator.

Under general direction, provide administrative, clerical, secretarial and office support to the General Manager, Board of Directors and Agency committees; receives general direction from the General Manager.

Administers and maintains the OBGMA database including entering and updating data. Researches and assembles information; verifies that information or data is complete and accurate. Prepares and mails Extraction Statements; receives completed Extraction Statements and payments; prepares deposits of extraction payments.

Performs other duties as required. Position, duties, and responsibilities may be modified from time to time at the sole discretion of the OBGMA.

2. Effective Date. This agreement will be effective October 1, 2026. In the event the Board approves the Agreement after October 1, 2026, the terms of the Agreement shall be retroactive to that date. Nothing in this Section 2 is intended to, and does not, alter or modify the at-will nature of the employment relationship between You and OBGMA described in Section 7 of this Agreement, or create a right to continued employment.

3. Hours and Schedule of Work. Your normal schedule of work shall be at the Agency office approximately 4 hours per day, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Your typical work week shall average 12 hours. This schedule may be modified from time to time based upon necessity and approval of the General Manager or at the direction of the Board of Directors. This Agreement does not create a full-time position, guarantee any minimum number of hours, or entitle You to full-time compensation or benefits.

4. Minimum Requirements. The position of Database Administrator of the Board requires a minimum of 5 years’ experience of progressively increased duties and responsibilities similar to those outlined in Section 1. The position requires strong written and oral communication skills and the ability to represent the OBGMA as a skilled professional. The position requires experience and

knowledge in the operation of standard office software, including Microsoft Windows, Word, Excel, Access, and electronic office document systems. The position also requires an ability to learn new software applications and expand the use of standard applications to improve OBGMA operations.

The position requires possession of a valid California Driver's license.

5. Compensation. Payroll shall be issued on a monthly basis. You shall submit to the OBGMA a timesheet detailing the date, hours and general description of work performed. The General Manager shall approve your monthly timesheet. In the event a Board meeting is not held any member of the Board of Directors can sign the payroll check for disbursement to you. OBGMA shall compensate you as follows:

Regular Hourly Rate of Pay: \$34.73 per hour

OBGMA does not offer any retirement plan or contribution to a 401K or 457 Plan. OBGMA does pay the employers required contribution to Social Security for the benefit of the employee.

All compensation payable to You will be subject to applicable United States federal and state of California withholding requirements.

6. Benefits. You are entitled to the following benefits:

a. Sick leave: 40 hours shall be annually awarded and will be assigned October 1 of each year. Unused sick leave shall not be carried over from year to year. No payment of accumulated but unused sick leave hours will be paid to you at fiscal year-end or at termination of employment. Sick Leave under this benefit has been established in compliance with California law.

b. Paid Holidays: Holiday pay will only be provided to you should the holiday fall on a workday You would otherwise be scheduled to work. The following holidays will be observed for fiscal year 2026-27:

Veteran's Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 27, 2026
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25, 2026
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1, 2027
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 18, 2027
President's Day	Monday, February 15, 2027
Memorial Day	Monday, May 31, 2027
Independence Day	Monday, July 5, 2027
Labor Day	Monday, September 6, 2027

c. Annual Compensation and Benefits Review: Annually the General Manager will review Your compensation and present a recommendation at the OBGMA Board meeting held in September. Based on a satisfactory performance review the Board may adjust your compensation or benefits. Should the Board authorize any change in compensation it will be adjusted either by the percent change in the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) used by the Social Security Administration (SSA), or pursuant to an agreed-upon increase in your hourly rate, but in the event the Board authorizes an increase in Your compensation, in no case will the increase be less than the COLA.

7. At-Will Employment and Termination. It is understood and agreed that your employment with OBGMA and our employment relationship is at the mutual consent of both parties. Specifically, Your employment will be on an “at-will” basis, meaning that either You or the OBGMA may terminate the employment relationship with or without cause at any time, with or without notice. It is further understood and agreed there are no express or implied agreements contrary to the foregoing, and no one other than the OBGMA’s Board of Directors has any authority to enter into an employment agreement for a specified period of time or to make any agreement contrary to the foregoing. Any such agreement must be in writing and fully executed by both the OBGMA’s Board of Directors and You.

8. Additional Requirements. By signing this agreement, You represent that You have a right to work in the United States, as required by law.

9. Arbitration. You and OBGMA mutually agree that all claims, disputes, controversies or disagreements of any kind whatsoever that may arise between You and OBGMA, including any dispute or controversy arising out of or in connection with Your application for employment, employment or the termination of Your employment with OBGMA, shall be submitted to final and binding arbitration under the California Arbitration Act, Code of Civil Procedure section 1280, *et seq.* The arbitration shall be conducted in Ventura County by a single neutral arbitrator mutually agreed to by the parties. If the parties are not able to select an arbitrator, either party may petition the Superior Court for appointment of one under Code of Civil Procedure section 1281.6. The costs of the arbitrator and the arbitral forum shall be paid solely by OBGMA. To the extent permitted by law, You and OBGMA agree that any claim shall be brought in an individual capacity, and not as a collective or representative claim on behalf of any persons or class.

a. Disputes covered by this arbitration provision include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) alleged violations of federal, state or local constitutions, statutes, regulations or ordinances, including, but not limited to, claims for discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage-and-hour violations, failure to

reimburse expenses, defamation, fraud, misrepresentation, invasion of privacy, and wrongful termination; (2) allegations of a breach of a contractual obligation, including this Agreement; (3) alleged violations of public policy; (4) claims against OBGMA officers, employees, agents, or representatives based on conduct within the course and scope of their OBGMA-related roles; and (5) all claims regarding Your employment or termination/separation from employment by OBGMA.

b. The following are expressly excluded from this arbitration provision and are not covered by this Agreement: (1) disputes related to workers' compensation or unemployment insurance; (2) administrative claims filed with government agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"), Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH"), or the National Labor Relations Board ("NLRB"); and, (3) the exercise of rights that cannot lawfully be waived or restricted under California or federal law.

c. In consideration for and as a material condition of Your employment with OBGMA, You agree that final and binding arbitration is the exclusive means for resolving the disputes outlined in this Section 9. However, this Section 9 does not in any way alter Your employment status. You and OBGMA shall have full discovery rights in the arbitration, as set forth in the Discovery Act, Code of Civil Procedure section 2016.010, *et seq.* This Section 9 is a waiver of all rights You may have to a civil court action on any dispute outlined by this Agreement, provided that the award shall be reviewable by a court of law to the extent permitted by California Code of Civil Procedure section 1285 *et seq.* Accordingly, the arbitrator, not a judge or jury, will decide the dispute, although the arbitrator has the authority to award any type of relief or remedy consistent with law that could otherwise be awarded or issued by a judge or jury in a civil court action. The arbitrator may hear and decide dispositive motions, discovery motions, and other pre-hearing matters. You and OBGMA shall have a fair opportunity to present evidence and argument at the arbitration hearing. The arbitrator shall issue a written, reasoned award stating the essential findings of fact and conclusions of law on which the award is based.

d. You and OBGMA agree that each party shall bear their own attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing or defending a claim brought under this Section 9, except that the arbitrator shall have discretion to award attorneys' fees and costs to a prevailing party where such an award is authorized by applicable law at the time of the arbitration.

10. Complete and Final Agreement. Once signed by You and OBGMA, this Agreement constitutes the complete agreement between You and OBGMA regarding Your employment by OBGMA and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous written or oral agreements, understandings, or representations

on these matters. This Agreement may only be modified by a written agreement signed by You and the OBGMA Board of Directors.

11. Severability. If any portion of this Agreement shall, for any reason, be held invalid or unenforceable or contrary to public policy or any law, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected by such invalidity or unenforceability, but shall remain in full force and effect as if the invalid or unenforceable term or portion thereof had not existed within this Agreement.

12. Governing Law and Venue. This Agreement is governed by California law. Venue for any court action arising from this Agreement, including any action to compel arbitration, stay proceedings, confirm or vacate an arbitration award, or determine arbitrability, shall lie in Ventura County, California.

Accepted: _____
Tara Ransom

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency

Approved by the Board of Directors on September 24, 2026

President of the Board of Directors

Approved as to Form:

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Counsel

Date: _____

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency

Memorandum

To: Board of Directors
From: Julia Aranda, PE, General Manager
Subject: Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget
September 24, 2026

Recommendation

- Adopt the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Budget

Background and Discussion

The draft FY 2026-27 Budget was presented to the Board at their special meeting of September 9, 2026. The fiscal year is from October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027. OBGMA has a healthy bank balance (total of \$640,287.15 as of August 31, 2026) from which the GSP implementation tasks and other expenses will be funded, as needed. The estimated deficit of \$42,500 is expected to be covered by the funds available in savings.

The anticipated income is based on 4,000 acre-feet (AF) of extractions for the fiscal year with no changes to the current Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) fee or Groundwater Extraction fee. The budget also includes an anticipated grant of \$150,000 (estimated) from Proposition 4 from the California Department of Water Resources for Small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

Significant expenses anticipated in FY 26-27 for GSP Implementation are:

- Complete the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Five-Year Periodic Evaluation (due January 31, 2027)
- Update the numerical groundwater model to support the GSP Periodic Evaluation
- Develop Comprehensive Conjunctive Use Plan
- Continue development of the Data Management System
- Install four shallow monitoring wells at three locations

The proposed budget was revised from the one presented September 9, 2026, specifically for: monthly rent increase for larger office space in the same building; laptop computer and cell phone for the General Manager; an additional work station for the General Manager. It is anticipated the storage space will be cleared and the monthly rent for that space will cease.

The proposed budget includes a five percent increase to the hourly rate for the two current part-time administrative staff and a new part-time General Manager. The contract with Casitas Municipal Water District to staff OBGMA with a General Manager expires September 30, 2026,

and will not be renewed. Employment agreements for these three staff are presented to the Board in a subsequent item on the September 24, 2026, agenda.

The budget does not take into account funds deposited with OBGMA for review of new well applications, the costs of which are funded by the well owner.

Attachment: Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY					
ANNUAL BUDGET FY 2026-27					
October 1 - September 30					
FINAL					
Checking Balance 8/31/26	\$	335,108.85			
Savings Balance 8/31/26	\$	305,178.30			
TOTAL	\$	640,287.15			
DESCRIPTION	FY 2026-27				FY 2026-27 PROPOSED
	ACTUAL AT 8/31/26	BUDGET	ACTUAL VS. BUDGET	PROJECTED AT 9/30/26	
INCOME					
GSP EXTRACTION FEE	\$ 441,480.31	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 91,480.31	\$ 451,480.31	\$ 400,000.00
EXTRACTION CHARGES	\$ 118,556.50	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 18,556.50	\$ 121,056.50	\$ 100,000.00
WELLHEAD FEE	\$ 48,999.94	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 9,999.94	\$ 49,649.94	\$ 50,000.00
RECORDATION FEE	\$ 2,777.50	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (222.50)	\$ 2,777.50	\$ 3,000.00
LATE FEES	\$ 1,328.53	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 328.53	\$ 1,328.53	\$ 1,000.00
GRANT INCOME		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 79.73		\$ 79.73	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 613,222.51	\$ 493,000.00	\$ 120,222.51	\$ 626,392.78	\$ 704,100.00
EXPENSES					
PAYROLL	\$ 44,099.42	\$ 50,000.00	\$ (5,900.58)	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 140,000.00
OUTSIDE SERVICES ¹	\$ 9,922.50	\$ 26,540.00	\$ (16,617.50)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
PROFESSIONAL FEES ²	\$ 122,773.88	\$ 160,000.00	\$ (37,226.12)	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 125,000.00
OFFICE/ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES ³	\$ 9,508.02	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 2,008.02	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
INSURANCE	\$ 4,294.96	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (705.04)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
RENT ⁴	\$ 10,246.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ (4,754.00)	\$ 11,177.00	\$ 18,000.00
GSP IMPLEMENTATION ⁵	\$ 197,742.38	\$ 250,000.00	\$ (52,257.62)	\$ 235,000.00	\$ 403,600.00
TRAVEL		\$ 3,000.00	\$ (3,000.00)		\$ -
GRANT EXPENSE		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 398,587.16	\$ 517,040.00	\$ (118,452.84)	\$ 456,177.00	\$ 746,600.00
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$ 214,635.35	\$ (24,040.00)	\$ 238,675.35	\$ 170,215.78	\$ (42,500.00)
¹ WEBSITE MANAGER, ACCESS DATABASE SUPPORT					
² HYDROGEOLOGIST, LEGAL, BOOKKEEPER, LOBBYIST					
³ POSTAGE, OFFICE SUPPLIES, BANK CHARGES, INTERNET, TELEPHONE, OFFICE EQUIPMENT					
⁴ OFFICE, STORAGE UNIT					
⁵ CONSULTANT SUPPORT					

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency

Memorandum

To: Board of Directors
From: Julia Aranda, PE, General Manager
Subject: Resolution No. 2026-03 Signatory Authority for Banking Activities
September 24, 2026

Recommendation

- Adopt Resolution No. 2026-03 Authorizing Signatory Authority for Banking Activities

Background and Discussion

The attached Resolution No. 2026-03 updates signatories for banking activities with Bank of the Sierra.

Budget Impact

There is no budget impact to approval of the Resolution.

Attachment: Resolution No. 2026-03

RESOLUTION 2026-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AUTHORIZING SIGNATORY AUTHORITY FOR BANKING ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, California law requires a local agency to deposit all money belonging to, or in the custody of that local agency into specified state or national banks; and

WHEREAS, the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency has authorized certain public funds to be deposited with Bank of the Sierra; and,

WHEREAS, from time to time the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency has cause to withdraw, deposit, reinvest, or otherwise change the disposition of those invested assets to fulfill the mission of the Agency; and,

WHEREAS, the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency has had a change in staffing and Board Members requiring a change in signatories with the Bank of the Sierra.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

1. The Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency designates that two signatures are required for approval of transactions and the dispersing of funds conducted with the Bank of the Sierra, Checking Account No. 3711004850 and Savings Account No. 3712006821 and,
2. The following persons are approved as authorized signatories on the banking accounts of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency held at the Bank of the Sierra:

Richard Hajas, President of the Board

Jim Finch, Vice President

Michael Weaver, Secretary

Bob Daddi, Board Member

Andrew Whitman, Board Member

Miranda Patton, General Manager

The following individuals are to be removed as signatories on the banking accounts of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency held at the Bank of the Sierra:

Julia Aranda

APPROVED by the Board of Directors of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency this 24th day of September, 2026.

Richard Hajas, President

Attest: _____
Cece VanDerMeer, Clerk

Vote:

Richard Hajas, Casitas Municipal Water District	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]
Mike Weaver, Mutual Water Companies	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]
Jim Finch, Ojai Water Conservation District	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]
Andy Whitman, City of Ojai	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]
Bob Daddi, Community Facilities District	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency

Memorandum

To: Board of Directors
From: Julia Aranda, PE, General Manager
Subject: Proposed New Well Located Within the Boundaries of the Agency on APN 014-0-030-205

September 24, 2026

Recommendation

- Determine that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with the 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. 2026-04 Authorizing Written Verification of a Proposed New Well Located Within the Boundaries of the Agency of Assessor's Parcel No. APN 014-0-030-205, 2289 Hermitage Road

Background and Discussion

The attached Well Application for 2289 Hermitage Road (APN 014-0-030-205) was submitted July 28, 2026, for a new shallow well with anticipated demand of 35 acre-feet per year (AFY). The property is 39.37 acres, of which approximately 35 acres are proposed for avocado groves. The property is within Hermitage Mutual Water Company's service area. The proposed extraction from the shallow well is 35 acre-feet per year (AFY).

The applicant also submitted a separate application for a 2,000-foot deep bedrock well on the property with anticipated extraction of 100 AFY. This application was administratively approved by the General Manager on August 13, 2026, since it is not within the DWR-defined groundwater basin.

The applicant provided the deposit for OBGMA to engage Dudek, OBGMA's GSP consultant, to evaluate the proposed shallow well's consistency with the approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Dudek's memorandum dated August 24, 2026, 2026, is attached herein. Based on their analysis, the proposed well is not anticipated to cause undesirable results in the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin.

Resolution No. 2026-04 is attached for adoption; the draft verification letter is also attached for information.

Budget Impact

There is no budget impact related to well verification as the applicant paid for staff time, attorney review, and the evaluation by Dudek.

Attachments:

- Well Verification Application
- Dudek memorandum, Assessment of GSP Consistency – Proposed Replacement Well Located at 2289 Hermitage Road, dated August 24, 2026
- Resolution No. 2026-04
- Draft Verification Letter with Conditions

1



OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

E. PROPOSED EXTRACTION

ACRE-FEET PER YEAR: _____

F. EXISTING WATER SUPPLY

☐	NO OTHER SUPPLY	
☐	EXISTING WELL	WELL NO.: _____
☒	PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIER	WATER AGENCY: <u>Hermatige</u>

G. WELL DRILLER

NAME: Hansen Well-Do Service
 ADDRESS: PO Box 729, Oak View, CA 93022
 PHONE NO.: 8052071869
 EMAIL: brandon@welldo.com

H. MAP REQUIREMENTS

Attach a map accurately plotted and show the location of the proposed well. If a replacement well, show location of existing well and distance to proposed well. Provide dimensions of area to be irrigated, indicating crop type for each area, as applicable. For domestic, municipal, or industrial, show the water distribution system and location of structures to be served. Include a north arrow, the Assessor's Parcel Number, and the nearest streets. No permit applications will be accepted without an adequate map.

I. APPLICANT SIGNATURE

By signing in the space below, the Applicant declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that (1) the information provided with this form is true and correct, and (2) the Applicant/Owner/Operator of the proposed extraction facility agrees to comply with all Agency rules and regulations governing extraction facilities located within the boundaries of the Agency.

DocuSigned by:

 0051649ACE634F5
 Applicant

7/28/2026

Date

A WELL COMPLETION REPORT MUST BE PROVIDED TO OBGMA WITHIN 30 DAYS OF COMPLETION

All Applications must be accompanied by:

- _____ Copy of VCPWA Well Permit Application
- _____ Acknowledgement Form
- _____ Indemnification Agreement
- _____ Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement
- _____ \$5,000 Deposit

August 24, 2026

Julia Aranda
Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
417 Bryant Circle, Suite 112
Ojai, California 93023

Subject: Assessment of GSP Consistency – Proposed New Well Located at 2289 Hermitage Road

Dear Ms. Aranda:

On August 3, 2026, Dudek received a request from the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) to support the agency's evaluation of a proposed well's consistency with the sustainability program outlined in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin (OVGB). This letter provides Dudek's evaluation of the proposed well in a manner consistent with the OBGMA's *Updated Process and Criteria for Administering Water Well Registration and Verification Requests*.

The application provided to Dudek by OBGMA indicates that the replacement well would be located at 2289 Hermitage Road and is anticipated to pump approximately 35 acre-feet per year (AFY) from the OVGB for agricultural and domestic use. For this evaluation, OBGMA provided Dudek with two well permit forms: the Ventura County Well Permit Application and the OBGMA's Water Well Registration and Verification Request form. These forms indicate that the proposed replacement well would consist of a 12-inch diameter stainless steel casing installed to a total depth of 100 feet below ground surface and perforated from 25 feet to 100 feet. The proposed location of this well is in the northern portion of the groundwater basin in a relatively narrow alluvial channel bound by bedrock highs including the Topa Topa mountains to the north and Ladera Ridge to the south.

To assess the consistency of the proposed well with the GSP, Dudek evaluated the proposed well against the set of four evaluation criteria established in the OBGMA's *Updated Process and Criteria for Administering Water Well Registration and Verification*

1 Well Permit Review Approach

On September 26, 2024, the OBGMA established an *Updated Process and Criteria for Administering Water Well Registration and Verification Requests*. In this, the OBGMA developed a set of criteria for evaluating the impacts of a proposed new or modified well that is consistent with the Sustainability Goal of the OVGB. The GSP adopted by the OBGMA on January 6, 2022, outlines the Sustainability Goal for the basin,

The OBGMA's sustainability goal is to preserve the quantity and quality of groundwater in the Ojai Basin in order to protect and maintain the long-term water supply for the common benefit of the water users in the Basin. (p. 3-3, OVGB GSP)

The data presented in the GSP indicates that conditions in the basin have historically been, and are currently, sustainable (p. 3-3; OVGB GSP). To maintain sustainability in the OVGB, the GSP states that conditions in the basin will be (p. 3-3, OVGB GSP),

Considered sustainable so long as the following sustainability goal components continue to be met:

- *Long-term, aggregate groundwater use is less than or equal to the OVGB's estimated sustainable yield, as defined by SGMA;*
- *Groundwater levels are maintained at elevations necessary to avoid undesirable results. Lowering of groundwater levels potentially leading to significant and unreasonable depletions of available water supply for beneficial use could occur if groundwater levels fall below minimum thresholds set at representative monitoring points (RMPs);*
- *Groundwater quality, as measured in municipal and domestic water wells, generally exhibits a stable and/or improving trend for identified contaminants of concern (COCs): total dissolved solids (TDS), sulfate, chloride, boron, nitrate, iron, and manganese; and*
- *Groundwater quality is suitable for existing beneficial uses.*

Based on the sustainability goal components outlined in the GSP, the four criteria developed by OBGMA to evaluate the consistency of the proposed new well with the Sustainability Goal for the OVGB are:

1. Will the projected drawdown cause groundwater level minimum threshold exceedances at the nearest representative monitoring points?
2. Is the projected production likely to cause long-term exceedance of the sustainable yield of the OVGB?
3. Is the project likely to cause exceedance of the minimum thresholds for groundwater quality at the nearest representative monitoring points?
4. Will the projected drawdown impact ongoing or future projects aimed at maintaining sustainability or addressing critical data gaps in the OVGB?

While impacts to ongoing or future projects are not explicitly identified as a sustainability goal component in the GSP, significant data gaps were identified in the GSP that limit understanding of the hydrogeologic conceptual model and characterization of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the OVGB. The GSP identifies projects that support additional data collection and field investigations to reduce these data gaps. As such, criteria 4 was added to the evaluation to ensure that these projects are not significantly impacted by a proposed well or well modification.

2 Technical Review of Proposed Well Located at 2289 Hermitage Road

2.1 Evaluation Criteria No. 1 – Groundwater Level Minimum Threshold Exceedance

When water is extracted from a well, groundwater levels around the well decline creating a cone of depression. The cone of depression is deepest at the well and extends radially to a distance away from the well where water-level decline (or drawdown) is effectively zero. Groundwater extraction from the proposed well located at 2289 Hermitage Road would result in localized groundwater level drawdown in the OVGB.

As defined in the GSP, conditions in the OVGB are considered sustainable if groundwater levels at the representative monitoring points (RMPs) in the OVGB remain above their established minimum threshold groundwater elevations. To evaluate whether the proposed new well may induce conditions that cause minimum threshold exceedances at the RMPs, Dudek quantified the upper-bound of anticipated groundwater elevation drawdown at each RMP associated with operation of the proposed replacement well. The upper-limit of drawdown associated with operation of the proposed replacement well was quantified using the Cooper-Jacob approximation of the Theis non-equilibrium flow equation (Cooper and Jacob 1946):

$$s = \frac{2.3Q}{4\pi T} \log_{10} \frac{2.25Tt}{r^2 S}$$

Where:

s = predicted drawdown (ft)
Q = average pumping rate (ft³/d)
T = Transmissivity (ft²/d)
t = time since pumping started (days)
R = distance from pumping well (ft)
S = coefficient of storage (dimensionless)

The Cooper-Jacob approximation provides a close approximation to the Theis equation when the dimensionless time (u) is sufficiently small (i.e., u < 0.05) (Driscoll 1986), where:

$$u = \frac{r^2 S}{4Tt}$$

Where:

u = time (dimensionless)
r = distance from pumping well (ft)
S = coefficient of storage (dimensionless)
T = transmissivity (ft²/d)
t = time since pumping started

The dimensionless time parameter, u , that represents drawdown associated with operation of the proposed replacement well after 1-year of steady-state operation ranged from 0.0001 to 0.0007, from nearest to farthest RMP.

Table 1 provides the upper-bound of estimated groundwater level decline at RMPs after one year of pumping 35 AFY from the proposed new well. Aquifer transmissivity and storativity values used in the calculations were obtained from the Ojai Basin Groundwater Model (OBGM) and represent weighted average values for the model layers of the grid cell where the proposed well is to be located. Saturated aquifer thickness was calculated by subtracting the bottom elevation of the lowermost model layer of the grid cell where the proposed well is to be located from the most recent groundwater elevation recorded at the groundwater level monitoring well closest in land surface elevation and distance to the proposed new well. The transmissivity value used in the calculations was 5,846 square feet per day and the storativity value used was 0.00004.

Table 1. Estimated Drawdown at Representative Monitoring Points

Representative Monitoring Point SWN	Distance from Proposed Replacement Well (feet / miles)	Drawdown after One Year of Pumping (feet)	Fall 2025, Minimum Groundwater Elevation (feet MSL)	Groundwater Elevation Minimum Threshold (feet MSL)
04N22W04Q001S	12,225/2.32	0.38	944.78	915.90
05N22W32P003S	3,849/0.73	0.51	781.42	771.60
04N22W05L003S	6,841/1.30	0.45	735.20	576.30
04N22W06K003S	7,615/1.44	0.44	698.10	556.50
04N23W01J003S	9,606/1.82	0.41	727.90	567.50
04N22W06E06S	6,854/1.30	0.45	749.30	NA
NA "South Central DDMW"	12,800/2.42	0.38	708.05	NA
04N22W05L008S	7,006/1.33	0.45	735.84	576.28
Basin Average	NA	0.09 ^a	NA	NA

Note: SWN = state well identification number; MSL = mean sea level; NA = not applicable.

^a Based on basin-wide storage analysis

As shown in Table 1, fall 2025 minimum groundwater elevations range from approximately 9-feet to 160-feet above the established minimum threshold groundwater elevations. Estimates of the upper-limit of pumping-induced drawdown at these RMPs range from approximately 0.38 to 0.51 feet (Table 1). These levels of drawdown are not expected to cause exceedance of the minimum thresholds under current conditions.

The minimum thresholds established in the GSP were set using the historical low groundwater levels to avoid groundwater elevation declines that would:

“lower the rate of production of existing groundwater wells below that necessary to meet the minimum required to support the overlying beneficial uses, where alternative means of obtaining sufficient groundwater resources or local surface water resources from Lake Casitas are not technically or financially feasible for the well owner to absorb, either independently or with assistance from the OBGMA, or other available assistance/grant program(s)” (pg. 3-7 of OVGB GSP).

Under drought conditions, operation of the proposed well may result in groundwater elevations at RMPs that occur 0.38 to 0.51 feet below the historical lows according to the Cooper-Jacob approximation. However, considering the rapid groundwater elevation recovery experienced in the OVGB during normal and wet water years, the additional 0.38 to 0.51 feet of drawdown is not anticipated to cause significant and unreasonable impacts to overlying beneficial users by limiting groundwater accessibility.

In practice, the Cooper-Jacob approximation represents a conservative, upper-bound estimate of potential drawdown at RMPs throughout the basin. The analytical solution assumes a laterally contiguous, horizontal, homogenous and isotropic aquifer of uniform thickness. These assumptions are generally not applicable at the proposed well location. Specifically, the proposed well is located within a relatively isolated alluvial deposit that is partially separated from the remainder of the basin by bedrock highs. As a result, the drawdown response generated by pumping would be expected to remain largely confined to the local channelized alluvium and to attenuate substantially as it propagates towards the rest of the basin. Consequently, no acute effects on groundwater levels at the RMPs are anticipated.

Furthermore, it is likely that the proposed well would only be capable of sustained production at its maximum capacity during wetter hydrologic conditions, when local groundwater levels are elevated. During drier conditions, when groundwater levels decline, available yield would likely be reduced and the well may operate at limited capacity or not at all.

An alternative method for evaluating the potential basin-wide effect of pumping from the proposed well is to assume that the annual production volume represents a direct reduction in basin recharge and estimate the resulting effect on basin-wide groundwater storage and average groundwater level change. Under this conservative assumption, the average change in groundwater level can be estimated using the following relationship:

$$\Delta h = \frac{V}{A \times S_y}$$

Where:

Δh = average groundwater level change (ft)
 V = volume of water removed or added (acre-feet)
 A = area over which the change occurs (acres)
 S_y = specific yield (dimensionless)

Assuming a reduction of 35 acre-feet of recharge, an area of 6,400 acres, and a conservative specific yield of 6%, the resulting average basin-wide groundwater-level decline is approximately 0.1 feet.

Based on both the Cooper-Jacob approximation and the basin-wide storage analysis, operation of the proposed well is not anticipated to result in undesirable results associated with chronic lowering of groundwater levels or reduction of groundwater in storage.

2.2 Evaluation Criteria No. 2 – Sustainable Yield Exceedance

The estimated sustainable yield of the OVGB is between 4,100 and 5,000 AFY (p. 3-2, OBGMA 2022). Groundwater extractions since 2019 have averaged approximately 4,266 AFY (OBGMA 2025), which is less than the upper bound of the estimated sustainable yield for the OVGB. The additional 35 AFY of groundwater extractions from this well is not likely to cause an exceedance of the upper bound of the sustainable yield estimate.

2.3 Evaluation Criteria No. 3 – Degradation of Water Quality

The primary potential constituents of concern (COCs) in the OVGB include total dissolved solids, nitrate, chloride, sulfate, boron, iron, and manganese. Figures 1 through 7 show maximum concentrations of these constituents in wells sampled in the OVGB from 2010 to 2020. As shown in the figures, the concentrations of COCs are generally below State and Federal primary and secondary maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for drinking water, although there is high variation between individual wells sampled. Where concentrations of COCs exceed MCLs, the exceedances are largely due to naturally occurring elevated concentrations and not degradation of water quality due to groundwater extraction.

The proposed new well is to be located along the northern boundary of the OVGB. There are limited groundwater quality measurements in the vicinity of the proposed well. Wells located nearest the proposed new well that have been sampled for water quality indicate that iron and manganese are the two COCs that may be present at concentrations above the secondary MCL (Figures 6 and 7).

As noted in the GSP, undesirable results associated with chronic lowering of groundwater levels may be closely linked to undesirable results associated with degradation of water quality because groundwater levels below historical lows may increasingly limit the efficacy of existing mitigation strategies (e.g., blending of groundwater with other water sources). Because the proposed operation of the new well is not anticipated to cause groundwater level minimum threshold exceedances, the proposed new well is similarly not anticipated to cause minimum threshold exceedances associated with the degradation of water quality. Additionally, the projected drawdown associated with operation of the proposed new well is not anticipated to significantly alter existing regional groundwater elevation gradients and flow directions, which would potentially lead to the migration of low-quality groundwater.

2.4 Evaluation Criteria No. 4 – Impacts to Ongoing and Future Projects

The GSP includes projects and management actions (PMAs) that will be implemented to maintain sustainability in the OVGB. Of the PMAs outlined in the GSP, the following have been implemented or are currently being implemented:

- Conduct Groundwater Level, Groundwater Quality, and Streamflow Monitoring
- Conduct Groundwater Extraction Monitoring
- Prepare Sampling and Analysis Plan and Quality Assurance Plan
- Develop Data Management System
- Implement Public Outreach and Engagement Plan

- Complete Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Reports and 5-Year Updates
- Explore Grant Funding Opportunities

The proposed new well is consistent with the PMAs listed above and is anticipated to be consistent with the other PMAs outlined in the GSP.

3 Conclusion

The above provides a technical assessment of the groundwater extraction well planned for construction at 2289 Hermitage Road. The assessment quantifies the potential impacts that operation of the proposed well may have on the sustainable management program and sustainability goal components outlined in the GSP for the OVGB. Dudek has identified four screening criteria to assess consistency with the GSP and sustainability goal for the OVGB (see Section 1). Based on the analysis completed and described above, Dudek has made the following evaluation:

Will the projected drawdown cause groundwater level minimum threshold exceedances at the nearest representative monitoring points?	YES ☐	NO ☒	Note:	Groundwater levels are currently 9 to 160 feet higher than minimum threshold groundwater elevations; estimated drawdown from pumping the proposed well of 0.38 to 0.51 feet at RMPs is not anticipated to cause minimum threshold exceedances
Is the projected production rate likely to cause long-term groundwater usage to exceed the estimated sustainable yield?	YES ☐	NO ☒	Note:	Pumping is currently less than upper bound of the estimated sustainable yield for the basin; operation of the proposed well is not anticipated to result in an exceedance of the sustainable yield of the OVGB
Is the project likely to cause exceedance of the minimum thresholds for groundwater quality at the nearest representative monitoring points?	YES ☐	NO ☒	Note:	Proposed well is not anticipated to significantly alter regional groundwater elevation gradients or flow directions
Will the projected drawdown impact ongoing or future projects aimed at addressing critical data gaps in the OVGB?	YES ☐	NO ☒	Note:	No ongoing or future projects are anticipated to be impacted by operation of the proposed well

This analysis is being provided to the OBGMA to assist in their final determination of the proposed well's consistency with the GSP. Based on the criteria evaluated above, operation of the proposed replacement well is not anticipated to cause undesirable results in the OVGB.

4 References

Cooper, H.H., Jr and C.E. Jacob. 1946. A Generalized Graphical Method for Evaluating Formation Constraints and Summarizing Well Field History. Transactions, American Geophysical Union 27:526-34.

Driscoll, F.G. 1986. Groundwater and Wells. 2nd edition, Johnson Screens, St. Paul, Minnesota.

OBGMA (Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency). 2022. Draft Final Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin. Prepared by Dudek. January 2022.

OBGMA. 2026. Annual Report Covering Water Year 2025: Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin. Prepared by Dudek. March 2026.

Sincerely,



Daniel Culling
Project Hydrogeologist

Attachments: Figures 1-7

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AUTHORIZING WRITTEN VERIFICATION FOR A PROPOSED WELL LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE AGENCY ON ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 014-0-030-205

WHEREAS, by its enabling legislation, the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) is responsible for managing the groundwater resource within its jurisdictional boundaries.

WHEREAS, the OBGMA jurisdictional boundaries contain the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin (Ojai Basin), as defined by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), as well as some, but not all, of the larger watershed area containing the Ojai Basin.

WHEREAS, the Ojai Basin is subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (California Water Code § 10720 et. seq.) and has been designated by DWR as a high priority basin.

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Water Code § 10723(c)(1), OBGMA is designated as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Ojai Basin and has adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Ojai Basin.

WHEREAS, by its Ordinance No. 8, the OBGMA requires all water wells constructed within the OBGMA boundary to be registered with the Agency, to have a meter installed, and for all groundwater extractions to be reported to the Agency.

WHEREAS, in compliance with its statutory obligation to ensure sustainable groundwater management of the Ojai Basin, OBGMA must determine, prior to issuing written verification for a permit to construct a new well or for replacement of an existing well, that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in the GSP adopted by OBGMA for the Ojai Basin, and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the Basin covered by the GSP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the OBGMA Board of Directors finds as follows in consideration of the Well Verification Application of (APN 014-0-030-205) dated July 28, 2026:

1. A hydrogeologic evaluation was completed by Dudek dated August 24, 2026, and substantial evidence supports the finding that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in the GSP adopted by OBGMA for the Ojai Basin and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the Basin covered by the GSP.
2. The proposed well must be constructed and operated pursuant to the standards of Ventura County Ordinance 4468, Section 4814, which incorporates California Well Standards, Bulletin 74-81; the draft supplemental, Bulletin 74-90; Ventura County Water Well Standards Bulletin No. 74-9 and compliance with all other County permitting requirements.
3. The proposed well must meet OBGMA's requirements for new wells including metering, registration, monitoring, reporting, and any other special conditions of approval.
4. The following OBGMA permit conditions are also made a part of this water well authorization to proceed:

- a. OBGMA representative(s) shall be provided an opportunity to confirm the drilling location prior to drilling.
- b. OBGMA representative(s) must be present during groundbreaking and drilling of the upper 50 feet and be allowed to collect samples and log cuttings.
- c. A geophysical log must be conducted in the borehole and a copy provided to OBGMA representative(s).
- d. The well owner shall comply with all applicable OBGMA Ordinances and Resolutions requiring metering of the well, extraction reporting, and fee payment to OBGMA now in effect or as may hereafter be adopted.
- e. Well contractor to provide OBGMA with the completion Report and State Well Number within 30 days of well completion.

WHEREFORE, the Application of Jerry Levine (APN 014-0-030-205) for a Well Verification dated July 28, 2026, is hereby **APPROVED** by the Board of Directors of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency on September 24, 2026.

Richard Hajas, President

Attest: _____
Cece Van Der Meer, Secretary

Richard Hajas, Casitas Municipal Water District	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]
Michael Weaver, Mutual Water Companies	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]
Jim Finch, Ojai Water Conservation District	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]
Andrew Whitman, City of Ojai	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]
Bob Daddi, Community Facilities District	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]



Member Agencies

Ojai Water Conservation District	Ojai Basin Mutual Water Companies:
Casitas Municipal Water District	Senior Canyon MWC
City of Ojai	Siete Robles MWC
Community Facilities District	Hermitage MWC

September 25, 2026

Jerry Levine
2289 Hermitage Road
Ojai CA 93023

Subject: Well Application for APN 014-0-030-205, 2289 Hermitage Road, Ojai CA

Dear Property Owner:

The Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) is responsible for managing the groundwater resource within its jurisdictional boundaries. The OBGMA jurisdictional boundaries contain the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin (Ojai Basin), as defined by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), as well as some, but not all, of the larger watershed area containing the Ojai Basin.

The Ojai Basin is subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (California Water Code § 10720 et. seq.) and has been designated by DWR as a high priority basin. Pursuant to California Water Code § 10723(c)(1), OBGMA is designated as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Ojai Basin and has adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Ojai Basin.

In compliance with its statutory obligation to ensure sustainable groundwater management of the Ojai Basin, OBGMA must determine, prior to issuing written verification for a permit to construct a new well or for replacement of an existing well, that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in the GSP adopted by OBGMA for the Ojai Basin, and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the Basin covered by the GSP.

You have applied to OBGMA for written verification regarding construction of a new well located on APN 014-0-030-205. With regard to your application, OBGMA finds as follows:

OBGMA Verification of Water Well Application.

Your application is:

Approved: X based on:

1.

~~Water use is intended for domestic use and extraction will be under 2 acre feet each water year (October 1 through September 30 of each year)~~

2.

A verification analysis has been completed and the water well is not inconsistent with OBGMA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the GSP. This verification is approved by the OBGMA Board of Directors and this is your authorization to proceed with application to the County of Ventura, subject to the General and Standard permit conditions contained herein.

Office Address:
Mailing Address:

417 Bryant Circle Drive, Suite 112, Ojai CA 93023
P.O. Box 1779, Ojai CA 93024
www.obgma.com

805.640.1207
obgma@aol.com

Any approval shall be valid for one year from the date of this verification unless changes in law make this approval invalid.

Not Approved: _____ based on:

1. ~~Needing the following additional information or clarification on your water well application (see attached):~~
2. ~~A verification analysis has been completed and the water well is not consistent with OBGMA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and may decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the GSP.~~

The following general conditions are to be followed for the proposed water well:

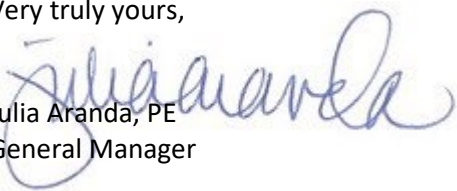
1. The proposed well must be constructed and operated pursuant to the standards of Ventura County Ordinance 4468, Section 4814, which incorporates California Well Standards, Bulletin 74-81; the draft supplemental, Bulletin 74-90; Ventura County Water Well Standards Bulletin No. 74-9 and compliance with all other County permitting requirements.
2. The proposed well must meet OBGMA's requirements for new wells including registration, monitoring, reporting, and any other special conditions of approval.
3. The following standard OBGMA permit conditions are also made a part of this water well authorization to proceed:
 - a. OBGMA staff or consultants shall be provided an opportunity to confirm the drilling location prior to drilling
 - b. OBGMA staff or consultants shall be provided an opportunity to observe drilling operations as they are occurring
 - c. OBGMA staff or consultants shall be provided an opportunity to review all drill cuttings, and any geophysical logs following drilling
 - d. The well owner shall comply with all applicable OBGMA Ordinances and Resolutions requiring metering of the well, extraction reporting, and fee payment to OBGMA now in effect or as may hereafter be adopted
 - e. Well contractor to provide OBGMA with the completion Report and State Well Number within 30 days of well completion

The following documents are attached for your information and use:

- Water Well Registration and Verification Request
- Resolution 2026-04, adopted September 24, 2026
- Well Registration Form
- First Notice of Groundwater Extraction

Please contact us at obgmagn@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,


Julia Aranda, PE
General Manager

c: County of Ventura

Attachments: Water Well Registration and Verification Request
Resolution 2026-04, adopted September 24, 2026
Meter Registration Form
First Notice of Groundwater Extraction

