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Daniel C. Naumann

General Manager
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Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

AGENDA

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Boardroom, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

Meeting attendees should be aware that the meetings of the Committee are, as required by law, open to the public and the District has very limited powers to regulate who attends Committee meetings. Therefore, attendees must exercise their own judgement with respect to protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19, as the District cannot ensure that all attendees at public meetings will be free from COVID-19.

In addition to its public Water Resources Committee Meeting, people may choose to participate virtually using the Webex video conferencing application.

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Meeting number: 126 810 6262 Password: groundwater (47686392 from phones)

Join by phone (audio only) call in on +1-408-418-9388 (toll rates apply)

Access code: 126 810 6262

OPEN SESSION:

1. Public Comment

The public may address the Water Resources Committee on any matter on the agenda or within the jurisdiction of the Committee. All comments are subject to a five-minute time limit.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Committee will review the minutes from the May 5, 2020 meeting.

3. Resolution 2020-03 Adopting the 2019 Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update, Finding that the Plan is Exempt from CEQA, and Instructing Staff to File a CEQA Notice of Exemption

The Committee will consider recommending the adoption of Resolution 2020-03, adopting the 2019 Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, finding that the plan is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and instructing staff to file a CEQA Notice of Exemption, to the full Board at its July 8 Regular Board meeting.

4. Updates on Groundwater Flow Model Development and Calibration (30 minutes; Sun) The Committee will be updated on the current status of United's groundwater flow development and calibration.

5. Santa Clara River Flows and Diversions Updates (20 minutes; McEachron)

The Committee will be briefed on the recent flows in, and diversions from, the Santa Clara River and key tributaries.



6. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Update (30 minutes; Detmer, Lindquist)

The Committee may discuss recent activities of the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within or adjacent to the District’s service area, including allocations.

- FCGMA
- Mound Basin
- Fillmore Piru Basin

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Directors:

Edwin T. McFadden III, Chair
Patrick J. Kelley
Daniel C. Naumann

Staff:

Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager
Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer
Dan Detmer, Supervising Hydrogeologist
Dr. Jason Sun, Senior Hydrogeologist/Modeler
John Lindquist, Senior Hydrogeologist
Dr. Zachary Hanson, Assistant Hydrogeologist
Kathleen Kuepper, Assistant Hydrogeologist
Eric Elliott, Staff Hydrogeologist
Murray McEachron, Senior Hydrologist
Dr. Bram Sercu, Hydrologist

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, the District’s services, programs or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or if you require agenda material in an alternative format, please contact the District’s offices at (805) 525-4431. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements.

Approved:
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

MB 6/25/2020

Posted (Date): June 26, 2020 **(time)** 11:15a.m. **(attest)** *Eva Ibarra*
At: UWCD Headquarters, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

Posted (Date): June 26, 2020 **(time)** 11:30a.m. **(attest)** *Eva Ibarra*
At: www.unitedwater.org



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MINUTES
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Boardroom, 1701 Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Edwin T. McFadden III, Chair
Daniel C. Naumann
Patrick J. Kelley

STAFF PRESENT

Mauricio E. Guardado, General Manager
Robert C. Siemak, Assistant General Manager
Anthony Emmert, Assistant General Manager
Dan Detmer, Supervising Hydrogeologist
Dr. Jason Sun, Senior Hydrogeologist/Modeler
John Lindquist, Senior Hydrogeologist
Dr. Zachary Hanson, Assistant Hydrogeologist
Brian Collins, O&M Manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer
Dr. Bram Sercu, Hydrologist

PUBLIC PRESENT

Frank Bromenschenkel, Frank B& Associates (via WebEx)
Martin Gramckow, Southland Sod
Jurgen Gramckow, Southland Sod
Burt Handy
Kim Loeb, Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA)

OPEN SESSION:

Chair McFadden called the meeting to order at 9 am

1. Public Comment-

Chair McFadden asked if there were any public comments. None were offered.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes from the November 26, 2019 meeting, [Insert Director's Name];
Second, [Insert Director's Name]. Voice vote: three ayes (Kelley, Naumann, McFadden)

Motion approved unanimously 3/0/0.

3. Update on Groundwater Flow Model Development (Sun)

The Committee was briefed on the current status of United's effort to update its 2018 groundwater flow model, including model expansion, calibration, validation, and review. Dr. Sun noted that the 2018 groundwater model would be used for the Brackish Water project.



Mr. Jurgen Gramckow commented that he supports the Brackish Water extraction and treatment barrier project with Naval base and its application on the Oxnard basin to slow seawater intrusion. He also suggested the Committee review the potential to increase the capacity for the project from its current 5,000 AF per year range.

Chair McFadden said that he was excited to see progress as it will have an effect on rate payers.

Mr. Martin Gramckow asked if the model can provide insight regarding interbasin flow, and will that impact GMA regulation, and how can ratepayers collaborate on the movement of water between basin boundaries. Dr. Sun said that the model can provide estimates of interbasin flows, and has been used to support groundwater sustainability plans.

Director Naumann noted the importance of understanding basin inflows and outflows, including both surface water and groundwater. Dr. Sun responded that United staff are incorporating both surface-water and groundwater flow in the model.

Mr. Jurgen Gramckow asked if the groundwater sustainability plan modeling performed by Dudek for the FCGMA considered interbasin flows. Mr. Kim Loeb/FCGMA responded that the FCGMA analysis did consider interbasin flows. Director Naumann asked if United was providing the new modeling input and output to the FCGMA for their use. Dr. Sun said that yes, as United completes calibration, and (later) verification, of its expanded model, United will share its information and provide support with additional analysis, if FCGMA would like.

4. Update on Groundwater Flow Model Application for Projects (Sun)

Dr. Sun briefed the Committee on the recent applications of United's groundwater flow model to support evaluation of groundwater for specific projects. The briefing included a discussion of how model uncertainty is distinct from inaccuracy or bias introduced through use of a model due to the assumptions relied upon when developing future scenarios as well as the interpretation of model results which is another potential source of bias unrelated to the model itself.

5. Santa Clara River Flows and Diversions Update for Winter 2020 (Sercu and McEachron)—Due to technical difficulties, discussion of Item 5 was delayed, with Items 6 and 7 presented before Item 5.

Dr. Sercu presented the first half of Item 5 instead of Mr. McEachron, due to technical difficulties. Dr. Sercu and Mr. McEachron updated the committee on recent flows in, and diversions from, the Santa Clara River and key tributaries. Mr. McEachron said that 38,000 acre feet may be released from the Santa Felicia Dam this fall, starting in August. Director Naumann asked if the planned August or September release could be started sooner if predictions are for a wetter year. Mr. McEachron said an earlier release could be considered and Director Kelley asked if the release could be scheduled for as early as June 1 and mentioned that by releasing earlier in the summer it may reduce evaporation rates that would be typical in hotter months like August or September. Director Naumann then asked if anyone was aware of the window for Article 21 purchases and Mr. McEachron said that that despite better rain flow, the area is still behind average and that there would be no Article 21 water for this year. Mr. Siemak added that it was an unusual year for Article 21 water and with the allocation at only 15%, he cautioned the committee to use money wisely with regard to water purchases. Director Naumann concluded that the District continues to head in the right direction.



6. Water Resources Department Update

Mr. Siemak asked if the Committee members had any questions regarding the Staff Report summarizing recent departmental activities. No questions were asked.

7. Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Update

Mr. Siemak asked if the Committee members had any questions regarding the Staff Report summarizing recent GSA activities. Director McFadden noted that the Piru and Fillmore Basins GSA was about to start robust stakeholder engagement this spring, before the coronavirus pandemic caused rescheduling of workshops and meetings.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Detmer suggested a discussion of PTP sub-allocations. Director McFadden said that he would like to continue hearing about GSA progress. Director Naumann said that he felt it was important to continue letting pumpers know about United's progress on its various efforts to maintain and expand water supplies in the area.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:26 am

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the UWCD Water Resources Committee Meeting of May 5, 2020.

Chair Edwin T. McFadden, III



Staff Report

To: Water Resources Committee

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

From: Anthony Emmert, Assistant General Manager

Date: June 19, 2020 (June 30, 2020 Meeting)

Agenda Item: 3 **Resolution 2020-03 Adopting the 2019 Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update, Finding that the Plan is Exempt from CEQA, and Instructing Staff to File a CEQA Notice of Exemption**

Staff Recommendation:

The Committee will consider recommending the adoption of Resolution 2020-03, adopting the 2019 Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WVCV) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, finding that the plan is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and instructing staff to file a CEQA Notice of Exemption, to the full Board at its July 8, 2020, Regular Board meeting.

Background:

The efforts of the WVCV are well known to the District. In fact, the organization was the recipient of the District's 2014 Laubacher Award. To date, WVCV has brought over \$82 million of Proposition 50 and Prop. 84 funds to Ventura County since 2006. These are funds made available through water bonds for projects that are part of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). Consequently, it was necessary in 2006 for WVCV to develop such a plan, and the District, along with numerous other local entities, ratified this plan in 2006 via Resolution 2006-18. It was amended and revised again in 2014 and ratified by the District via Resolution 2014-10.

In 2016, the state updated its IRWM Plan Standards, which required WVCV to update its IRWMP. The most significant new requirements were to incorporate climate change into the IRWMP, demonstrate how the plan complies with the Open and Transparent Water Data Platform for California of 2016 (AB 1755), and to incorporate the DWR's new resources management strategies into the IRWMP. Additionally, the WVCV included an updated projects list in its plan, including several projects submitted by the District. WVCV submitted its updated final draft IRWMP to DWR for review in September 2019. DWR approved the draft plan in January 2020 as meeting the requirements of the 2016 IRWM Plan Standards. Over the past several months, the draft plan has been reviewed by District staff and by other WVCV members and has now been finalized.

3. Resolution 2020-03 Adopting the 2019 Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Finding that the Plan is Exempt from CEQA, and Instructing Staff to File a CEQA Notice of Exemption Motion

It is important for the District to adopt the new IRWMP, as doing so is a requirement for several state grant programs. Recently, DWR recommended awarding \$11.9 million of IRWMP grant funds from Proposition 1 to the WCVC for a suite of projects. The District's El Rio Iron and Manganese Removal Project Phase 1 is one of the projects, with a recommended grant award of \$2.5 million.

At present, the County of Ventura is serving as the lead agency with the state for the WCVC's IRWMP. The County of Ventura Board of Supervisors is scheduled to adopt the updated IRWMP within the next few weeks. Other local entities such as the District that wish to be a part of the process must also adopt the IRWMP via resolution to document such adoption for the state, and because this is a state process, a CEQA finding must be part of the process. Since the IRWMP is a planning study which identifies potential projects, programs, and policies for possible future actions; and because the plan consists of basic data and information collection and includes possible actions subject to future adoption and approval, a finding that the plan is exempt from CEQA is a part of Resolution 2020-03.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact by the Board's adoption of the IRWMP. By adopting the IRWMP, the District would remain eligible for state-funded grants with a IRWMP requirement, such as the \$2.5 million grant recommended for award for the El Rio Iron and Manganese Removal Project.

Attachment: A – Resolution 2020-03

RESOLUTION 2020-03

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ADOPTING THE 2019
WATERSHEDS COALITION OF VENTURA COUNTY INTEGRATED
REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN, FINDING THAT THE PLAN IS
EXEMPT FROM CEQA, AND INSTRUCTING STAFF TO FILE
A CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors adopted the first Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan per the requirements of Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Water Code Section 79500, *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, in November of 2006, the California electorate approved Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Public Resource Code Section 75001 *et seq.*) that included funding for projects that were part of an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 84 included new IRWM Plan standards that necessitated updating the 2006 WCVC IRWM Plan in order to be eligible to receive IRWM implementation grant funds; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the State of California promulgated updated Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Standards; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 WCVC IRWM Plan was developed through a comprehensive stakeholder process and provides for ongoing data gathering, planning, design, implementation, and evaluation through a long-term, dynamic, community-based process; and

WHEREAS, the widespread adoption of the 2019 WCVC IRWM Plan ensures multi-agency participation and future water management planning efforts in the region; and

WHEREAS, United Water Conservation District has reviewed the 2019 WCVC IRWM Plan and has determined that the Plan is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 because the Plan is a planning study which identifies potential projects, programs, and policies for possible future actions; and Sections 15306, 15307, and 15308 because the Plan consists of basic data and information collection and includes possible actions, subject to future adoption and approval, which would protect natural resources and the environment; and

Resolution 2020-03, continued

WHEREAS, the District will prepare a Notice of Exemption for the 2019 WCVC IRWM Plan in accordance with CEQA and the county's Procedures for the Implementation of CEQA; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of the Directors of the United Water Conservation District as follows:

1. All of the above recitals are true and correct.
2. United Water Conservation District hereby adopts the 2019 WCVC IRWM Plan.
3. The adoption of the 2019 WCVC IRWM Plan is hereby determined to be exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Sections 15262, 15306, 15307, and 15308 of the State CEQA Guidelines.
4. District staff is authorized and directed to file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF JULY 2020

ATTEST: _____
Michael W. Mobley, Board President

ATTEST: _____
Sheldon G. Berger, Board Secretary