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Daniel C. Naumann

General Manager
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

AGENDA
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 1p.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: 126 762 5435

Password: H2O1 (4261 from phones)

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

Access code: 126 762 5435

OPEN SESSION:

Committee Members roll call

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 - Motion

The Committee will review and consider approving the minutes from the June 30, 2020 Water Resources Committee meeting.

3. Update on Groundwater Flow Model (30 minutes; Sun)

The Committee will be updated on the status of United's groundwater flow model development effort, including model expansion, calibration, validation, and review.

4. Santa Felicia Dam Release and Diversions Update for Summer 2020 (20 minutes; McEachron)

The Committee will be briefed on the ongoing release from the Santa Felicia Dam and diversions at the Freeman.

5. Water Resources Department Update

The Committee will discuss the Department's recent activities and projects.



6. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Update

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

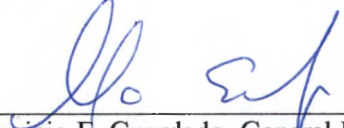
Directors:

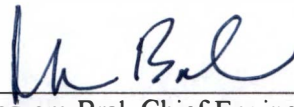
Edwin T. McFadden III, Chair
Patrick J. Kelley
Daniel C. Naumann

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, Hydrogeologist
Kathleen Kuepper, Hydrogeologist
Eric Elliott, Associate Hydrogeologist
Murray McEachron, Principal Hydrologist
Dr. Bram Sercu, Senior Hydrologist
Robert Marshall, Water Resources Technician

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, General Manager


Dr. Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer

Posted (Date): August 27, 2020 **(time)** 3:30p.m. **(attest)** *Eva Ibarra*
At: UWCD Headquarters, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

Posted (Date): August 27, 2020 **(time)** 3:45p.m. **(attest)** *Eva Ibarra*
At: www.unitedwater.org



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Legal Counsel
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MINUTES
UWCD Water Resources Committee
June 30, 2020

Committee Members Present

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

STAFF PRESENT

Mauricio Guardado, general manager
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, chief engineer
Brian Collins, operations and maintenance manager
Dan Detmer, supervising hydrogeologist
Dr. Zachary Hanson, assistant hydrogeologist
Kathleen Kuepper, assistant hydrogeologist
John Lindquist, senior hydrogeologist
Murray McEachron, senior hydrologist
Josh Perez, human resource manager
Zachary Plummer, IT administrator
Dr. Bram Sercu, hydrogeologist
Dr. Jason Sun, senior hydrogeologist/modeler

PUBLIC PRESENT

Burt Handy
Bryan Bondy

OPEN SESSION: 9:00a.m.

Chair McFadden called the Water Resources Committee meeting to order at 9 a.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair McFadden asked if there were any changes to the Minutes. No changes were recommended. Motion to approve the Minutes, Chair McFadden; Second, Director Naumann. Voice vote: three ayes (McFadden, Naumann, Kelley) Minutes approved unanimously.

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 reviewed Resolution 2020-03. No presentation was offered. Anthony Emmert explained the Resolution would be presented to the full Board at its July meeting and requested that the Committee recommend the adoption of the Resolution to the full Board.

Director Naumann asked if this is a bookkeeping process update. Mr. Emmert said yes and explained the background for the grant. Director Naumann asked Mr. Emmert to list the five agencies in his updates for the Board staff report as Directors may need to reach out to different Supervisors for support. Director Kelley asked if staff had begun CEQA efforts before grant funding was finalized. Mr. Emmert stated that an exemption from CEQA had been filed. All three Committee members (McFadden, Naumann and Kelley) approved recommendation of the Resolution to the full Board.



4. Updates on Groundwater Flow Model Development and Calibration (30 minutes; Sun)

The Committee was updated on the status of United's groundwater flow model development and calibration. Dr. Jason Sun provided an update to the Committee, including a recap of the modeling effort that started in 2013 and the Oxnard Plain version that was released in 2018. The model has been calibrated extended and now covers most of the Oxnard Plain as well as Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru and a bit into the Mound Basin, encompassing the revised DWR basin boundaries. The model now covers 380 square miles, including over 1,600 production wells and 900 wells with water level records. (see attached presentation)

Mr. Detmer explained that the Oxnard Plain model used records of diversions and river flows at Freeman for calibration. Now the expanded model is simulating surface water that arrives at the Forebay from the upper basins and staff is reviewing Forebay calibrations to confirm water level calibrations in the Forebay hold. Mr. Detmer added that staff was now simulating the groundwater and the surface water coming down the Santa Clara River valley. Mr. Guardado thanked Mr. Detmer for making that important clarification.

Mr. Guardado asked Dr. Sun if he could explain the acronyms SIM and OBS, for the committee and the public. Dr. Sun explained OBS stands for observed data and measurements. SIM is the value simulated by the model.

Dr. Sun's presentation included information on how United built the 2018 conceptual model and numerical model in-house. The model was reviewed by both an internal expert panel and an external review by a Stanford professor through the Fox Canyon GMA as part of the GSP development for the basins of the Oxnard Plain. Director Kelley asked if United has access to the external and internal reviews of the model. Dr. Sun stated yes, the District has all the information.

Chair McFadden asked if anyone had any further questions for Dr. Sun. Director Naumann asked if the layering of the Oxnard Plain used in the 13-layer model was the same in the Santa Clara River Valley, and if there is a distinction between the upper or lower sections of the Santa Clara River. Dr. Sun explained the distinctions between the sections. Director Naumann asked if the valley areas were as easily recharged as the Forebay, and Dr. Sun replied that the areas are about the same and referenced the slide to explain which wells are within the shallow and deep layers.

Director Naumann asked if the model was going to be used in simulating water releases. Mr. Detmer said yes and explained why it is important to simulate the recharge associated with reservoir releases and that the model will be used in simulations for upcoming water releases. Director Naumann also asked how staff will monitor water coming into the District from other GSAs. Mr. Detmer explained how the model would be used to simulate those flows. Director Naumann commented on the caliber of talent at the District, adding that staff should let the Committee know how it can support staff's efforts.

Director Kelley asked if the model was essential to assess future use or expansion of the brackish water project into other basins in the Ventura area and if the District would have to wait a year to determine the success of the model or if it could be accomplished sooner. Mr. Detmer said that Dr. Sun had run initial scenarios and staff needs to approach Fox Canyon GMA to see if it is comfortable with the approach. Dr. Sun reminded the Committee that the model is under review and the brackish water project modeling will start next month.

Director McFadden asked if anyone had any further questions or comments; none were offered.

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

The Committee was briefed on the recent flows in, and diversions from, the Santa Clara River and key tributaries. Murray McEachron presented slides to explain the flow rates and diversions. (see attached presentation)

Director Naumann asked about how much of the water flow came across the county line and Mr. McEachron said a little over 90 percent. Director Naumann asked about the flow rate (96cfs) and Mr. McEachron explained why that flow rate was being used.



Mr. Guardado asked Mr. McEachron if, based on his extensive experience of releases during his long employment at United, there had ever been a three-month release conducted. Mr. McEachron stated that previous releases had started on August 1, but he did not recall how long the releases lasted, but added that he thought this upcoming release is probably the longest.

Dr. Bram Sercu then presented slides on water rights (see attached presentation). Director Naumann asked if “natural flows” is legal term and Dr. Sercu provided clarification that water released by United is distinguished from other flows in the river.

Chair McFadden asked if anyone had any more questions or comments; none were offered.

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

The Committee discussed recent activities of the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within or adjacent to the District’s service area, including:

- **FCGMA** – Mr. Detmer reported that the FCGMA Board of Directors passed a budget that included significant legal expenses. The FCGMA seated a variance review committee for the new allocation ordinance that was based on the period of use from 2005 through 2014. There were several pumpers that are expected to request a variance review based on incorrect reporting or other errors. Mr. Detmer added that staff was submitting a variance request on behalf of Port Hueneme Water Agency, as it had operational issues resulting in less use of OH water over a period of two years. United, as the well owners, are sponsoring that variance request.
- **Mound Basin** – John Lindquist reported the Mound Basin GSA is planning a public workshop for groundwater conditions this summer. The GSA is currently looking into sustainable management criteria and are planning on using the District’s groundwater model later this summer for simulating future conditions and potential impacts to groundwater.
- **Santa Paula Basin** has postponed its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting until Fall. United is working on the annual report for the basin. The TAC is planning on using United’s model for evaluating several proposed projects in the Santa Paula Basin to enhance yield.
- **Fillmore Piru Basin**- The basin had a well-attended Stakeholders Workshop.

Chair McFadden asked if anyone had any questions or comments, none were offered.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Director Naumann requested notice going forward for any model requests from different agencies (GSAs). He said that as the District moves into these supply studies, he would like to see a list of supply-side items that are being looked at for the different GSAs. Chair McFadden, commenting on the virtual meeting, said he thought it was easier to communicate with staff on individual screens instead of the single camera showing everyone in the Boardroom.

3. ADJOURNMENT: 10:53a.m.

Chair McFadden adjourned the meeting at 10:53a.m

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the UWCD Water Resources Committee Meeting of Tuesday, June 30, 2020.

Staff Report

To: UWCD Water Resources Committee

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

From: Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer
Dan Detmer, Supervising Hydrogeologist

Date: August 25, 2020 (prepared for September 2, 2020, meeting)

Agenda Item: 5 **Monthly Water Resources Department Report**
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

Receive a summary report on various Water Resources departmental activities.

Discussion:

(In accordance with County and State guidance during the Covid-19 pandemic, a majority of staff worked from home. To facilitate communications and coordination, a daily conference call was held each Monday through Thursday morning using Microsoft Teams; this has proven to be an effective way of coordinating departmental activities and moving all projects and programs forward. In instances where work in the field or office was required, County guidance for social distancing and safety procedures were followed. Also, staff maximized the use of teleconferencing using Microsoft Teams and other teleconferencing products)

Staff Activities

In addition to the Department's routine, ongoing groundwater monitoring and reporting program and its support of groundwater sustainability agencies (summarized in a separate staff report), notable efforts and activities conducted by staff during the past month included the following:

- Groundwater modeling:
 - Staff has expanded the active domain of United's numerical groundwater flow model to incorporate the Piru, Fillmore and Santa Paula basins. The model is being calibrated in these basins not only groundwater to groundwater levels, but also to gaining and losing reaches of the Santa Clara River and surface water flows arriving at the Freeman Diversion.
 - Staff and Expert Panel participants initially met via videoconference on March 24 to share progress and receive feedback on model expansion and preliminary calibration
-

Agenda Item: 5. Monthly Water Resources Department Report
Information Item

of United's expanded numerical groundwater flow model. Dr. Sun has continued to communicate with panel members on specific issues and shared the model files with the panel in early August. The Expert Panel has been reviewing revised model input and output files over the past few weeks and has provided initial feedback on the quality of the model, and has stated "the model calibration to both heads and stream flows is very good" and "the panel sees no major problems with the calibration."

- Staff has completed preliminary model runs that shows pumping of as little as 5,000 AF per year may effectively control the inland progression of seawater intrusion in the UAS near Mugu lagoon, and over time clean up brackish groundwater in surrounding areas. Navy representatives met with United staff on July 22 to coordinate land access agreements for the overall project and discuss project schedule and critical project elements.
 - Staff are conducting various model simulations for Calleguas to evaluate groundwater impacts and supply options in case of a water-supply emergency (e.g., interruption to State Water Project deliveries due to a major earthquake).
 - Staff continue to help the Environmental Services Department (ESD) evaluate effects of existing and potential future surface-water flow conditions at the Freeman Diversion.
 - Staff are assisting ESD in evaluating fish passage modifications under consideration for United's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).
 - Staff continued preparation of an assessment of impacts of United's conjunctive-use and related activities in the Oxnard basin (including the Forebay area) on surface-water conditions in the Santa Clara River, which will be an appendix to the HCP.
 - Staff have participated in several recent Live Edit meetings related to HCP development.
 - Staff continues to assist with planning and coordination for release of Table A water and supplemental State Water Project water acquired from the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency and the City of San Buenaventura.
 - Staff received a letter from the DWR on October 18, 2019 regarding the DWR's approval of the Prop 1 groundwater grant funding for the Coastal Brackish Water Treatment Plant – Basin Impacts and Benefits. Staff had a kickoff call with DWR on July 21. Staff is waiting for the state to make staff assignments to the Technical Advisory Committee meetings (Regional Board and DDW) before commencing the technical work associated with the grant.
 - Groundwater Department staff coordinated efforts with Engineering Department staff and United's Regional Optimization Planning consultant to continue design and implementation efforts for the new water-supply projects discussed at United's Water Sustainability Summit.
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**Agenda Item: 5. Monthly Water Resources Department Report
Information Item**

- Staff are analyzing sediment load at the Freeman Diversion and removal options for accumulated sediment from the desilting basin.
- Staff led or participated in the following public outreach activities:
 - Staff engaged in several phone conversations related to groundwater sustainability, FCGMA allocation ordinance, and conjunctive use strategies and operations.

Staff Report

To: UWCD Water Resources Committee

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

From: Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer
Dan Detmer, Supervising Hydrogeologist

Date: August 25, 2020 (prepared for September 2, 2020, meeting)

Agenda Item: **6. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Information Item**

Staff Recommendation:

Receive a summary report of Water Resources Department activities related to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) for the groundwater basins within District boundaries.

Discussion:

Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA)

Staff continue to monitor and, where appropriate, participate in the FCGMA's groundwater sustainability planning and implementation efforts, as follows:

Board of Directors meetings –

The FCGMA Board held regular meetings on July 22 and August 26. Notable topics during the July 22 meeting included:

- The FCGMA Board approved extending the Phase 2 Water Market Pilot Program in the Oxnard Basin.
 - The FCGMA Board received an update from staff on development of an interim allocation system for the Las Posas Valley basin.
 - The FCGMA Board received an update from staff on progress made in implementing groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) work plan for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins.
-

**Agenda Item: 6. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
Information Item**

The primary topic of note at the August 26 meeting was FCGMA Board receipt of a progress report from the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) on the status of the facilitated process to move forward with planning for GSP implementation in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins.

The FCGMA Board held a special meeting online on August 14. This meeting comprised a public hearing and first reading in title only of the Las Posas Valley Interim Allocation System Ordinance.

Executive Committee meeting – The FCGMA Executive Committee held meetings on July 8 and August 10.

- The primary topics of discussion at the July 8 meeting were staff summaries of:
 - Recent applications for allocation variances in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins, and
 - A new process for requesting allocation variances and how the fee structure adopted by the Board would apply to those variances.
- The primary topic of discussion at the August 10 meeting was the proposed allocation ordinance for Las Posas Valley basin.

Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (FPBGSA)

Staff continue to participate in FPBGSA activities supporting SGMA compliance and GSP preparation for the Fillmore and Piru basins, as follows:

Board of Directors meetings – The FPBGSA held regular Board meetings on July 16 and August 20.

- Notable topics at the July 16 meeting included:
 - United’s Dan Detmer presented an overview of the Ventura County well-construction moratorium.
 - United’s Dr. Zachary Hanson presented a summary of the historical water balance for the Fillmore and Piru basins.
 - Tony Morgan (of Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. [DBS&A]), presented a summary of the information that will be needed regarding future conditions in the Fillmore and Piru basins to develop GSPs.
 - Notable topics at the August 20 meeting included:
 - Tony Morgan of DBS&A provided a summary of SGMA requirements for annual reporting.
 - Tim Moore of DBS&A provided a presentation of groundwater data gaps in the Fillmore and Piru basins that could potentially be filled by constructing new monitoring wells in key locations.
 - Tony Morgan of DBS&A provided an update on information needed regarding future conditions in the Fillmore and Piru basins to support GSP development.
-

**Agenda Item: 6. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
Information Item**

- Tony Morgan of DBS&A summarized the Sustainable Management Criteria ad hoc committee’s progress on developing recommendations for minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for the Fillmore and Piru basin GSPs.

A special FPBGSA Board meeting was held on July 2, comprising a public hearing to discuss FY 2020-21 groundwater extraction rates.

The next FPBGSA Board meeting is scheduled for September 17 at 5:00 pm.

Communication and Outreach – A Stakeholder Workshop is tentatively scheduled for October, 2020 to discuss historical water budgets and development of United’s groundwater flow model.

GSP preparation – Consultant DBS&A reported progress on various work products in support of GSP development and offered a preview of a web-based data management and mapping system that includes well construction information and available water level and water quality records for wells within the basins.

Modeling – Staff have completed the hydrostratigraphic conceptual model for the Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru basins, and have largely completed calibration of the active domain of United’s numerical groundwater flow model for the base period 19085-2015. Staff is now compiling records to update and validate the model for the years 2016-2019. The model has now been expanded to include the river basins and calibration efforts are underway, with good progress.

Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MBGSA)

Staff continue to participate in MBGSA activities supporting SGMA compliance and GSP development for the Mound basin, as follows:

Board of Directors meetings – The MBGSA held regular Board meetings on July 16 and August 20.

- Notable topics at the July 16 meeting included:
 - The City of Ventura’s consultant (Mr. Curtis Hopkins) presented a summary of his “Preliminary Hydrogeological Study—Mound Basin Groundwater Conditions and Perennial Yield Study” dated March 2020.
 - MBGSA Executive Director Mr. Bryan Bondy provided a draft sustainability goal description to the Board for potential public release. The Board approved public release of the draft sustainability goal, with a few minor edits.
- Notable topics at the August 20 meeting included:
 - United’s Senior Modeler, Dr. Jason Sun, gave a presentation to the Board on development of United’s updated groundwater flow model, which includes the area of Mound Basin.

Agenda Item: 6. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Information Item

- The Board provided more edits to the July 16 draft sustainability goal, and postponed adopting it until after a planned September Mound Basin GSP public workshop.
- Mr. Bondy introduced the six SGMA sustainability indicators and discussed key issues and the sustainable management criteria screening for each.
- The agenda for a planned Mound Basin GSP public workshop was reviewed and approved by the Board. The workshop will be held on September 3, 2020, from 5:00 pm to 7:15 pm. The workshop will be conducted via teleconference and cover progress to date, the schedule for GSP development, sustainability criteria, and development of United's groundwater flow model.

GSP preparation – United staff continue to compile and review data to support preparation of the Mound basin GSP, in general accordance with United's agreement with the MBGSA. United staff continue to meet or correspond periodically with the MBGSA Executive Director Bondy and GSP consultant (Intera) to coordinate GSP planning and preparation efforts. United staff also are assisting with planning and preparation of materials for future workshop presentations.

The next regular MBGSA Board meeting is scheduled for September 17 at 1:00 pm.

Santa Paula Basin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Staff continue to participate in the Santa Paula basin TAC in support of the Santa Paula Basin Judgment and in conformance with SGMA reporting requirements for adjudicated basins, as follows:

- Staff prepared a draft Santa Paula Basin Annual Report for 2019 and it is currently being reviewed by TAC members.
- The TAC meeting scheduled for June 2020 has been postponed for late summer/fall; a specific date and time have not been selected yet.