

AGENDA
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at 9 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.

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 - Motion**
The Committee will review and consider approving the minutes from the Water Resources Committee meeting of December 6, 2021.
- 3. UWCD Project Proposals for DWR SGM Grant Funding (15 min: Mr. Lindquist)**
CA Department of Water Resources recently announced a new grant program to support Sustainable Groundwater Management in critically overdrafted basins. United proposed several projects for consideration. FCGMA is leading a selection process to identify the preferred projects for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins.
- 4. Water Resources Department Update (10 minutes: Mr. Detmer)**
Staff will provide an update to the Committee on recent Water Resources Department activities and projects, and provide a brief update on hydrologic conditions in the District.
- 5. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Update (5 minutes: Mr. Detmer)**
The Committee will receive an update on GSA activities and schedules for the Fillmore and Piru Basins, Mound Basin and Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (Oxnard, Pleasant Valley and Las Posas Valley basins).

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Directors:

Chair Lynn E. Maulhardt
Edwin T. McFadden III
Daniel C. Naumann

Staff:

Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.
Dan Detmer
Dr. Zachary Hanson
John Lindquist
Dr. Bram Sercu

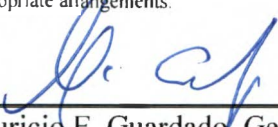
Dr. Maryam Bral
Eric Elliott
Kathleen Kuepper
Murray McEachron
Dr. Jason Sun



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Approved: _____


Mauricio E. Guardado, General Manager



Dr. Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer

Posted: (date) December 22, 2021

(time) 4:45 p.m.

(attest) *Destiny Rubio*

At: UWCD Headquarters, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

Posted: (date) December 22, 2021

(time) 5:00 p.m.

(attest) *Destiny Rubio*

At: www.unitedwater.org

MINUTES
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Monday, December 6, 2021, at 9 a.m.
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Boardroom, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

Committee Members Present:

Chair Edwin McFadden
Director Naumann
Director Maulhardt

Staff Present:

Mauricio Guardado, Jr., general manager
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, chief engineer
John Carman, operations and maintenance program supervisor
Brian Collins, chief operations office
Dan Detmer, water resources manager
Eric Elliott, associate hydrogeologist
Sara Guzman, accountant (via Zoom)
Dr. Zachary Hanson, hydrogeologist
Kathleen Kuepper, hydrogeologist
Tessa Lenz, assistant ecologist
John Lindquist, senior hydrogeologist (via Zoom)
Josh Perez, chief human resources officer
Zachary Plummer, IT administrator
Daryl Smith, controller (participated via Zoom)
Dr. Jason Sun, principal hydrogeologist/modeler

Public Present: (via Zoom)

David Borchard
K Brokaw (via Zoom)
Angelica Castaneda (via Zoom)
Beth Cooke (via Zoom)
Betsy Cooper (via Zoom)
Scott Deardorff (via Zoom)
Amanda DeLeon (via Zoom)
Carole Fornoff (via Zoom)
Heidy Gonzalez (via Zoom)
Nathan Jacobsen (via Zoom)
Abraham Maldonado (via Zoom)
John Mathews (via Zoom)
Phil McGrath (via Zoom)
Doug O'Hara (via Zoom)
Betty O'Hara (via Zoom)
Haley Ralston (via Zoom)
George Reyes (via Zoom)



Kat Selm (via Zoom)

Kira Smith (via Zoom)

Thizar Williams (via Zoom)

OPEN SESSION: 9:00 a.m.

Chair McFadden called the Water Resources Committee Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Public Comment

Chair McFadden asked if there were any public comments for the Water Resources Committee. None were offered.

2. Approval of Minutes - Motion

Motion to approve the October 5, 2021, Water Resources Committee meeting minutes, Director Maulhardt; Second, Director Naumann. Voice vote: three ayes (Maulhardt, McFadden and Naumann); none opposed; motion carries 3/0.

3. Water Resources Department Update

Water Resources Manager Dan Detmer provided an update on recent departmental activities. He stated that staff have been continuing with the Prop 1 grant work and have been running Project scenarios, which will be presented in the Public Workshop immediately following this committee meeting. In addition, staff continues to work on modeling for water sustainability projects and optimization of basin yield. Staff has also been assisting environmental services in its efforts to obtain a permit to create a pilot channel for streamflow above the Freeman Diversion.

Mr. Detmer stated that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) requires pumping be reported by water year. He stated that staff intends to send out statements requesting quarterly meter reads and reporting, and hopes to receive significant cooperation for quarterly water-use reporting. Director Maulhardt expressed his concern that the communication be clear and supporting information be readily available, and suggested technical solutions such as website links be used to make the process as user friendly as possible. Mr. Detmer said that he will work with Mauricio Guardado and the administrative team to get this done and will bring it to the committee beforehand. Chair McFadden asked about the timeline for this. Mr. Detmer stated it will be mentioned in the billing letter that goes out at the end of December, and the request will be mailed out to rate payers in late March. General Manager Mauricio Guardado, stated that the goal is to create a routine with this reporting.

4. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Update

Mr. Detmer provided updates on GSA activities and schedules for the Fillmore and Piru Basins, Mound Basin and Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (Oxnard, Pleasant Valley and Las Posas Valley basins).

Mr. Detmer stated that the FCGMA's Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley (OPV) basins were approved by DWR on November 18, 2021. DWR agreed that FCGMA understood the basins and sustainability criteria are acceptable, but noted that the "GSP lacks specific details regarding the pumping reduction plan, the projects and management actions that will be implemented, expected timelines of projects and management actions, and when the agency expects to see benefits." He stated there is much work to be done on projects in



cooperation with FCGMA, and United's new solute transport model can help characterize changes in seawater intrusion as requested by DWR.

Mr. Detmer provided an update on DWR's new SGM grant program which reserves \$7.6 million in funding for each critically overdrafted (COD) basin in the state. He stated that FCGMA is leading a new effort to get a list of projects together for consideration. Projects need to be included in the GSP to be eligible for grant funding. Staff recently learned that the GSP does not need to be reopened to add a project, but rather projects can be added via the annual GSP report, which is due by the end of March, 2022. Mr. Detmer stated that FCGMA plans to submit its annual reports in late January before the grant applications are due. Mr. Guardado stated that this is a great opportunity to identify sustainability projects and that United is looking forward to presenting to FCGMA in January on these items. He added this is essentially the building block out of critical overdraft including the State Water component, which is 6,000 acre feet per year. He stated that he hopes United can improve on the surface water component and work closely with the City of Ventura and Casitas Municipal Water District to make sure entities keep the water in Ventura County and improve the basin yield over time.

Mr. Detmer stated that staff intends to return in January with an updated presentation on its sustainability project modeling efforts. Mr. Guardado stated that staff will recommend the Board formally adopt these project development plans by resolution at United's December 8 Board of Directors meeting.

5. Why Adjudication Lawsuits are *Unnecessary*

Mr. Detmer provided updates and slides (see attached) on several Water Sustainability Projects that are being developed to "fill the gap" between basin yield and demand. Mr. Detmer demonstrated the need for the Coastal Brackish Groundwater Extraction and Treatment Plant (CBGWET) project as a key part of the solution. Mr. Guardado stated that this is not a legal presentation but he had proposed a follow-up presentation at the July Water Resources committee meeting to further outline the adjudication process. Mr. Detmer then provided updates on Dr. Sun's modeling efforts and stated that there are clear benefits associated with the extraction barrier concept and also a clear need to continue with recharge activities in the Forebay area.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Maulhardt stated that future agenda items have already been outlined in the discussions held throughout the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair McFadden adjourned the meeting at 9:37 am.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the UWCD Water Resources Committee Meeting of December 6, 2021.

Chair Edwin McFadden



Why Adjudication Lawsuits are Unnecessary

Or... Let's fix the problem with new water supply projects

**Presented by Dan Detmer, Water Resources Manager
Water Resources Committee Meeting
December 6, 2021**



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- The adopted and approved Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins contemplate significant pumping reductions to stop seawater intrusion and bring the basins to sustainable conditions.

Few new project proposals were sufficiently developed at the time to be included in the Plans.

- A new FCGMA Allocation Ordinance determined baseline pumping allocations based on water use for the period 2005-2014.
 - Both the Allocation Ordinance and the GSPs are subject to legal challenges.
 - Complaint for Comprehensive Groundwater Adjudication of the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins was filed in June 2021.

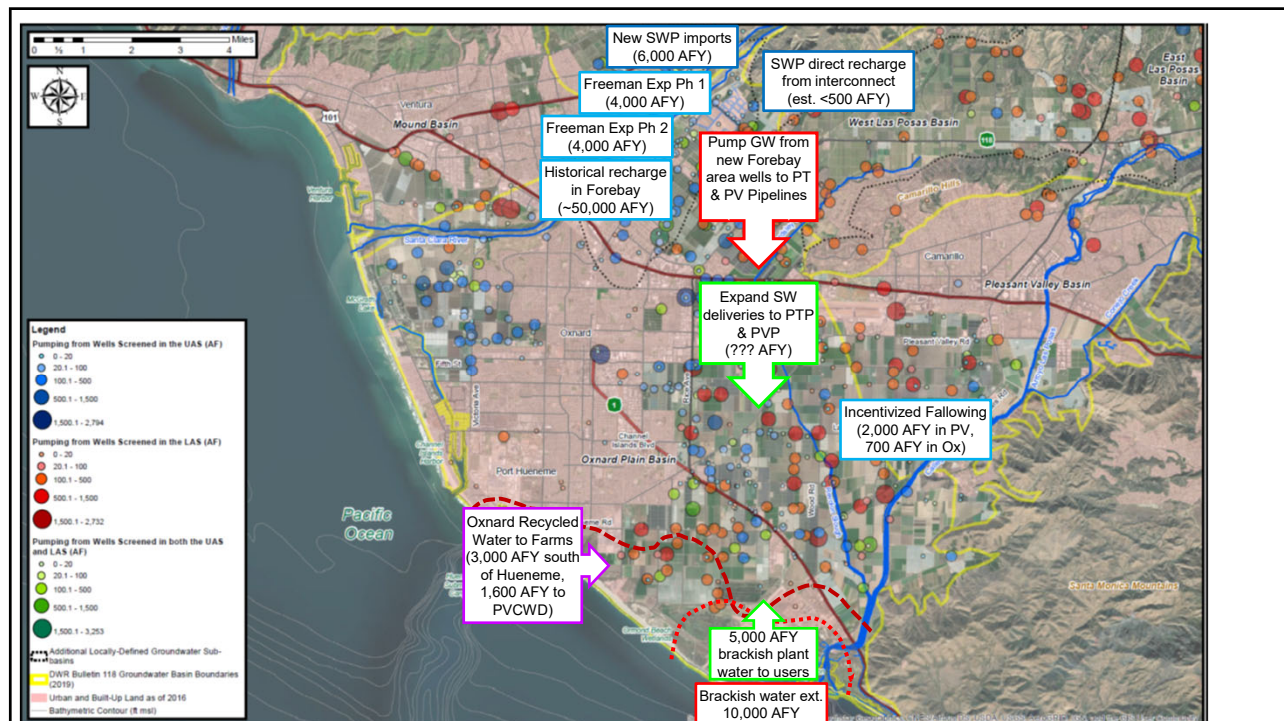


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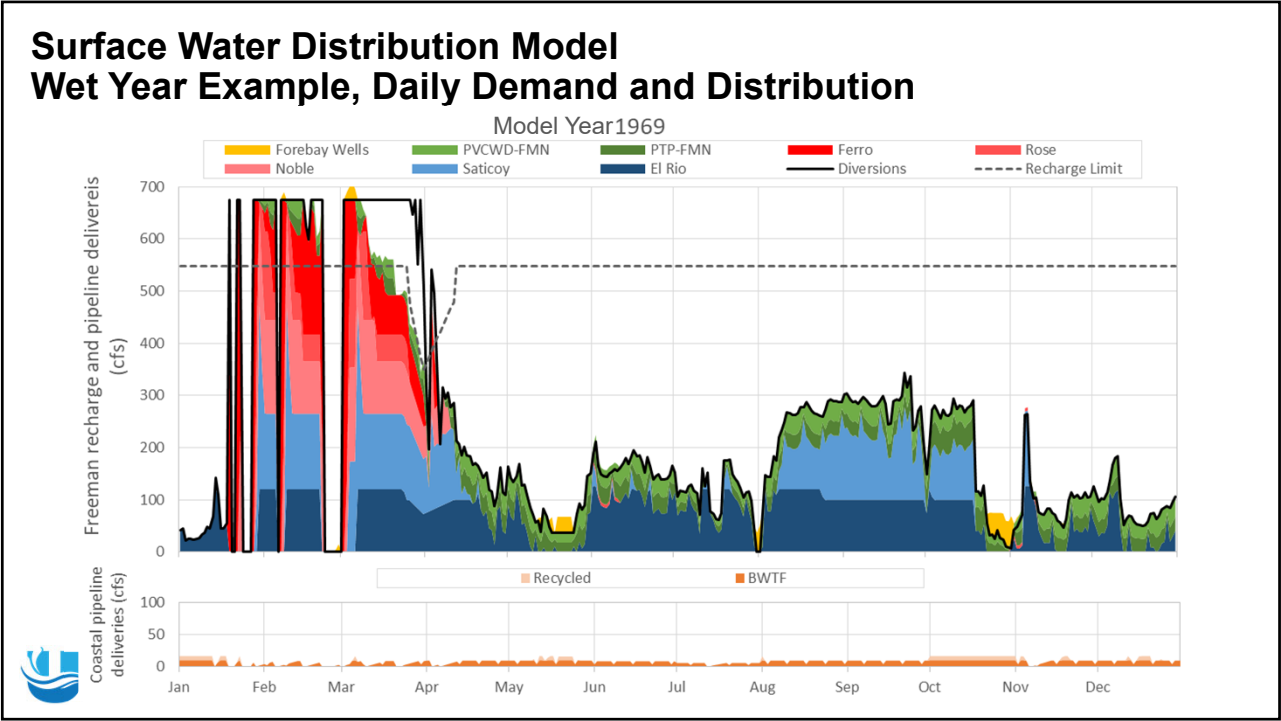
- Many water users (cities and growers) have indicated a desire to continue with their current activities in these basins.
 - FCGMA Core Stakeholder process included a Projects Committee to identify promising projects to help optimize basin yield and increase local water supplies.
- United has been working to develop several of the project proposals and conduct modeling to determine how they can best work together.



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Work on modeling of projects continues

- Clear benefits associated with extraction barrier near Mugu canyon
- Clear need to enhance and continue recharge activities in the Forebay
- United intends to publish summary of recent work
- United, FCGMA and others working to coordinate project development

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Staff Report

To: Water Resources Committee

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

From: Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer
Dan Detmer, Water Resources Manager

Date: December 20, 2021 (January 4, 2022 Committee Meeting)

Agenda Item: 4. **Monthly Water Resources Department Report**
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

Receive a summary report on various Water Resources Department activities.

Discussion:

Staff Activities

In addition to the Department's routine, ongoing groundwater monitoring and reporting programs 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 converted the 2018 version of the groundwater flow model (Coastal Plain Model) to a new software version MODFLOW-USG-Transport that allows for the simulation of salinity and water density changes associated with seawater intrusion in the coastal areas surrounding Point Mugu and Port Hueneme. Staff has used the new model to simulate various extraction barrier scenarios near Point Mugu as part of a feasibility study for the Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project. This work is funded by a Prop 1 Round 2 grant.
 - Staff continue to model alternatives for integrating (optimizing) new and existing water-supply and conjunctive-use projects to increase sustainable yield and provide sufficient water to meet current and future demands in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins, which are classified as "critically overdrafted" by CA Department of Water Resources. This effort incorporates both surface-water-distribution modeling and groundwater modeling to evaluate different combinations of water-supply and conveyance infrastructure to maximize sustainability, resilience, and environmental benefits while keeping potential project costs reasonable.
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Agenda Item: 4. Monthly Water Resources Department Report
Information Item

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- 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 Environmental Services and Engineering Departments in evaluating fish passage design modifications under consideration for United's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), including assisting with physical modeling efforts at the Bureau of Reclamation's facility in Denver.
 - Staff assisted ESD in evaluating the effects of minor shifts in the channel of the Santa Clara River upstream from the Freeman Diversion on groundwater elevations below adjacent areas of riparian vegetation.
- Staff continue to assist with planning and coordination for release of Table A water and supplemental State Water Project water acquired from City of San Buenaventura. A release of 1,420 AF from Pyramid Lake to Lake Piru was conducted in early December.
- Staff continue to collaborate with the Engineering Department to develop, design, and implement a portfolio of new or improved water-supply projects within the District's service area. The collaborative effort is currently focused on refining the conceptual design of water-supply projects and new conveyance systems so that they yield the best value in terms of sustainable yield for the groundwater basins in United's service area. United staff reviewed a technical memorandum prepared by Kennedy Jenks summarizing results of their analysis of conceptual design alternatives for conveyance of treated water from the Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project to users. Groundwater-flow and surface-water-distribution modeling are currently being applied to develop an optimal barrier to seawater intrusion and to determine the cost-benefit ratio of adding new extraction wells in inland areas of Oxnard basin or in the Upper Aquifer System to help achieve sustainable management criteria.

Outreach and Educational Activities:

- Staff continue to participate in meetings or phone calls with the FCGMA, State and local government representatives, and other stakeholders to provide information regarding sustainability issues and water-supply projects, as requested.
- Water Resources and Environmental Services staff participated in Oxnard High School's STEAM Day on December 11, giving presentations on water quality, sources of water supply, and environmental issues in the Oxnard Coastal Plain area.



Staff Report

To: Water Resources Committee

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

From: Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer
Dan Detmer, Water Resources Manager

Date: December 20, 2021 (January 4, 2022 Committee Meeting)

Agenda Item: 5. **Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Information Item**

Staff Recommendation:

Receive a summary report on the monthly activities of the three local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA, and Mound Basin GSA), for which District board members serve as member directors, and the Santa Paula basin (adjudicated) Technical Advisory Committee. Staff may also report on state-wide issues related to the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014.

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 in the Oxnard, Pleasant Valley, and Las Posas Valley basins. United staff continue to meet periodically with FCGMA staff to develop analyses of benefits and impacts of water-supply projects and different variations of those projects in support of developing a sustainable, resilient water-supply portfolio for the service areas of both agencies.

Throughout December, staff from United and other water agencies in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins participated in the FCGMA's effort to develop project proposals to include in the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program, with \$7.6 million reserved for each critically overdrafted (COD) basin. The Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins are COD basins. Grant funding can be used for project planning, design, and implementation activities.

Agenda Item: 5. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
Information Item

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United staff also attended and, where appropriate, contributed to FCGMA Board and Committee meetings, as follows:

Board of Directors meetings – The FCGMA Board held a regular meeting on December 10. Notable topics included:

- The Board received a presentation from staff on an update to GSP implementation for the Las Posas Valley, Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins. This included a GSP implementation timeline from 2021 to 2040 for projects, management actions, addressing data gaps/increasing knowledge of the basin, reporting and administrative actions.
- The Board approved the contract amendment with Dudek to increase the budget by \$150,075 to draft annual GSP reports for the basins and to conduct additional tasks related to GSP implementation.
- The Board received a presentation from staff on DWR's SGMA Implementation Grant, Round 1, including a general overview on grant requirements and eligible projects. Staff plan to include a list of projects in the GSP annual report, which is a requirement for grant eligibility. Grant application and GSP annual reports are due by January 31, 2022. United staff spoke in support of the GSM grant effort and project development, highlighting the projects listed in United's Board Resolution 2021-27.
- Several allocation variance requests were considered by the Board.

The next FCGMA Board meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2022 at 1:30 pm.

OPV Variance Review Committee meeting – The committee meeting scheduled on December 6 was cancelled. The committee meeting scheduled on December 20 was cancelled.

Fiscal Committee meeting – The FCGMA Fiscal Committee has not met since May 18.

Operations Committee meeting – The FCGMA Operations Committee has not met since May 19.

The Legal *Ad Hoc* Committee of the OPV Core Stakeholder Group has not met since June 11. Discussions by this committee are subject to a non-disclosure agreement.

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 a regular Board meeting on December 16. Notable topics included:

- The Board received a brief presentation from consultant DBS&A on final GSP development and how the GSPs were edited following public comments and Board discussion at the previous board meeting.

Agenda Item: 5. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
Information Item

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- A Public Hearing was held during the regular Board meeting to allow public comments and to consider adoption of the Fillmore and Piru GSPs. No new public comments were received. After the Public Hearing and board discussion, the Board passed Resolutions 2021-09 and 2021-10, adopting the GSPs for Fillmore and Piru basins.

The next regular FPBGSA Board meeting is scheduled for January 20 at 5:00 pm.

GSP preparation – The FBBGSA is in the process of submitting the Final GSPs (approved by the Board on December 16) and provide supporting materials to the DWR web portal as required.

Data Resources - 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 Piru and Fillmore basins remains available on the agency website, as are numerous technical references relating to the basins and development of the GSPs.

New Monitoring Wells – Staff is helping coordinate land access agreements with area landowners in opportune locations for new monitoring wells funded by a DWR Technical Support Services (TSS) grant. Staff is assisting with the preparation of a monitoring plan and other grant submittal documents as part of the TSS grant agreement with DWR.

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 Board held a regular meeting on December 16. Notable topics included:

- Executive Director Bryan Bondy provided an update for construction of new monitoring wells through DWR's Technical Support Services (TSS) grants program for GSP development and implementation. Mr. Bondy is working with DWR to finalize the TSS agreement. After this is completed, construction can commence for the planned monitoring wells near the coastline south of Ventura Harbor. DWR had originally planned for construction to begin in December; however, construction has been postponed until early 2022.
- The Board received a presentation from staff on the updated GSP development schedule and grant activities during the month of December.

The next regular MBGSA Board meeting is scheduled for January 20, at 1:00 pm.

GSP preparation – The MBGSA is in the process of submitting the Final GSP (approved by the Board on November 18) and provide supporting materials to the DWR web portal as required.

Agenda Item: 5. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
Information Item

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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 are working with the TAC to finalize the 2020 Annual Report of groundwater conditions within the Santa Paula Basin adjudicated area and submit the report to the court and to DWR.
- The Technical Working Group of the TAC has proposed a meeting to discuss the Triggers Analysis and finalization of the draft 2020 Santa Paula Basin Annual Report; however, a specific date and time have not yet been selected.