

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.

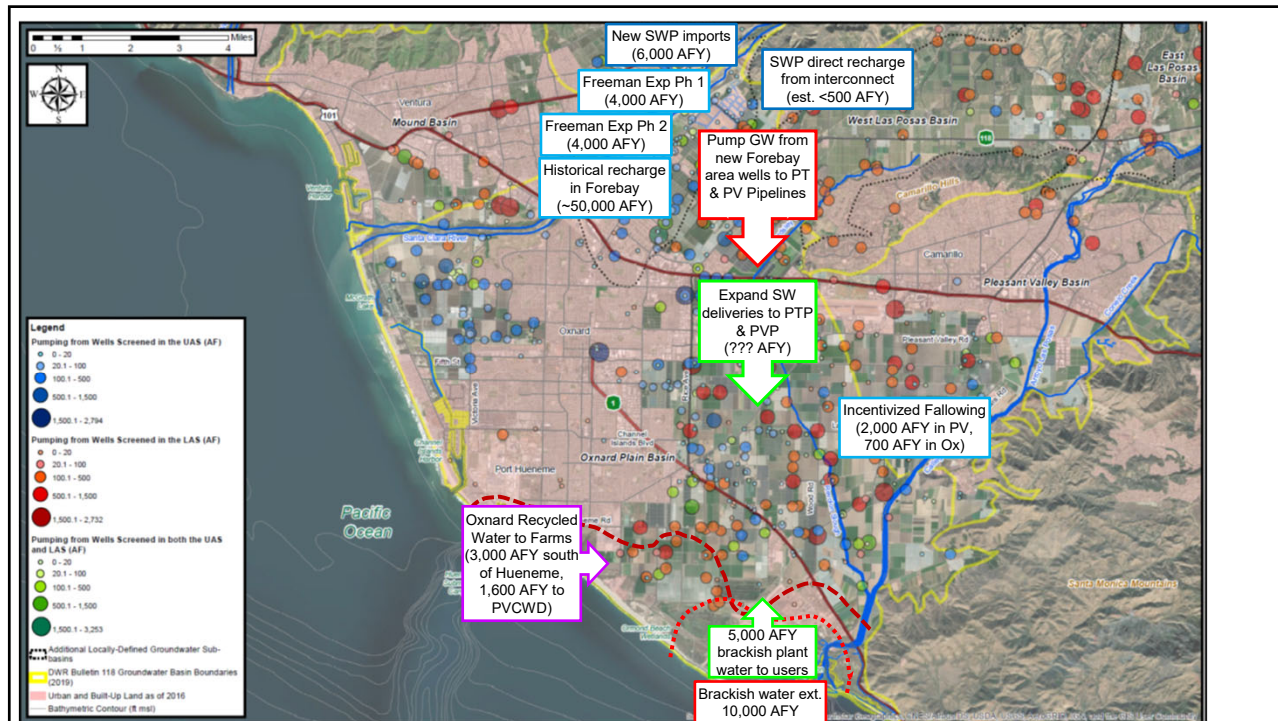


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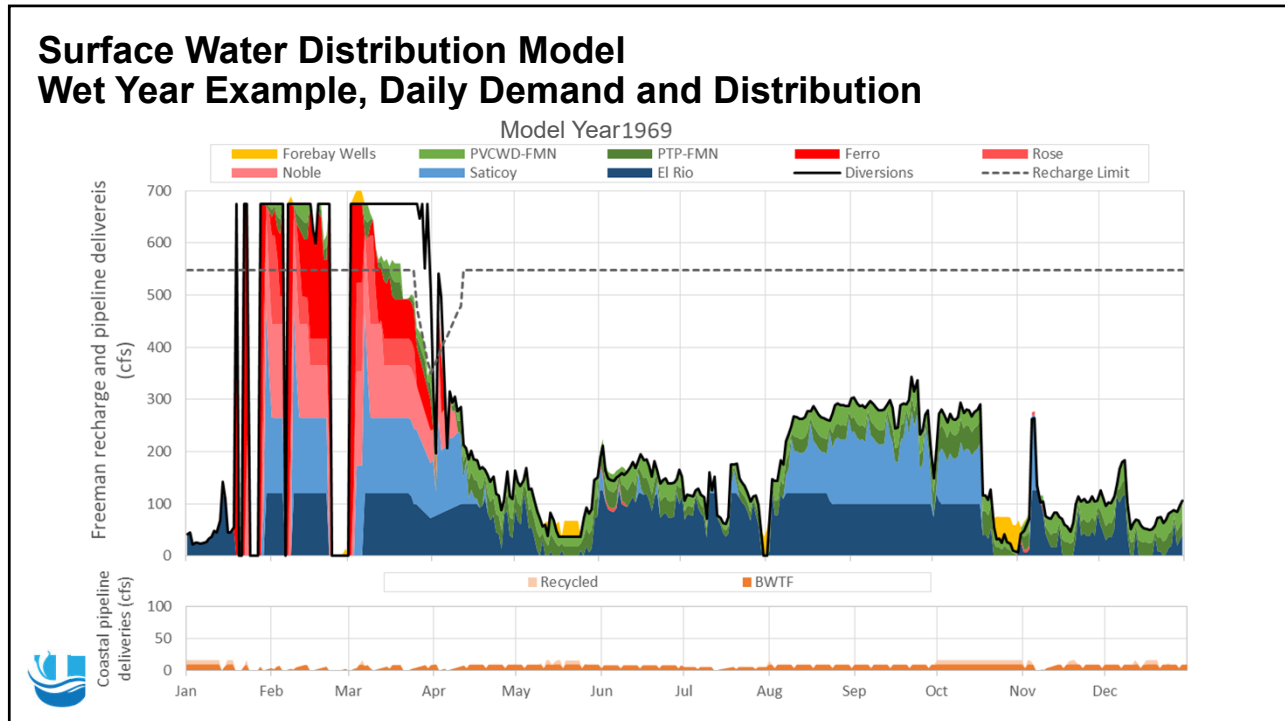
- Many water users (cities and growers) have indicated a desire to continue with their current activities in these basins.
- FCGMA Core Stakeholder process included a Projects Committee to identify promising projects to help optimize basin yield and increase local water supplies.
- United has been working 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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