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AGENDA
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Boardroom, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

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 May 31, 2022.

3. Summary of Solute Transport Model Development and Application (25 min: Dr. Sun)

Staff will detail the conversion of the Coastal Plain Model to MODFLOW USG-Transport and chloride calibration in the Southern Oxnard basin. Preliminary modeling of various Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment (EBB Water) Project pumping rates will be presented.

4. Baseline Water Quality Sampling for EBB Water Project (15 minutes, Ms. Kuepper)

Staff will provide an update to the Committee and present preliminary water quality results from the EBB Water comprehensive baseline groundwater sampling event.

5. CA Water Boards Prop 1 Round 3 grant proposal (20 minutes: Mr. Detmer)

Staff will provide an update on recent work towards completion of a full grant proposal for support for Phase 1 implementation of the Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment (EBB Water) Project.

6. Extraction Barrier Brackish Water Phase 1 Project Progress and Upcoming Work (20 minutes: Dr. Bral)

Staff will provide an update on recent work towards developing the EBB Water Project, including coordination with the U.S. Navy on land and access agreements, completion of a full Prop 1 grant proposal for support for Phase 1, the issuance of RFPs for design and permitting work, and discussions with Calleguas MWD for potential discharge to the Salinity Management Pipeline.

7. Water Resources Department Update (5 minutes: Mr. Detmer)

Staff will provide an update to the Committee on recent Water Resources Department activities and projects.



8. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Update (10 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), including grant-funded activities.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Directors:

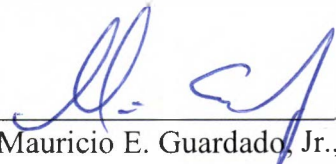
Daniel C. Naumann, Chair
Lynn E. Maulhardt
Gordon Kimball

Staff:

Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.	Dr. Maryam Bral
Dan Detmer	Eric Elliott
Dr. Zachary Hanson	Kathleen Kuepper
John Lindquist	Murray McEachron
Dr. Bram Sercu	Dr. Jason Sun

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Approved:


Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer

Posted: (date) September 1, 2022

(time) 3:00 p.m.

(attest)

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

Posted: (date) September 1, 2022

(time) 3:10 p.m.

(attest)

At: www.unitedwater.com

MINUTES
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at 9 a.m.
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Boardroom, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

Committee Members Present:

Chair Daniel Naumann
Director Maulhardt
Director McFadden

Staff Present:

Mauricio Guardado, Jr., general manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, chief engineer
Brian Collins, chief operations officer
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
Dan Detmer, water resources manager
Dr. Zachary Hanson, hydrogeologist
Kathleen Kuepper, hydrogeologist
John Lindquist, senior hydrogeologist
Josh Perez, chief human resources officer
Zachary Plummer, technology systems manager
Dr. Bram Sercu, senior hydrologist
Daryl Smith, controller
Ambry Tibay, senior accountant
Brian Zahn, chief financial officer

Public Present: (see attached)

Omar Castro, City of Oxnard
Monica Noeng, Ventura Water

OPEN SESSION: 9:00 a.m.

Director Maulhardt called the Water Resources Committee Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Public Comment

Director Maulhardt asked if there were any public comments for the Water Resources Committee.
None were offered.

2. Approval of Minutes - Motion

Motion to approve the March 1, 2022, Water Resources Committee meeting minutes, Director McFadden; Second, Director Maulhardt. Voice vote: two ayes (Maulhardt, McFadden); none opposed; motion carries 2/0.

Chair Naumann joined the meeting at 9:06 am.



3. Urban Water Management Plan update, Oxnard Hueneme System (see attached slides)

Dr. Zachary Hanson made a presentation on the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) update for the Oxnard Hueneme (OH) pipeline. He stated that the UWMP and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) were submitted to the Department of Water resources (DWR) in 2021 and United was notified that DWR had approved the plans on May 20, 2022.

Director Maulhardt asked if the UWMP and WSCP include the projects that were included as part of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agencies (FCGMA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Dr. Hanson stated that while this is the District's document, staff does rely on FCGMA planning documents. Chair Naumann noted that the FCGMA recently amended their GSP with the annual report to DWR and asked if the UWMP matches those changes. Dr. Hanson stated that the UWMP was submitted in June of 2021 so those updates were not included when it was adopted, however updates will be captured in the annual assessments that the District will submit to DWR by July 1, 2022.

Dr. Hanson also provided an update regarding Executive Order (EO) N-7-22 that was issued by Governor Newsom on March 28, 2022. He stated that since this EO was issued, DWR has been working to update their guidelines for submission of the preliminary and final Annual Assessments that are due June 1, 2022 and July 1, 2022, respectively. General Manager Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr. stated that a third of water agencies have gone through a significant amount of outreach to get rate payers invested in programs to improve water supply infrastructure. He added that these agencies do not require conservation mandates, they do not have shortages, and their rate payers are now upset because they have invested in a drought-proof system, but they are still required to respond to the EO.

Director Naumann asked if it is the District's responsibility to reduce OH deliveries by 20% or the City of Oxnard's responsibility to reduce retail delivery by 20%, which then lowers demand from United. Dr. Hanson stated that this is a complicated topic, in part because as a wholesaler United has reduced requirements and authorities for conservation efforts and regulations. Staff understanding is that the District cannot demand any reductions from their customers, and that District actions are triggered by FCGMA actions to reduce allocation for the OH System. Mr. Guardado, Jr. stated that the District will be relying on the Cities to comply with the Governor's EO.

Water Resources Manager Dan Detmer stated that the District's two largest customers have alternative water suppliers. He stated that while retailers are required to reduce demand by 20%, it does not need to be reduced evenly among their sources. He added that retailers might choose to rely on local groundwater reserves and utilize their full allocation of groundwater, and can reduce their State Water imports. He stated that it is on the customers/users to not exceed their groundwater allocation and if they do, they will pay penalties to FCGMA.

Dr. Hanson then stated that because of the EO, the District made sure to inform all OH users of the order, offer some alternative response actions, and encouraged users to reduce their total water use by 20%. Chair Naumann then asked if staff has calculated this projected pumping reduction in the new District budget. Chief Financial Officer Brian Zahn stated that these numbers have not been adjusted as a result of the EO, and stated that staff continues to use the five-year average for pumping projections.



4. Water Resources Department Update

Mr. Detmer provided updates on the recent department activities, including basin optimization modeling efforts. He said staff is working on a report detailing the results of the efforts and will be bringing a presentation to the committee.

Mr. Detmer then stated that United's Principal Groundwater Modeler Dr. Jason Sun has built and calibrated a solute transport model for the Mugu Project Area but that a break-out Semi-perched aquifer model for the area still needs to be refined. He stated that this aquifer has some shallow groundwater contamination and the seawater density wedge at the bottom of this aquifer needs to be simulated. He added that staff will need to demonstrate that water will not leak down through the confining unit at rates that would affect near-surface contamination. To do that, we will break the Semi-perched aquifer into multiple sub-units and simulate downward gradients. He stated that staff is working with the Navy to obtain historic record sets from shallow wells. Director Naumann then asked how deep it goes. Mr. Detmer stated that there are five layers in the perched zone model to a depth of 130 feet. He said that the Navy is planning to install 240 monitoring wells this summer as part of their per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) investigation. He stated that staff is aware there is some PFAS in shallow groundwater, and PFAS is an emerging issue that the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) takes very seriously.

Director Maulhardt asked if United's groundwater modeling can support the FCGMA Water Market and stated that United provides the FCGMA much of their technical data. He stated that while the District does not want to be a small version of FCGMA, other issues related to this will arise with the other Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and they too will need our help with basin analysis. He stated that staff needs to be ready and willing to look at these issues. Mr. Detmer stated that there are existing rules for the Water Market but he does not believe there are any limitations to transferring production from the Upper Aquifer System to the Lower Aquifer System or vice versa. He stated that staff will work with FCGMA and the Water Market administrator on these issues. Director Maulhardt suggested staff evaluate if a white paper or formal guidelines will help provide legal protection for this work.

Mr. Guardado, Jr. weighed in on the conversation and said that while it is not specifically United's issue, the mission of the District is to help fortify the basins. The District has spent a lot of effort, time and resources to prepare a lot of this information for the FCGMA Board. He stated that staff is always prepared to deliver information and always willing to help, but sometimes it is a willingness issue.

Mr. Detmer also provided updates on the City of Ventura monitoring efforts in the Santa Clara River estuary, and recent activities on grants by district staff.

5. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Update

Mr. Detmer provided updates on GSA activities for the Fillmore and Piru Basins, the Mound Basin and FCGMA (Oxnard, Pleasant Valley and Las Posas Valley basins). He stated that FCGMA has received a number of variance requests and the Board has been asked to rule on those. Director Maulhardt stated that he has a meeting on June 10, 2022 to discuss CombCodes that allow owners and operators to pool well allocations among a number of wells and properties.



Mr. Detmer then stated that the FPBGSA has is working on grant funding opportunities for monitoring well (MW) installations. They have put bid packages together for the proposed wells and advertised on BidNET. He stated that MBGSA has also received DWR grant funding for MWs. Last week a DWR contract driller installed a deep well cluster at the Ventura Wastewater Plant at Ventura Harbor. United also recently installed pressure transducers in existing shallow monitoring wells along the lower Santa Clara River and this will help address GSP comments on surface water - groundwater interaction issues. At the end of the committee meeting Mr. Detmer thanked Director McFadden for his involvement as a committee member and his support for the Water Resources team.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Committee members offered no suggestions.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Naumann adjourned the meeting at 10:01 am.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Water Resources Committee Meeting of May 31, 2022.

ATTEST:

Daniel Naumann, Chair

Updates on the Oxnard Hueneme Pipeline System's Urban Water Management Plan DWR Review and Annual Assessment reporting response to Executive Order N-7-22

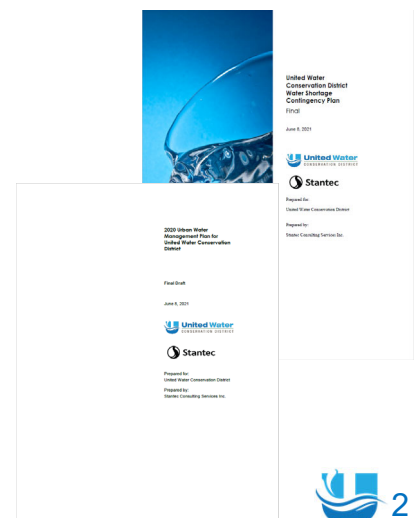
Presented by Zachary Hanson, Ph.D.
Water Resources Committee Meeting
May 31, 2022



1

2020 5-YEAR PLANNING UPDATE DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED LAST YEAR (JUNE 2021)

- **2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP)**
 - 5-year update document
- **Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP)**
 - Flexible, living document
- **DWR Review and Approval**
 - **May 11, 2022**
Received two minor comments from DWR Staff
 - **May 18, 2022**
Corrections were submitted to DWR, posted on website.
Received "soft" approval from DWR staff
 - **May 20, 2022**
Received formal "Requirements Addressed" letter from DWR



2

NEW STATE REQUIREMENT: ANNUAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND ASSESSMENT

▪ DWR finalizing resources for annual reporting

- Guidelines became available April 20, 2022
- Online submittal portal expected to be available sometime in May 2022
- Reporting due on or before July 1, 2022

▪ Initially anticipated projections

- Reporting period July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
- **Demand = Full allocation**
- **Supply = Full allocation**



3

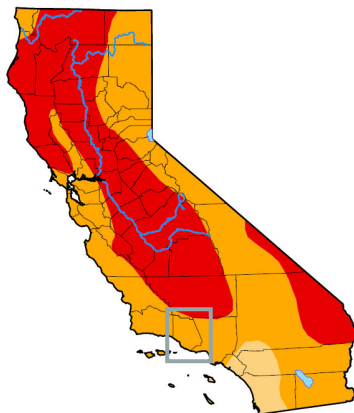
DROUGHT CONDITIONS

▪ Ventura County included in State of Emergency

- Proclamation of State of Emergency issued by Governor Newsom on **October 19, 2021**
- Considered to be experiencing “**Severe drought conditions**”
- **Voluntary** urban water conservation (15% of 2020 use) requested by State EO N-10-21 on July 8, 2021

U.S. Drought Monitor
California

April 12, 2022
(Released Thursday, Apr. 14, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



4

NEW STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER: N-7-22

- **Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-7-22 on March 28, 2022**
 - **Requires** urban water suppliers with WSCP to **submit *preliminary* annual supply and demand assessment report to DWR by June 1, 2022**
 - **Requires** urban water suppliers with WSCP to **implement, at a minimum, shortage response actions for shortage level of up to 20% (Level 2)**
 - **Encourages** conservation shortage level of up to 30% (Level 3)

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand and caused the Great Seal of the
State of California to be affixed this 28th
day of March 2022.


GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California



5

OH SYSTEM LEVEL 2 WATER SHORTAGE ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO N-7-22

- **WSCP actions (submitted) triggered by FCGMA allocation reductions**
 - No current reductions to allocation
 - OH System is robust, **No shortage is calculated for the current Supply and Demand Assessment**
 - Water Code allows for alternative responses to be included in Annual Assessment Report

Table 1-1: Water Shortage Contingency Plan Levels

Shortage Level	Percent Shortage Range	Water Supply Condition
1	Up to 10%	Up to 10% reduction in groundwater allocation imposed by the FCGMA
2	Up to 20%	Up to 20% reduction in groundwater allocation imposed by the FCGMA
3	Up to 30%	Up to 30% reduction in groundwater allocation imposed by the FCGMA
4	Up to 40%	Up to 40% reduction in groundwater allocation imposed by the FCGMA
5	Up to 50%	Up to 50% reduction in groundwater allocation imposed by the FCGMA
6	>50%	Greater than 50% reduction in groundwater allocation imposed by the FCGMA



6

OH SYSTEM LEVEL 2 WATER SHORTAGE ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO N-7-22

▪ Planned Alternative Shortage Response Actions:

1. Inform OH System users of Executive Order N-7-22 and requirement to implement **Water Shortage Level 2** response actions along with all urban water suppliers in the State
2. Encourage OH System users to conserve **total water use** by **20%**
 - Retailers can decide which of their supplies they choose to reduce
 - Small retailers and mutuals with OH as their only source are required to implement the 20% reduction to their available allocation. However, no restrictions for turnouts are planned by United.



7

NEXT STEPS

- Support any follow-up discussions with OH Users regarding Executive Order N-7-22 and encourage **20%** conservation efforts
- Submit **preliminary estimates** to DWR by June 1, 2022
- Submit **final** annual supply and demand assessment **report** to DWR by July 1, 2022
- Post final annual supply and demand assessment report to UWCD website following submission to DWR
 - <https://www.unitedwater.org/key-documents/#water-supply>



8

Questions?

Zachary Hanson, PhD

zhanson@unitedwater.org

Main (805) 525-4431

Direct (805) 695-3504



9

URBAN WATER CONSERVATION IN ACTION

- **OH System users are encouraged to conserve total water use by up to 20% of available allocation**

- State's Save Our Water website: <https://saveourwater.com/en>
- English and Spanish resources available
- <https://www.unitedwater.org/water-use-efficiency/>

- **Indoor conservation methods include:**

- Fix leaks (~savings = 27 – 90 gal/day)
- Install high-efficiency toilets (~savings = 6 – 35 gal/day)
- Wash full loads of clothes and dishes (~savings = 20 – 60 gal/day)



- **Outdoor conservation methods include:**

- Adjust Sprinkler Heads & Fix Leaks (~savings = 12 – 15 gal/cycle)
- Set mower blades to 3" for deeper roots (~savings = 16 – 50 gal/day)
- Use a broom to clean outdoor areas (~savings = 6 gal/min)



10

NOTE REGARDING SENATE BILL 552 REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL WATER SYSTEMS

- **Senate Bill 552 was approved by Governor on September 23, 2021 and requires new planning and reporting by small water systems**
 - **For 1,000 to 2,999 connections, or schools:** need to prepare to develop and maintain an abridged Water Shortage Contingency Plan that includes specified drought-planning elements by July 1, 2023
 - **System with fewer than 1,000 connections:** add drought planning elements to its emergency notification or response plan and submit the plan to the State Board
 - DWR and State Board are currently working to develop guidelines/templates for small water systems to follow
 - <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/SB-552>
 - **United recommends that small retailers and mutuals send a request to wue@water.ca.gov with the subject "SB552 List"**
 - Will be added to informational emails from the State
 - Can also request to be enrolled in the DWR stakeholder SharePoint site for access to documents and meeting videos



11

Drought Classification

[Home](#) > [About](#) > [About the Data](#) > Drought Classification

Category	Description	Possible Impacts	Ranges				Objective Drought Indicator Blends (Percentiles)
			Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI)	CPC Soil Moisture Model (Percentiles)	USGS Weekly Streamflow (Percentiles)	Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)	
D0	Abnormally Dry	Going into drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short-term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops or pastures Coming out of drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some lingering water deficits • pastures or crops not fully recovered 	-1.0 to -1.9	21 to 30	21 to 30	-0.5 to -0.7	21 to 30
D1	Moderate Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some damage to crops, pastures • Streams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortages developing or imminent • Voluntary water-use restrictions requested 	-2.0 to -2.9	11 to 20	11 to 20	-0.8 to -1.2	11 to 20
D2	Severe Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop or pasture losses likely • Water shortages common • Water restrictions imposed 	-3.0 to -3.9	6 to 10	6 to 10	-1.3 to -1.5	6 to 10
D3	Extreme Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major crop/pasture losses • Widespread water shortages or restrictions 	-4.0 to -4.9	3 to 5	3 to 5	-1.6 to -1.9	3 to 5
D4	Exceptional Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses • Shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies 	-5.0 or less	0 to 2	0 to 2	-2.0 or less	0 to 2

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About/AbouttheData/DroughtClassification.aspx>



12



Staff Report

To: Water Resources Committee

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

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

Date: August 25, 2022 (September 6, 2022 meeting)

Agenda Item: 7. **Water Resources Department Report**
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive a summary report on various Water Resources Department activities for the months of July and August 2022.

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 continue to develop a break-out Perched Aquifer Model (PAM) for groundwater flow in the unconfined Semi-perched aquifer in the EBB Water Project study area. The break-out model will allow higher resolution (both horizontally and vertically) forecasting of groundwater flow paths and the inland extent of the natural seawater density wedge at the base of the aquifer near the coastline.
 - Staff are working toward applying MODFLOW's "Subsidence package" to the District's existing groundwater flow model of the OPV basins to forecast potential occurrence and magnitude of land subsidence under potential future pumping scenarios and basin conditions.
 - Staff continue to model the potential effectiveness of various pumping-optimization projects and strategies in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley (OPV) basins to mitigate seawater intrusion and help in achieving sustainable yield.
 - Staff are assisting the Environmental Services and Engineering Departments in evaluating fish passage design modifications under consideration for United's Habitat Conservation
-

Agenda Item: 7. Water Resources Department Report
Information Item

Page 2

Plan (HCP), including assisting with planning of physical modeling efforts at the Bureau of Reclamation's facility in Denver and at the University of Iowa.

- Staff are assisting the Engineering Department in evaluating the feasibility and water resources impacts of releasing water from Lake Piru during the winter season and lowering reservoir levels as Interim Risk Reduction Measure prior to the beginning of the construction of the outlet works.
- Staff continue to assist with planning and coordination for the purchase and release of Table A water and supplemental State Water Project (SWP) water acquired from other SWP contractors.
- Staff have been approached by Larry Walker Associates (LWA), consultants for a group of Pleasant Valley basin water users, to potentially provide information and model output to support update of the basin's Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP).
- 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.
 - Staff continue to support selection of site locations and design specifications for extraction and monitoring wells to be included as Phase 1 of the EBB Water project.
 - Staff continued to provide information to the FCGMA in support of finalizing agreements for the California DWR's SGM Grant, which will be administered by the FCGMA. United's Ferro-Rose Artificial Recharge and PTP Recycled Water Connection on Laguna Road, and United's Monitoring Wells Construction project supporting the Phase 1 of the EBB Water project were approved as components of that grant (a total of \$6.48 million in grant funding is planned to be awarded for these three projects). Approval of a sub-agreement between the FCGMA and United is expected to be finalized in early September.
 - Staff submitted a proposal for a Prop 1, Round 3, grant to develop Phase 1B of the EBB Water project on July 15. United proposed construction of extraction wells and control systems, and discharge pipes and related design, permitting, sampling and reporting to build the initial phase of the EBB Water project before additional investments are made in water treatment and distribution. The Phase 1B project cost is estimated at \$18.6 million and the requested funding is \$8.4 million or 46% of the estimated project cost.
 - Staff are nearing completion of an open-file report (OFR) describing the methods and results for a modeling effort to optimize sustainability and environmental benefits of water-supply and conveyance infrastructure projects currently being designed and/or implemented by United and other project proponents. The combination of projects to be evaluated was initially proposed by the FCGMA's OPV Stakeholders *ad hoc*

Agenda Item: 7. Water Resources Department Report
Information Item

Page 3

Projects Committee, and was updated with information or suggestions provided by the FCGMA, the OPV Stakeholders group, and project proponents (including United's Engineering Department) as the evaluation proceeded.

- Staff have drafted a technical memorandum on the EBB Water project baseline groundwater sampling. To support design of the EBB Water project, the District expanded its sampling at monitoring wells in the Project area to provide baseline data needed for further understanding of current groundwater conditions and potential treatment and disposal options. The technical memorandum briefly describes the hydrogeologic setting of the Project area, the sampling methods used and the preliminary water quality results for the groundwater samples collected from the event.

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.
- Senior Hydrologist Dr. Bram Sercu attended a 5-day virtual training on hydrological modeling using HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS.



Staff Report

To: Water Resources Committee

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

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

Date: August 25, 2022 (September 6, 2022 meeting)

Agenda Item: 8. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Update and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Committee will 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, for which District staff serve as members. Staff may also report on state-wide issues related to the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) 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 and other stakeholders 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.

As noted in the accompanying monthly Water Resources Department report for this month, Staff are awaiting the final agreement on terms and conditions for the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant (a CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant for critically-overdrafted basins and administered by the FCGMA), which includes awards totaling approximately \$6.48 million for the following United projects: Ferro-Rose Artificial Recharge conveyance construction, PTP Recycled Water Connection - Laguna Road pipeline construction, and Extraction Barrier and Brackish (EBB) Water project monitoring-well installation and sampling.

Agenda Item: 8 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Update and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Information Item

Page 2

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

Board of Directors meetings – The FCGMA Board held special meetings on July 20 and August 12, and a regular Board meeting on August 24. Notable agenda items for the August 24 meeting include:

At the July 20 special meeting, the Board received a presentation by Calleguas Municipal Water District regarding its operational plan and related groundwater elevation monitoring for the emergency recovery of stored imported water from its ASR facilities in the Las Posas Valley basin. The Board also approved and authorized the Executive Officer to execute a contract with Kennedy Jenks Consultants, Inc., for grant administration services for the Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management grants awarded to the Agency to implement projects in the Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley basin for a not-to-exceed amount of \$229,909. After discussion, it was agreed that the cost for these services would be provided proportionally by the subgrantees, (United, Pleasant Valley County Water District, and the City of Camarillo).

The August 12 meeting was a workshop on the preparation of a fee for the purchase of water to augment basin sustainable yields. Much of the discussion was focused on the legal requirements for the implementation of such a fee.

Notable topics at the August 24 regular meeting included:

- A resolution was passed honoring Director Ramirez, who passed away suddenly on the evening of August 12.
- Agency staff gave a presentation on groundwater levels and trends in the Las Posas Valley, Oxnard, and Pleasant Valley basins.
- The Board considered adopting Resolution No. 2022-05, which would increase the FCGMA’s groundwater sustainability fees as follows:
 - The groundwater sustainability fee would increase from \$14.00 to \$29.00 per acre-foot (AF) beginning October 1, 2022, bringing total FCGMA extraction fees to \$55.00 per AF.
 - The groundwater sustainability fee would increase from \$29.00 to \$44.00 per acre-foot (AF) beginning October 1, 2023, bringing total FCGMA extraction fees to \$70.00 per AF.

The Board had questions regarding whether Proposition 218 would apply to the fee-setting process, and decided to continue the meeting to a special Board meeting to be held on September 9, instructing legal counsel to provide their opinion in the interim.

Operations Committee meetings – At the August 1 Operations Committee meeting, the sole agenda item (other than routine matters, such as approval of minutes from the previous meeting) was to

Agenda Item: 8 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Update and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Information Item

Page 3

begin the process to develop recommendations for Board Consideration of criteria, guidelines, policies, and procedures to evaluate and rank water-supply and infrastructure projects for prioritization for funding and inclusion in the FCGMA's GSPs. Staff summarized key issues and recommendations in the staff report provided to the Committee, followed by public comments and discussion by the Committee. At the end of the meeting, staff were directed to "synthesize" feedback received at this meeting, then circulate and solicit feedback from stakeholders on potential next steps before a follow-up meeting possibly to be scheduled for August 29.

Executive Committee meetings – None were held last month.

Fiscal Committee meetings – None were held last month.

OPV Variance Review Committee meeting – None were held last month.

Ad Hoc OPV Projects Committee meetings – None were held last month.

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 special Board meeting on July 22 and a regular Board meeting on August 18.

Notable topics at the special meeting on July 22 included:

- The Board welcomed Gordon Kimball as the new Member Director appointed by the United Water Conservation District Board as its representative on the Fillmore and Piru basins GSA Board.
- Glen Pace was confirmed as the Piru Basin Pumpers Stakeholder Director and Debbie Jackson was confirmed as the Fillmore Basin Pumpers Stakeholder Director.
- Gordon Kimball was confirmed as Treasurer and Vice-Chair and Christina Villaseñor as Secretary.
- The well permit application was reviewed for Kenter Canyon Farms Inc. The Board agreed with staff's findings that the Kenter Canyon Farms Inc. application for the construction of a new irrigation well was not inconsistent with the Agency's Fillmore Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and directed staff to provide a letter to the County of Ventura stating the Agency's findings.

Notable topics at the regular meeting on August 18 included:

- Task Order 2022-02 with Daniel B. Stephens and Associates was approved for analysis of LiDAR data from the California Department of Water Resources and the preparation of a technical memorandum on recent land subsidence conditions in the Fillmore and Piru basins.

Agenda Item: 8 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Update and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Information Item

Page 4

- A presentation by Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Legal counsel, and staff regarding the development of the Agency's well permitting review process.
- The Board authorized the Executive Director to approve potential change orders associated with the Monitoring Wells Project up to 14 percent of contract amount.
- A presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates reviewing the Projects and Management Actions included in the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

GSP implementation – Staff helped coordinate land access agreements with area landowners in opportune locations for new monitoring wells funded by a DWR Technical Support Services (TSS) grant. In May, staff put out a request for proposal for well drilling services with the proposal submittal deadline on June 16. A site visit was held on June 8 with three potential contractors in attendance. Two proposals were received for the well drilling services. Board awarded the Groundwater Monitoring Wells Project construction to BC2 Environmental, LLC, for a total of \$441,485 and authorized the execution of the construction agreement. A pre-construction site visit was conducted on August 17.

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. Staff recently shared spring water level records with agency consultant DBS&A for formatting and upload to the agency website and to DWR.

Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MBGSA)

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

Board of Directors meetings – The MBGSA did not hold a regular Board meeting in July. The MBGSA held a regular Board meeting August 18. Notable topics included:

- Jim Chambers and Conner Evert were reappointed as the Agriculture and Environmental Stakeholder Directors, respectively, for a new one-year term (August 2022 to August 2023).
- The Board approved a master service agreement and work order for Kennedy/Jenks Consultants to prepare a GSP Implementation Grant Application in an amount not to exceed \$14,945 and \$3,055 contingency to be authorized at the discretion of the Executive Director (\$18,000 total authorization).

The next regular MBGSA Board meeting is scheduled for September 15, at 1:00 pm.

Agenda Item: 8 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Update and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Information Item

Page 5

GSP implementation—Drilling and construction of a cluster of new monitoring wells just south of Ventura Harbor was completed in July.

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 preparing a draft version of the Santa Paula Basin Annual Report for 2021.