

AGENDA
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.
UWCD Headquarters, First Floor, Board Room
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

ROLL CALL

1. Public Comment
Information Item

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

Approve the minutes from the March 5, 2024, Water Resources Committee meeting.

3. Summary and Update on District Surface Water Conditions (Dr. Bram Sercu)
Information Item

Staff will present a summary of reservoir releases and diversions to date during water year (WY) 2024 and provide an update on current hydrologic conditions in the Santa Clara River watershed.

4. Overview of Federal (EPA) Final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Six Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) dated April 10, 2024, and Relevance to United Water Conservation District's Operations (Kathleen Kuepper)
Information Item

Staff will present an overview of key elements of the new EPA regulations for PFAS compounds, detections of PFAS in the Forebay area of the Oxnard Basin, and relevance of the new regulations to operation of United's El Rio well field and OH water-supply system.

5. Water Resources Department and GSA Activities Update (John Lindquist)
Information Item

Staff will present a summary of Water Resources Department activities and respond to comments (as necessary) on the most recent Water Resources Department staff report.

6. Future Agenda Items

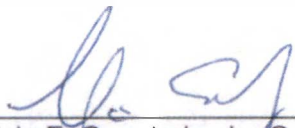
The Committee will suggest topics or issues for discussion at future meetings.

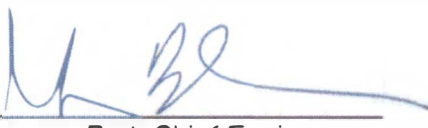
ADJOURNMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participating 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.

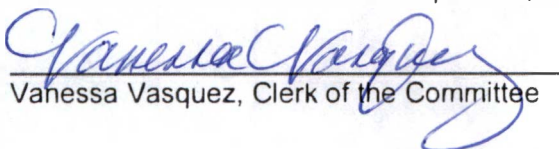
Water Resources Committee Agenda
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Approved: _____


Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager


Dr. Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer

This agenda was posted Thursday, April, 25, 2024, at 3:45 p.m. at the United Water Conservation District Headquarters, Oxnard, CA and www.unitedwater.org.


Vanessa Vasquez, Clerk of the Committee

**MINUTES
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Boardroom, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030**

OPEN SESSION

Director Hasan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Two committee members were present (Kimball and Hasan). One seat is currently vacant.

1. Public Comment

No public speakers.

**2. Approval of Minutes
Motion**

Action: M/S/C (Kimball, Hasan) to approve the January 2, 2024, minutes.

Vote: Ayes: Kimball and Hasan; Noes: None; Absent: None

3. Summary and Update on District Surface Water Conditions (Dr. Bram Sercu)

Senior Hydrologist Sercu presented a summary of reservoir releases and diversion during 2023 and provided an update on current hydrologic conditions in the Santa Clara River Watershed (presentation attached).

Director Hasan commended Mr. Sercu for a job well done and suggested the Board be presented with a summary of updates on District water conditions more frequently.

General Manager Guardado recognized District Staff for their efforts and collaboration behind the scenes resulting in record recharge despite the challenges.

4. Ventura County's Variable Climate: Implications for Water Resources Planning (Patrick O'Connell)

Senior Hydrogeologist O'Connell presented a summary of downscaled (local) climate model forecasts for future rainfall within the District's service area, to inform ongoing Groundwater Sustainability Project updates and planning of new water supply projects (presentation attached).

Water Resources Supervisor Lindquist prefaced Mr. O'Connell's presentation on how climate change is incorporated into groundwater sustainability and how regional scale forecasts would change in our area. He added that downscaled forecasts for future precipitation trends can change the view of Water Resources projects and have an impact on groundwater modeling.



A member of the public asked if the downscaled climate models include temperature changes. Mr. O'Connell responded the models capture the changes in heat that can affect rainfall.

Director Kimball urged staff to pay close attention to these forecasts and encouraged them to prepare for future droughts and storm water capture. He referred to cleaning the basins and how the current wet season should serve as a model for preparations during the next wet season.

5. Water Resources Department and GSA Activities Update (John Lindquist)

Water Resources Supervisor Lindquist presented Water Resources department updates.


FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.


I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Water Resources Committee Meeting of March 5, 2024.

ATTEST: _____
Mohammed A. Hasan, Director

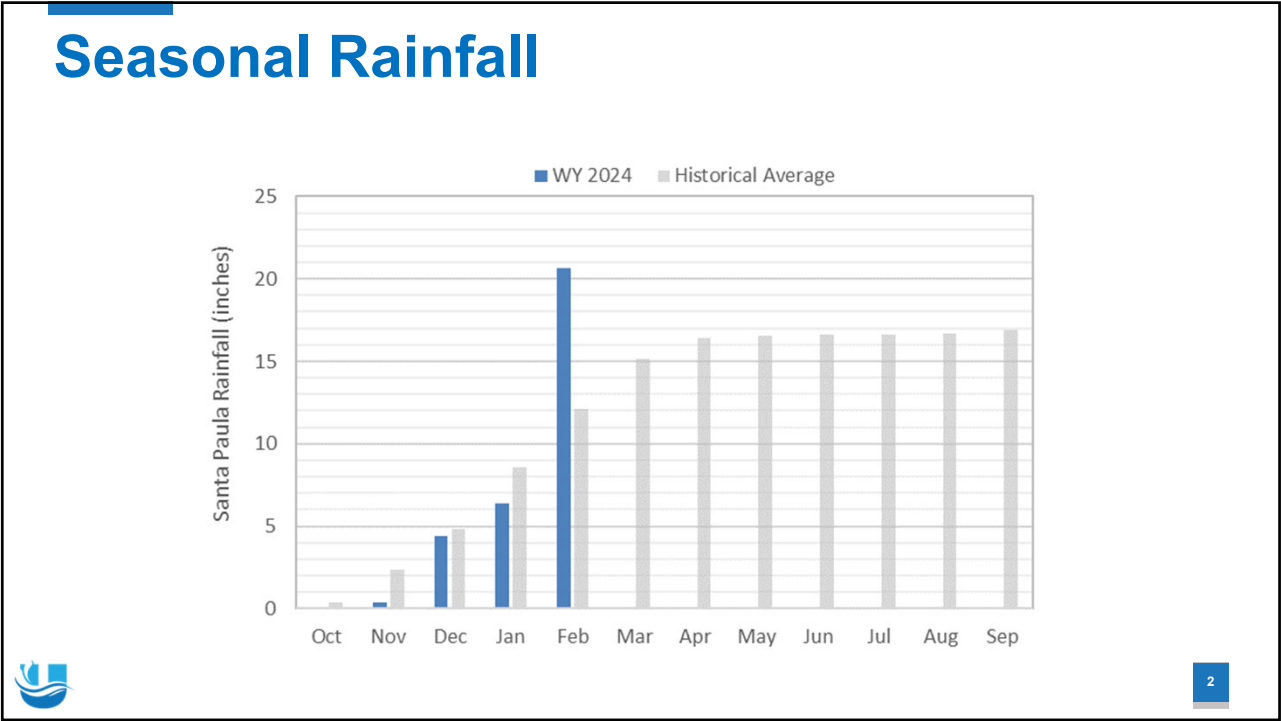


3. SUMMARY AND UPDATE ON DISTRICT SURFACE WATER CONDITIONS

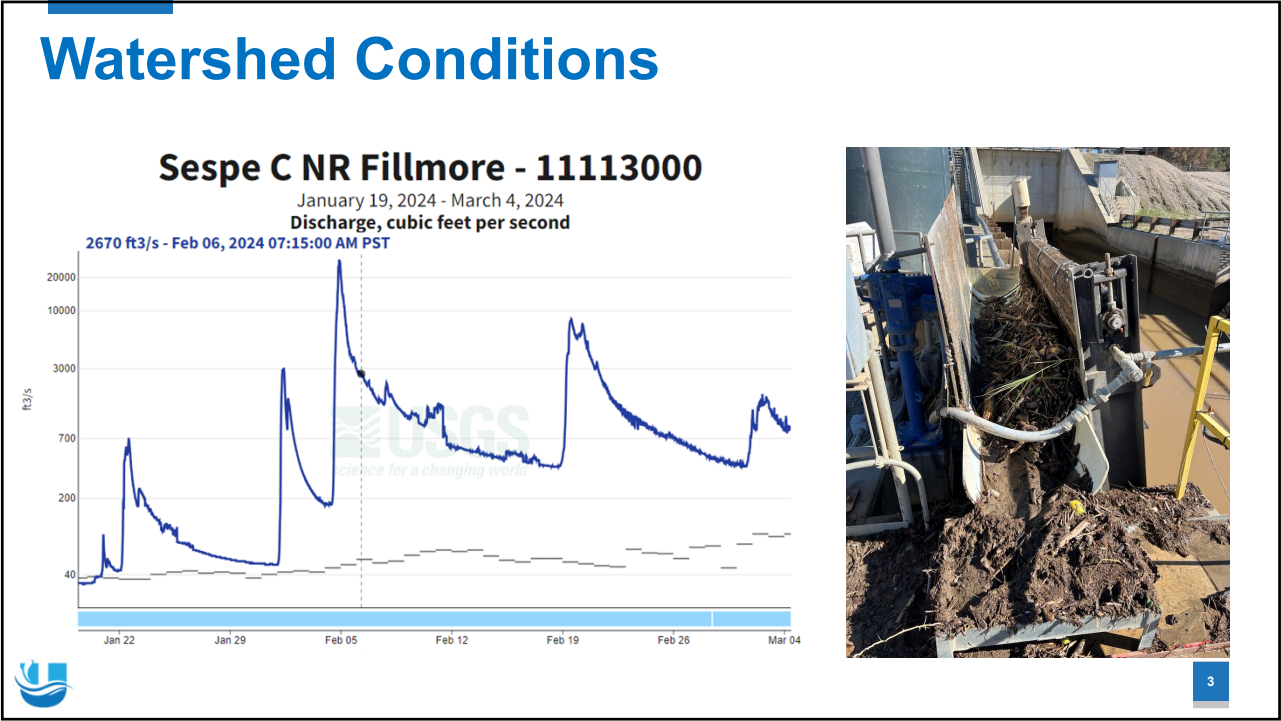
Presented by: **Bram Sercu, Senior Hydrologist**
Water Resources Committee Meeting
March 5, 2024



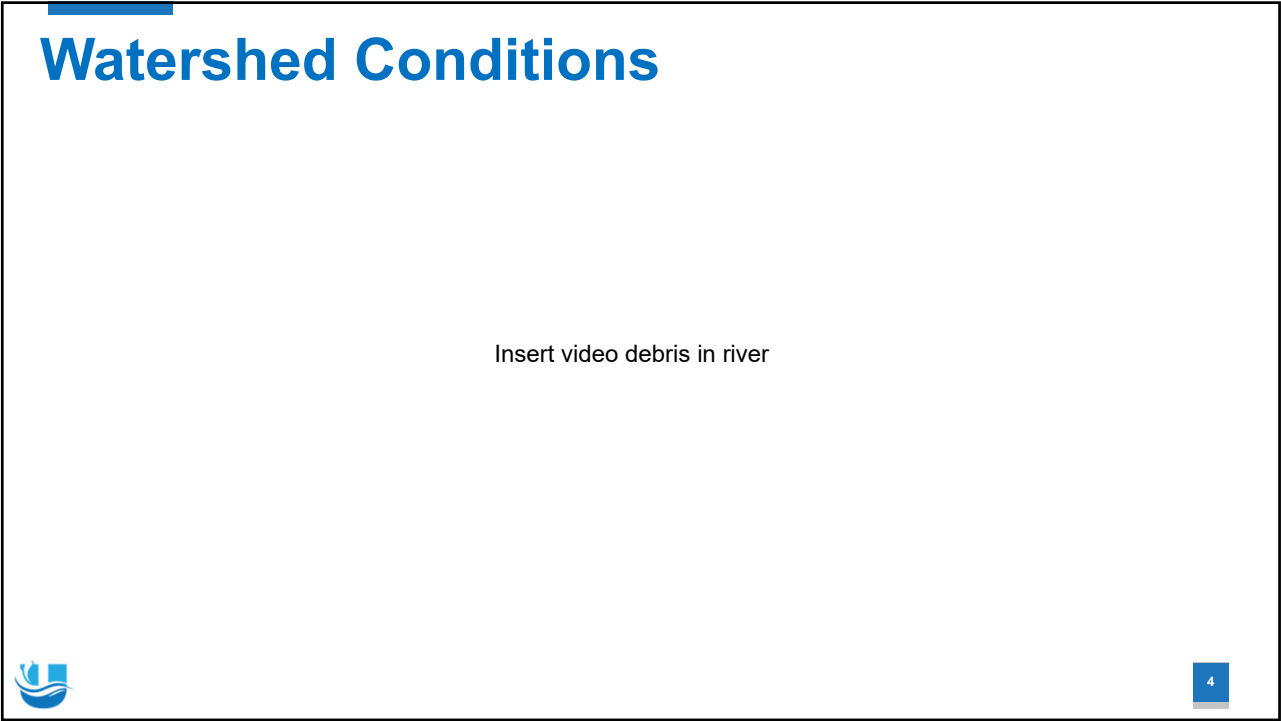
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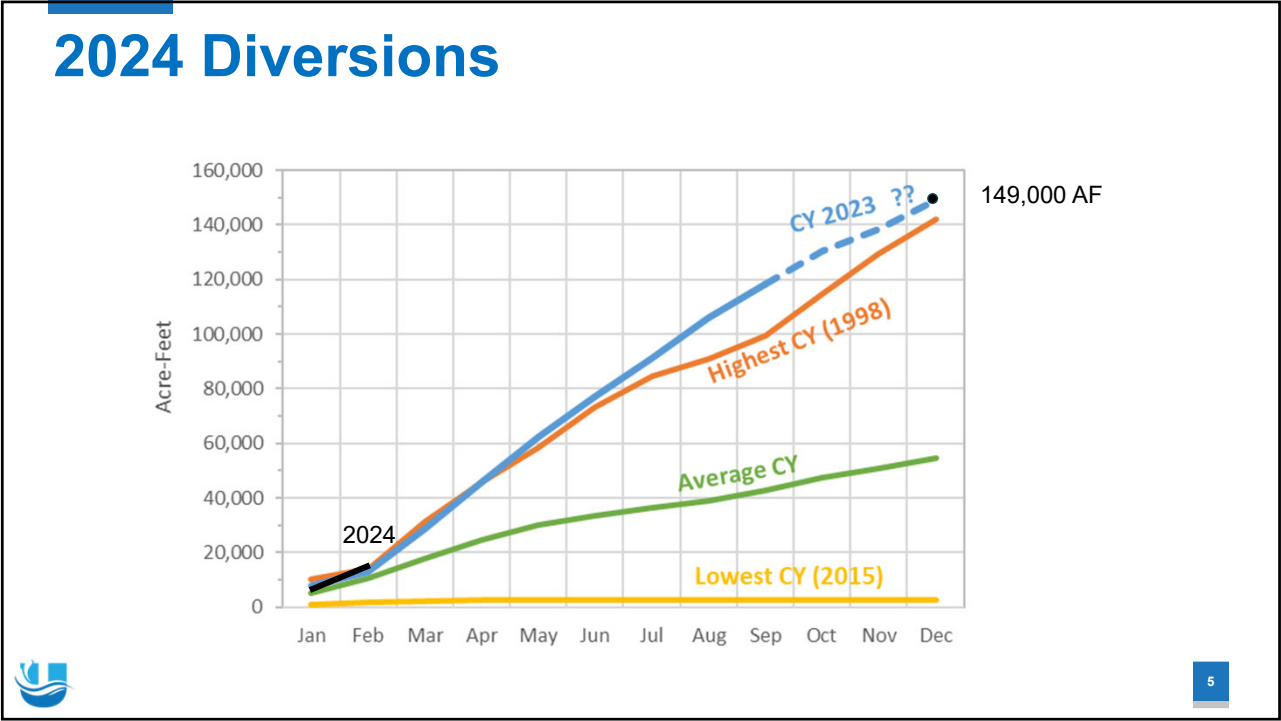
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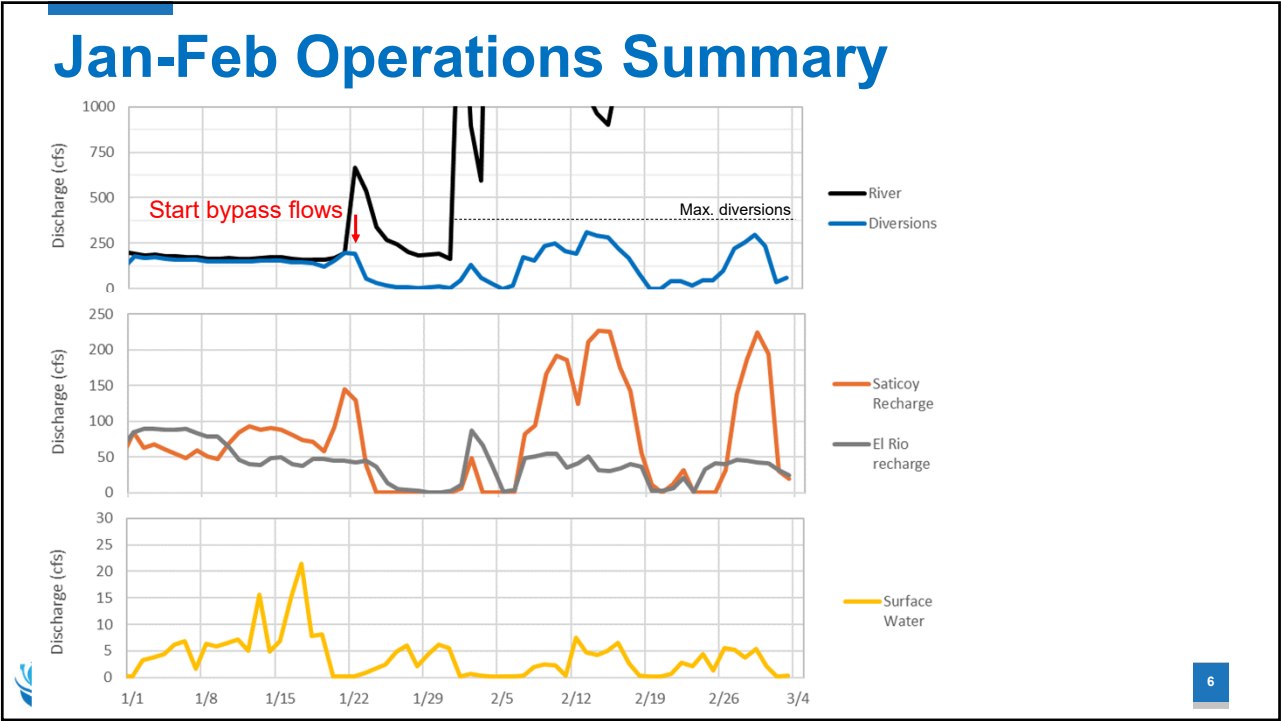
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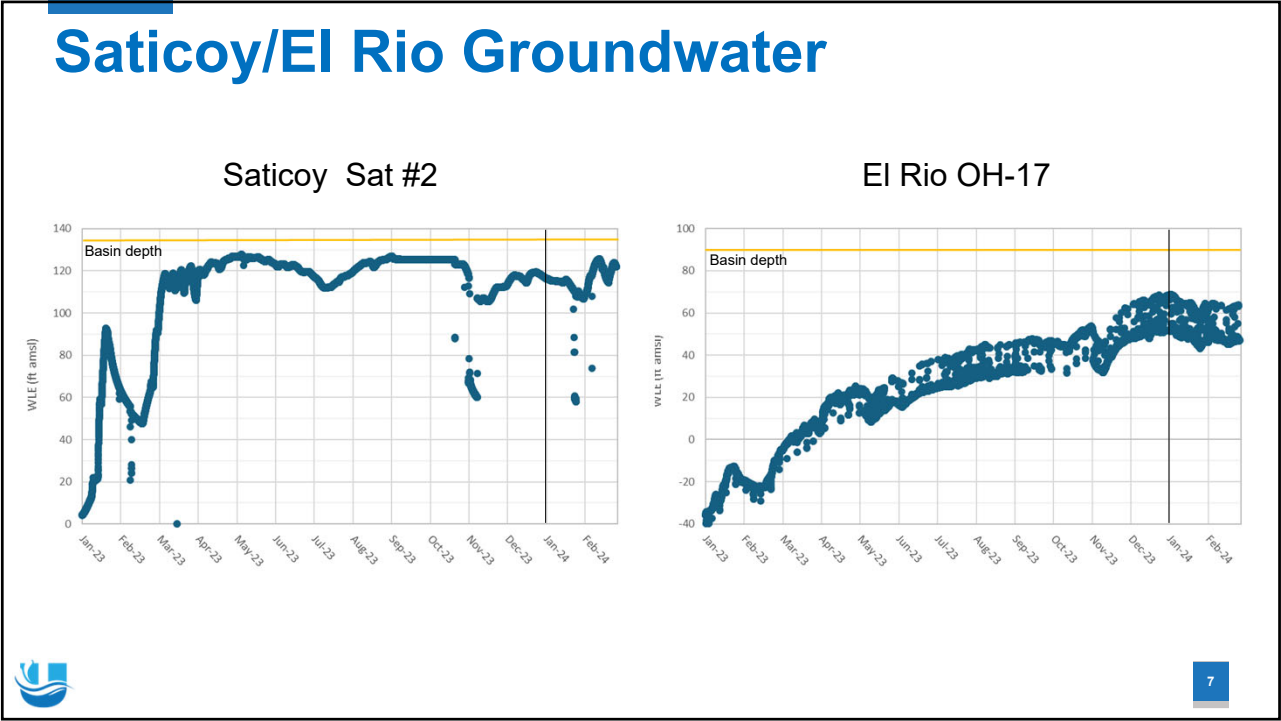
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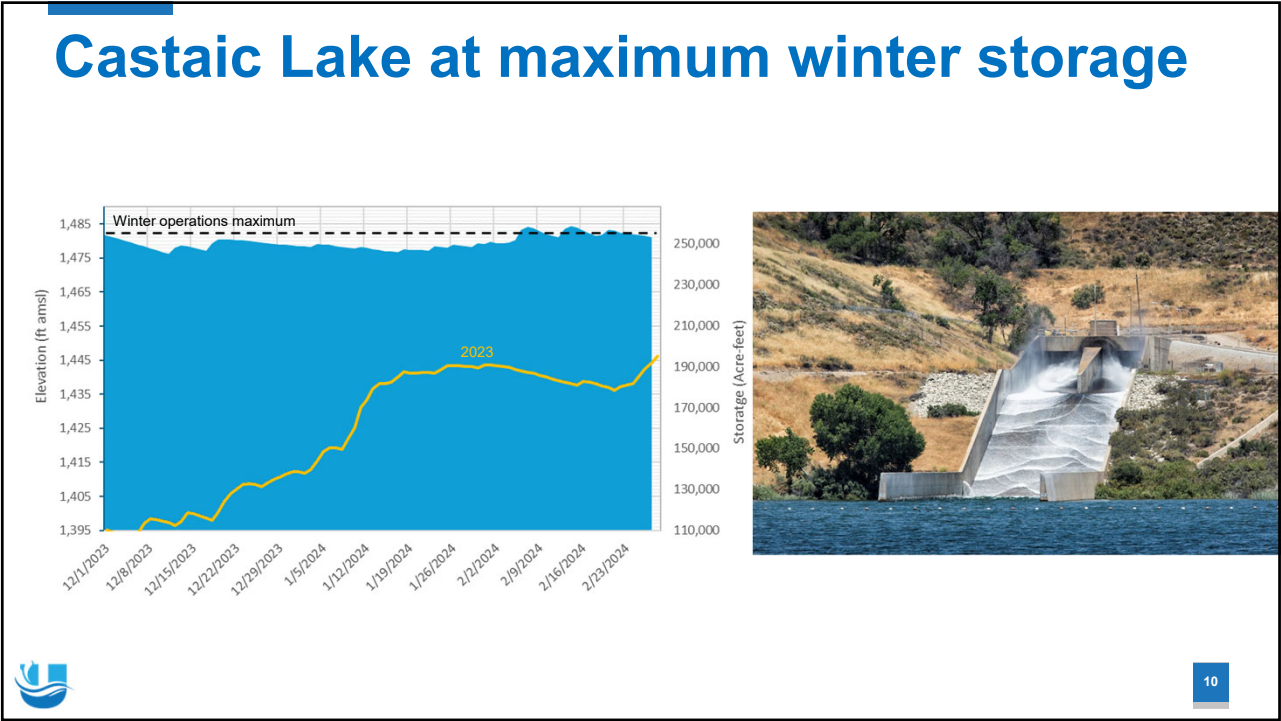


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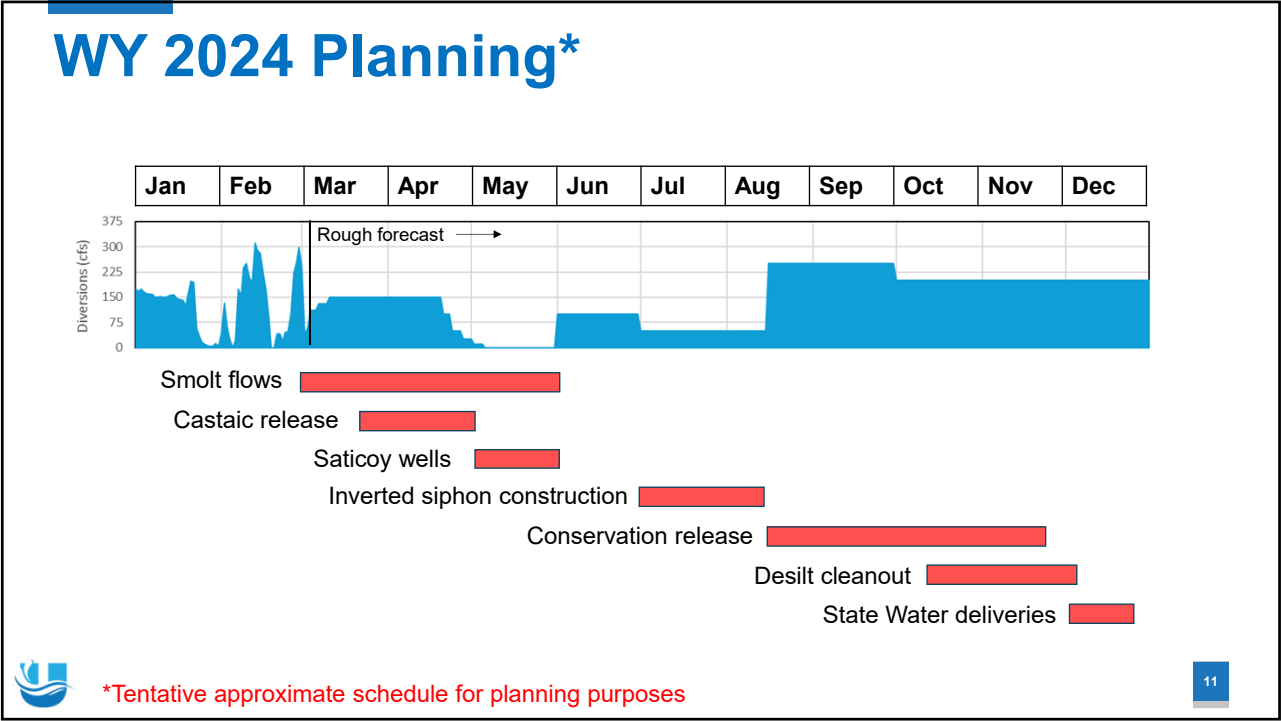




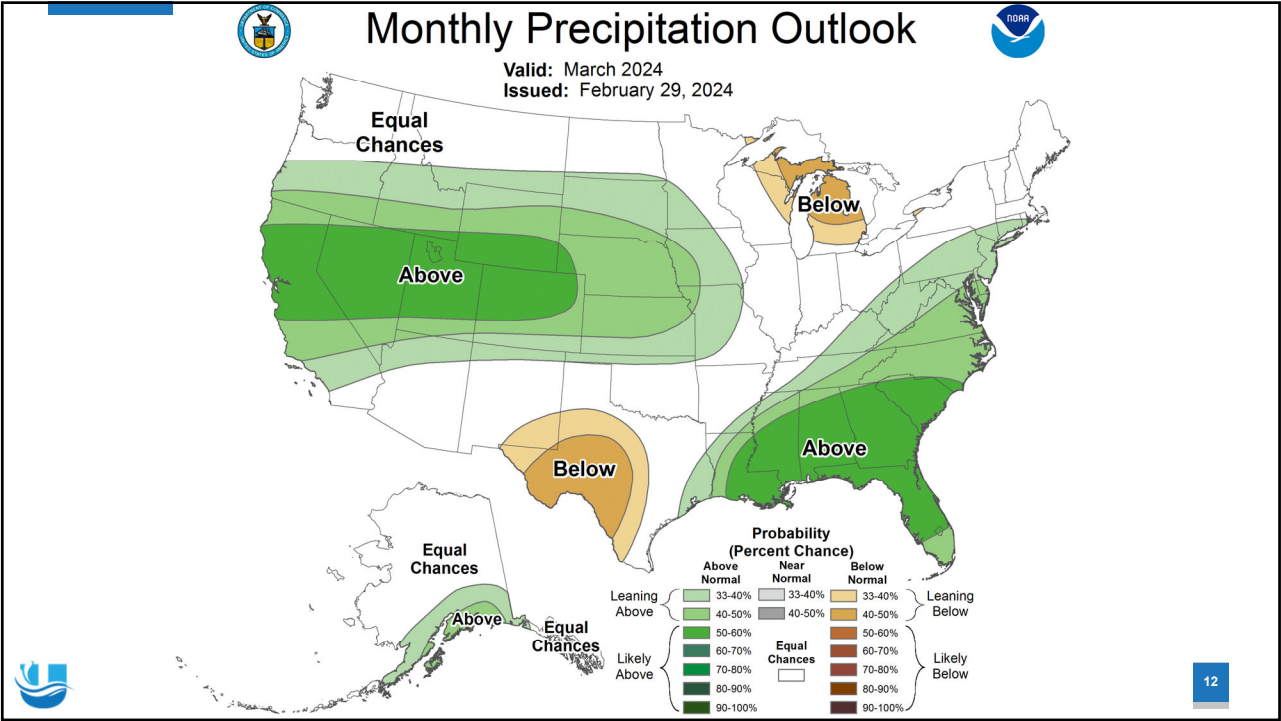
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Questions?




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4. VENTURA COUNTY’S VARIABLE CLIMATE: IMPLICATIONS FOR WATER RESOURCES PLANNING

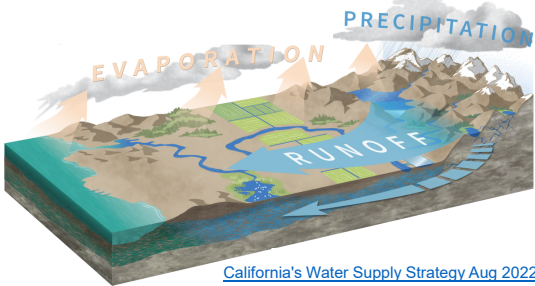

Presented by: Patrick O’Connell, Senior Hydrogeologist
UWCD Water Resources Committee Meeting
March 5, 2024




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Outline

- Introduction
- Climate variability in Ventura County
 - ...according to *local data*
 - ...according to *downscaled Global Circulation Models (GCMs)*
- Implications for water resources planning

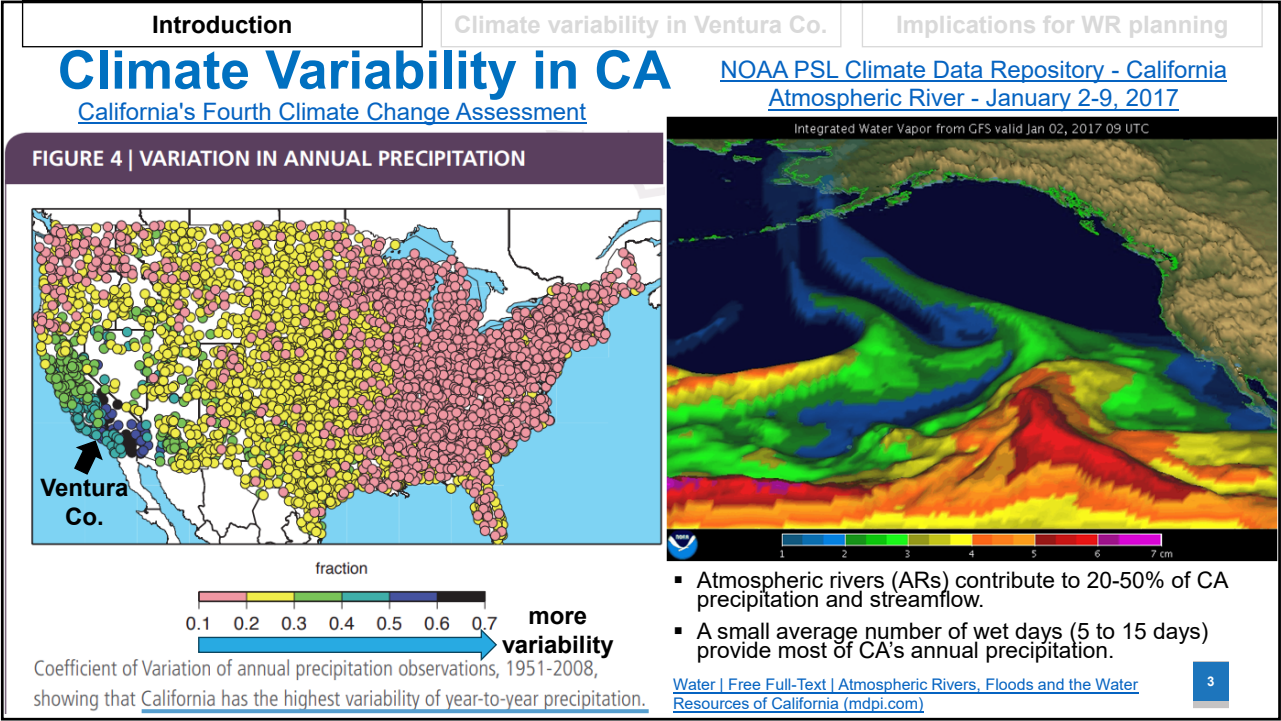


[California's Water Supply Strategy Aug 2022](#)

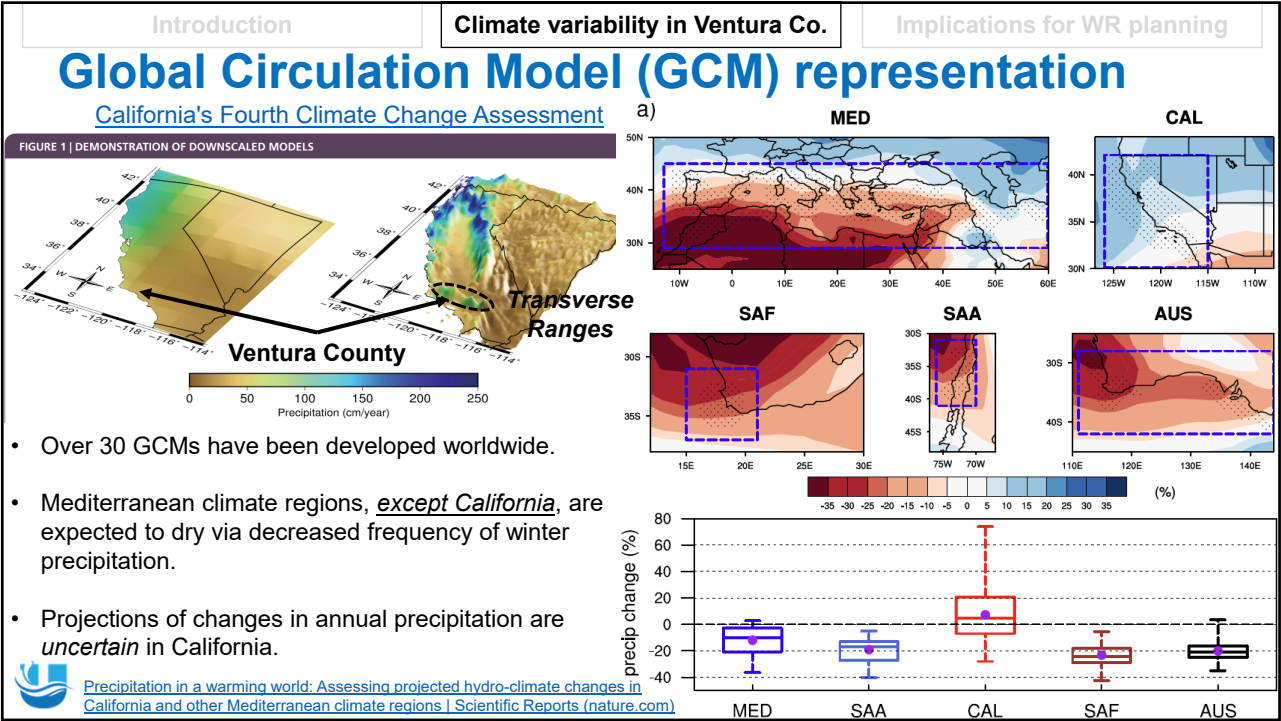


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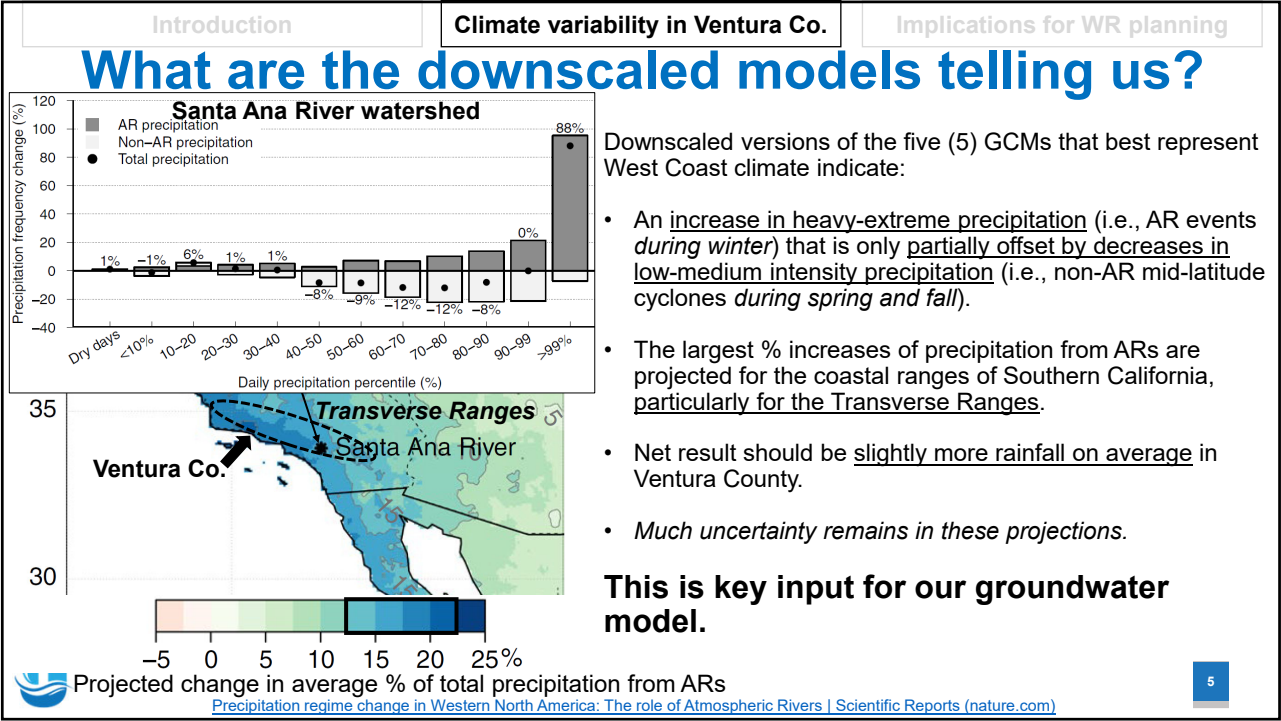
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Questions?





[Piru, California | Flickr - Photo Sharing!](#)



[An aerial view of the Santa Clara River during a flood in 2005 | FWS.gov](#)







STAFF REPORT

To: Water Resources Committee Members

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

From: Dr. Jason Sun, Supervisory Water Resources Engineer
Murray McEachron, Hydrologist Supervisor
John Lindquist, Water Resources Supervisor

Date: April 24, 2024 (April 30, 2024, meeting)

Agenda Item: 5. Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

That Water Resources Committee members will receive a report on Water Resources Department activities for the month of March and April 2024, including a summary of the activities of the Santa Paula Basin (adjudicated) Technical Advisory Committee and three local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA, and Mound Basin GSA).

Discussion:

Staff Activities

Notable efforts and activities conducted by staff during April included the following:

- Groundwater Modeling:
 - Staff have completed the GSP baseline scenarios for FCGMA. Staff are performing particle tracking simulations for the GSP baseline scenarios.
 - Staff are performing the modeling GSP pumping reduction scenarios.
 - Staff communicated through phone calls, emails, and meetings, with FCGMA staff and its consultant, DUDEK, on coordinating the GSP modeling support efforts.
 - Staff attended the FCGMA 5-year GSP Evaluation Workshops.
 - Staff are preparing native yield analysis documentation.
 - Staff are assisting the City of Ventura in preparing a new professional consulting service agreement to evaluate more injection and recovery for indirect portable reuse (IPR) scenarios with United's groundwater model.

- Staff are working on the subsidence model calibration.
- Hydrology:
 - Staff are coordinating with Operations and Environmental Departments for the implementation of migration releases at the Santa Felicia Dam and bypass flows at the Freeman Diversion.
 - Staff continued to provide input on operational decisions at Freeman Diversion to manage sediment accumulation near the intake structure, maximize diversions, and comply with regulatory requirements.
 - Staff continued to assist the Environmental Services and Engineering Departments in evaluating fish passage design modifications under consideration for United's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP),
 - Staff continued to coordinate with operations at Saticoy and El Rio to maintain optimum percolation rates for the facilities.
 - Staff provided surface water model inputs for the GSP modeling update.
 - Staff provided information to Piru/Fillmore GSP
 - Staff furthered discussions regarding the potential to recharge the Woolsey basin sourced with water from El Rio spreading grounds.
 - Staff participated in comments to the Fish and Game Commission regarding the listing of O mykiss in southern California.
- Hydrogeology:
 - Staff continued collecting groundwater elevation and quality data throughout the District's service area, followed by quality control, evaluation, and reporting activities required or requested to support water resources management by United and other entities within our service area.
 - Staff continued preparing figures and text for the annual report to FCGMA on groundwater conditions in the Forebay area, as required under FCGMA Resolution 2023-02 (Recycled Water Pumping Allocation), which supersedes Resolution 2013-02. Due to staff workload issues, preparation of this report is currently behind schedule (it was due to FCGMA on April 1).
 - Staff continued to participate in planning and execution of Phase 1 of the EBB Water Project, including the following activities:
 - Coordinate with drilling contractor to obtain permits from Ventura County for construction of planned monitoring wells
 - Coordinate with contractors (drilling and construction oversight) and U.S. Navy for mobilization of equipment and personnel to project site in late May to begin monitoring well construction
 - Continue providing contractor oversight and direction for geotechnical investigation for Phase 1 extraction wells and pipelines
 - Continue assisting with design of extraction wells

- Meet w/FCGMA staff to plan for approaching their Board for an allocation (or equivalent) for Phase 1 extraction pumping
- Staff continued working with the State Water Resources Control Board and United's legal counsel to develop an appropriate scope of work and submit required documents for the Prop 1, Round 3 grant supporting construction of Phase 1
- Staff provided input to the O&M Department to support repair of one of United's Saticoy water-supply wells.
- Staff continued supporting development of responses to DWR's comments on the GSPs for the Fillmore and Piru Basins.
- Staff collated data as directed by United's legal counsel in response to Public Records Act requests received.
- Staff continued providing input to United's legislative consultants on a proposed bill that would impose new requirements for permitting certain water-supply wells.
- Staff continued evaluating recently obtained data for water use with United's service area, to provide updated interpretation of significant trends and changes.
- Staff met with City of Oxnard representatives to answer their questions regarding recent water use, sub-allocations, and potential carryover on the OH system.
- Staff continued supporting United's legal counsel with technical information related to the OPV adjudication.
- Staff prepared for and participated in a mediation meeting associated with the Wishtoyo Foundation, et al., vs. United Water Conservation District legal action.
- Staff resumed reviewing available data for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in groundwater and discharge sources, in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's final PFAS national primary drinking water regulation dated April 10, 2024.
- Outreach and Education
 - Staff began planning presentations for the OH and PTP Users group meetings planned in May 2024.
 - Staff attended the AWA-Ventura County annual symposium.
 - Staff gave a presentation to the Board of Directors of Farmers Irrigation Company of Santa Paula, regarding United's water-supply project development efforts and current groundwater conditions.
 - Staff provided oral comments to California's Fish and Game Commission at their April 18 meeting, regarding the proposed listing of the southern distinct

population segment of the steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) as an endangered species in California.

- Staff met with representatives from SCV Water to discuss topics of mutual concern and interest.

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 West Las Posas Valley basins. United staff continued to meet periodically with FCGMA staff and other stakeholders to analyze benefits and impacts of water-supply projects in support of developing a sustainable, resilient water-supply portfolio for the service areas of both agencies, and to conduct modeling for the 5-year update of the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basin GSPs. United staff also attended and, where appropriate, contributed to, FCGMA Board and Committee meetings, as follows:

Board of Directors meetings – The FCGMA held a special Board meeting on March 8, which consisted primarily of a closed session to discuss the legal issues and to select an Interim Executive Officer for the FCGMA. The Board announced that Arne Anselm was appointed to the Interim Executive Officer position.

The FCGMA held a regular Board meeting on April 24, which included the following notable agenda items:

- The Board received an update from Agency staff on progress and planning for completing the 5-year updates for the Oxnard, Pleasant Valley, and Las Posas Valley Basin GSPs.
- The Board received a presentation from Agency staff on an analysis of needed staffing levels and prioritization for current and planned activities by the Agency.
- The Board received and filed a report summarizing the highlights of the Agency's budget performance in FY 2023-24 (through January 31, 2024).
- The Board adopted Resolution 2024-03, increasing groundwater extraction surcharges to match Calleguas MWD's new rates posted January 1, 2024.
- The Board announced former FCGMA Groundwater Manager Kim Loeb as the 2024 recipient of the John K. Flynn groundwater stewardship award.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 22.

The FCGMA also held public workshops on the evenings of April 24 and April 25, presenting progress so far on the five-year GSP evaluations currently being conducted for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley (OPV) basins (April 24), and the Las Posas Valley (LPV) basin (April 25). The next public workshops for the OPV and LPV Basins GSPs are being planned for October 2024.

Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (FPBGSA)

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

Board of Directors meetings – The FPBGSA held a special Board meeting on April 4, at which the sole agenda topic consisted of receiving a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates and staff summarizing the Agency’s progress toward addressing the findings, comments and recommendations received from the California Department of Water Resources regarding the Agency’s Fillmore Basin Groundwater Management Plan and Piru Basin Groundwater Management Plan, then providing comments and direction.

The FPBGSA held a regular Board meeting on April 18, which again focused largely on summarizing the Agency’s progress toward addressing the findings, comments and recommendations received from the California Department of Water Resources regarding the Agency’s Fillmore Basin Groundwater Management Plan and Piru Basin Groundwater Management Plan, then providing comments and direction

The next FPBGSA Board meeting is scheduled for May 16.

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 cancelled their April 22 Board meeting. The next MBGSA Board meeting is scheduled for April 22.

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 have begun collecting data required for preparation of the annual report for calendar and water year 2023 for Santa Paula Basin.