

# FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY



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## MINUTES

Minutes of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency's (FCGMA) Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting held **Thursday, January 4, 2018** in Conference Room B at the Ventura County Saticoy Operations Yard, 11251 Riverbank, Saticoy, CA 93004

### **A. Call to Order**

TAG Chair Kim Loeb called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

He announced that Tony Morgan, Vice-Chair, United Water Conservation District (UWCD) Representative and Jim O'Tousa, Ventura County Board of Supervisors Representative will not be in attendance.

In attendance were: (1) Chair Kim Loeb, Groundwater Manager; (2) Keely Royas, FCGMA Clerk of the Board; (3) Kathleen Riedel, Groundwater Specialist; (4) Bryan Bondy, Agricultural Representative; (5) Terry Foreman, Special Districts & Mutuels Representative; (6) Sally Liu, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); (7) Curtis Hopkins, Five Cities Representative; (8) Steve Bachman, Public Representative (9) Dan Detmer, Alternate, UWCD; (10) Ron Schnabel, Dudek; (11) Jill Weinberger, Dudek; (12) John Lindquist, UWCD; (13) E.J. Remson, TNC; (14) Susan Pan, VCWWD; (15) Chris Malejan, WSC; (16) Susan Paulsen, Exponent; (17) Sean Paroski, VC CoLab; (18) Chris Scholle, Grower; (19) Diana Engle, Larry Walker & Associates; (20) Frank Brommenschenkel, Self.

### **B. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **C. Approval of Minutes – November 2, 2017 TAG Meeting**

Mr. Foreman would like the statement "Mr. Foreman asked if a bigger hole was being dug by continuing pumping" taken out under item H, as he does not recall making this statement.

Mr. Bondy requested that under item F the sentence suggesting that seawater is flowing into the lower aquifer system from the upper aquifer system be more specific to the Mugu Lagoon area.

Mr. Bondy made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Detmer seconded the motion. The minutes, as amended, were unanimously approved.

### **D. Agenda Review**

There were no changes made to the agenda.

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## **E. Water Budgets**

Jill Weinberger gave a presentation on the historical water budgets used in the preliminary draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).

Mr. Foreman had questions on if Daniel B. Stephens & Associates (DBS&A) can find area recharge as included in the water budget.

Mr. Detmer said the difference for agricultural (Ag) irrigation return from the DBS&A water budget and from tile drains in the United Water Conservation District (UWCD) water budget in the Oxnard Basin is minimal.

Dr. Weinberger stated that the infiltration number in the GSPs is from DBS&A's report.

Mr. Schnabel said that additional information from Camrosa Municipal Water District was used in the Pleasant Valley Basin GSP water budget.

Mr. Bondy expressed concerns about flow from Pleasant Valley to West Las Posas Valley basin. Mr. Detmer said that calibration of the UWCD model indicated flow from Pleasant Valley to West Las Posas Valley. TAG members agreed that this concept warrants further discussion at another time.

Mr. Bondy also asked why there was no mountain front recharge in the East Las Posas Valley when there is in the West Las Posas. He believes both basins should be similar with regard to mountain front recharge. Mr. Schnabel stated that it was included in the "Precipitation External" column. Mr. Bondy requested that this issue be flagged for future discussion.

Mr. Bondy stated that he still did not understand the difference in water budget assumptions between the East and West Las Posas Valley basins. Mr. Schnabel said the he hoped that the Intera model would shed some more light on recharge in East Las Posas. He said that Dudek applied a factor of 25% to recharge to account for the significant delay in recharge reaching the aquifer in areas away from the Arroyo.

Dr. Bachman stated that Dudek needed to account for a pressure signal, not just molecule basis of the effect of the recharge.

Mr. Bondy stated that recharge passing through the Upper San Pedro Formation to the Fox Canyon Aquifer is delayed, we do not want to assume that all of the recharge is accessible to the Fox Canyon Aquifer.

Dr. Weinberger said that when you put a model on it, all of your assumptions are tested. She stated that what presented is historical budgets and not how basins will be managed.

Mr. Bondy requested a further look at of how evapotranspiration is handled in the East Las Posas, to make sure it is not double counted. He also said water budgets may be used to inform projects and management decisions.

Mr. Foreman said that he was concerned with the presentation of average annual values and that the cumulative total was not presented. He said that there are differences in the cumulative balances in Pleasant Valley between the GSP and the UWCD model.

There was a discussion about overdraft. Mr. Detmer said that Pleasant Valley is in overdraft. Dr. Bachman stated that water levels coming up in Pleasant Valley are not sustainable due to the likelihood of reductions in surface water in the future.

Mr. Bondy talked about the historical sustainable yield. He asked if stored water, such as ASR and in-lieu water, are included as part of the sustainable yield. He stated that the stored water should not be included in the yield.

Dr. Bachman asked the same the thing about OPV credits. He asked how they are going to be dealt with.

#### **F. Sustainable Management Criteria**

Dr. Weinberger stated that minimum thresholds in the GSPs are really measurable objectives. This was discussed by the TAG members and there was agreement on that.

There was a discussion about the need to look at the inland edge of seawater, not just at the coast.

Dr. Bachman stated that in the sustainable management ad-hoc subcommittee, they first looked at water quality, but it was really complicated to monitor and they settled on using gradient to monitor. Mr. Schnabel stated that they picked key wells inland.

Mr. Bondy mentioned that we may be able to get the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to install some monitoring wells. Chair Loeb stated that the Agency had been talking to DWR about that, but likely that monitoring of any new or future monitoring wells would be part of a future GSP update.

There was a discussion on how to site the monitoring wells. Dr. Bachman stated that we need to use the modeling results.

Mr. Foreman stated that thresholds need to be set based on how the basin operates.

Mr. Bondy said that he didn't feel the GSP for Las Posas Valley identified the undesirable results. He said that there needs to be analysis of the effects on beneficial uses.

Ms. Liu said the effects on beneficial uses was implicit in the table of well screens.

Chair Loeb asked what the TAG's thoughts were on how to best present that information at stakeholder workshops.

Mr. Hopkins stated that there will be undesirable results, but the question is what is significant and unreasonable?

Dr. Weinberger brought back up the conversation of monitoring networks.

Dr. Bachman said it is very difficult to site seawater intrusion front wells.

Mr. Detmer said that maybe it was time to do some more geophysics to measure the salt front.

Mr. Hopkins suggested possibly converting some existing Oxnard wells to monitoring wells.

Mr. Bondy suggested instead of showing each potential new monitoring well in the figure, maybe use polygons to show areas where monitoring wells are needed. Mr. Schnabel and TAG members agreed that the polygons were a good idea.

Dr. Bachman stated that in the Pleasant Valley preliminary draft GSP, in Table 3-1, well 220M1905 is set too high.

There was a suggestion of showing monitoring wells in adjacent basins. TAG members agreed this was a good idea.

Mr. Bondy suggested that Dudek sit down with UWCD on proposed monitoring wells for Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins, and sit down with him to discuss the Las Posas Valley basin wells.

#### **G. Groundwater Flow Model Update**

Chair Loeb announced that the TAG workshop on the Calleguas/Intera East Las Posas model will take place at 1:00 p.m. on January 30, 2018 at the Ventura County Saticoy Operations Yard.

Mr. Bondy said that Intera is still set to send out a report around January 15, 2018.

Mr. Detmer stated that UWCD is set to send out their model to the expert panel in late January and it should be ready to go out to the public and TAG in March.

#### **H. GSP Review Schedule**

Chair Loeb stated that the Board opened a 90 day comment period for the preliminary draft GSPs at their January 3, 2018, meeting. He said that after the comment period Dudek and Agency staff will work to identify suggested additional work that may be received during the comment period. A list of the additional work will be compiled and presented to the Board so they can provide direction on what work needs to be done to complete these GSPs, and what tasks will be put in a post-GSP work plan.

Chair Loeb said that based on the direction from the Board, Dudek and the Agency will know what the time frame is to complete the work on the GSPs, and that there will be an additional comment period associated with the final draft GSPs.

#### **I. Public Comments**

Public Comments were heard from:

- (1) Susan Pan commented that she had done a cursory review of the preliminary draft GSPs and noticed that the discharge volume provided for the Moorpark Waste Water Treatment percolation ponds was the total discharge volume from the wastewater plant. She stated that the discharge is steadily declining and that she could email the data set to Chair Loeb to forward to Dudek. She also stated that she would be willing to have a follow-up call with Dudek to discuss the data.
- (2) Diana Engel commented that a way to solicit useful comments about measurable objectives at the public workshops is to make a list of the proposed metrics that are grounded in the real effects.

She suggested discussing the spectrum of undesirable effects and come up with metrics that can be presented to the public.

- (3) E.J. Remson recommended posting a clarification of the end date for the public comment period for the preliminary draft GSPs.
- (4) Frank Brommenschenkel asked if there is going to be a plan for the Oxnard Forebay Basin.

#### **J. TAG Member Comments**

Dr. Bachman stated that in the December 14, 2017 minutes there was a comment that DWR was not ready to review a plan yet. He asked whether that would still be true in three months or five months' time.

Chair Loeb replied that when he talked to DWR about submitting the first two GSP chapters for a preliminary review, DWR no longer was interested in providing such a review.

Mr. Bondy asked what the expectation was for TAG now that the preliminary drafts GSPs are out for review. He wanted to know if TAG is supposed to submit comments outside of the TAG meetings.

Chair Loeb said TAG member should provide independent comments on the first two chapters, as those are pretty complete and are unlikely to come back to TAG for discussion. He stated that the elements that aren't fully developed will be discussed at TAG meetings as well as in workshops. He suggested commenting on any extra work that you think needs to be done.

Mr. Foreman asked if the presentation that Dudek did at the January 3, 2018, Board meeting could be sent out. Chair Loeb stated that we could send it out and post it on the website.

Ms. Liu stated that there has been a lot of talk about the aspirational goals that was first brought up when talking about the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems, but she feels as though they have expanded to the issues regarding water quality. She stated that she is wondering how well this will go over with DWR because the aspirational goals seem as though they are expanding so much that she doesn't want it to seem that we are "hand-waving" it away.

Chair Loeb stated that this needs to be developed further in the GSPs.

Mr. Hopkins commented that we have to assume that the Board is going to be reasonable with regards to understanding the analysis. He stated that stakeholder are looking for the answers of what is going to happen within the next five years, and how big and when cutbacks are going to take place.

#### **K. Future Agenda Items**

The items suggested to be discussed at the next TAG meeting were:

- Monitoring Wells
- Sustainable Management Criteria
- Consideration of establishing Ad hoc committees

#### **L. Adjourn TAG Meeting**

Chair Loeb adjourned the TAG meeting at 12:08 p.m.