

## 2018 FCGMA Meeting Schedules

### Regular Board Meetings

Month	Time	Location
January 24	1:30 PM	Board Hearing Room
February 28	1:30 PM	Board Hearing Room
March 28	1:30 PM	Board Hearing Room
April 25	1:30 pm	Board Hearing Room
May 23	1:30 PM	Board Hearing Room
June 27	1:30 PM	Board Hearing Room
July 25	1:30 PM	Board Hearing Room
September 26	1:30 PM	Board Hearing Room
October 24	1:30 PM	Board Hearing Room
December 5	1:30 PM	Board Hearing Room

### Operations Committee

Month	Time	Location
January 5	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
February 5	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
March 5	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
April 2	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
May 7	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
June 4	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
July 2	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
August 6	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
September 3	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
October 1	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
November 5	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
December 3	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm

### TAG Committee

Technical Advisory Group meetings are held the first Thursday of each month in Room B of the Ventura County Saticoy Operations Yard. Please visit [www.fcgma.org/public-documents/committee-meetings/tag-committee](http://www.fcgma.org/public-documents/committee-meetings/tag-committee) for the 2018 schedule and meeting materials.

### Executive Committee

Month	Time	Location
February 13	2:30 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
May 8	2:30 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
August 14	2:30 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm
November 13	2:30 PM	Atlantic Conference Rm

### Fiscal Committee

Month	Time	Location
March 15	10:00 AM	Atlantic Conference Rm
June 21	10:00 AM	Atlantic Conference Rm
September 20	10:00 AM	Atlantic Conference Rm
December 20	10:00 AM	Atlantic Conference Rm

#### FCGMA Board Members:

- Eugene F. West, Chair
- David Borchard, Vice Chair
- Steve Bennett
- Charlotte Craven
- Robert Eranio

#### FCGMA Staff:

- Jeff Pratt, Executive Officer
- Glenn Shephard, Assistant Executive Officer
- Arne Anselm, Deputy Director
- Kimball Loeb, Groundwater Manager
- Kathleen Riedel, Groundwater Specialist
- Keely Royas, Clerk of the Board
- Kathy Jones, Business Process Coordinator
- Alberto Boada, Agency Counsel
- Andrew Gschwind, Agency Counsel

#### Contact Us

800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1610

(805) 654-2014 FAX: (805) 654-3350

Email: [FCGMA@ventura.org](mailto:FCGMA@ventura.org)

Websites: [www.fcgma.org](http://www.fcgma.org) or [www.fcgmaonline.org](http://www.fcgmaonline.org)



## Semi-Annual Newsletter

# January 2018

Volume 9 Issue 1

### Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans

The Agency has released preliminary draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the Oxnard, Pleasant Valley, and Las Posas Valley Basins. The GSPs are works in progress and not ready to be finalized and submitted to the State. The purpose of their release is to enable stakeholders to provide meaningful review and comments within the context of the complete GSP. When finished, the GSPs will provide the path to bringing the basins into sustainable management within 20 years, as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Once the final GSPs are adopted by the Agency Board of Directors and submitted to the California Department of Water Resources, the Agency will be able to focus efforts on water-supply and infrastructure projects to increase the sustainable yield of the basins.

Sustainable management is defined as that which does not cause significant and unreasonable "undesirable results." SGMA identifies six undesirable results: chronic lowering of groundwater levels; reduction of groundwater storage; seawater intrusion; degraded water quality; land subsidence; and depletions of interconnected surface water. It's up to the Agency to determine what is significant and unreasonable with stakeholder input.

Analysis in the GSPs shows that the basins cannot sustain the current levels of pumping, especially in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins. Implementation of water-supply and infrastructure projects will help to lessen the severity of required pumping reductions over the next 20 years.

**GSP Continued on Page 2**

### Increase in Tiered Surcharge Rate

The FCGMA Board adopted Resolution No. 2017-02 at the Special Board Meeting on October 13, 2017. The Resolution increases the groundwater surcharge rates. Surcharges are incurred when groundwater extractions exceed allocations or groundwater is not used efficiently. In accordance with Ordinance Code Section 5.8.1.1., the extraction surcharge rate is based upon the cost to import potable water and current groundwater conditions. Calleguas Municipal Water District (CMWD) adopted an increase in its tiered water rates for imported potable water, effective January 1, 2018. The FCGMA's new tiered surcharge rate is based on the new CMWD Tier 2 rate. Groundwater levels remain low and continued to decline in some areas, as discussed at the FCGMA Board meetings on April 26, 2017 and August 11, 2017.

The new surcharge rates effective January 1, 2018, are:

- Tier I (25 acre-feet per year [AFY] or less above allocation) \$1,461 per acre-foot (AF);
- Tier II (25 AFY but less than 100 AFY above allocation) \$1,711 per AF; and
- Tier III (100 AFY and more above allocation) \$1,961 per AF.

The Resolution is posted on the FCGMA website at <http://www.fcgma.org/public-documents/resolutions>.

## Continued GSP from Page 1

Stakeholder input is needed to help the Board determine the levels of significance and unreasonableness attributable to the six undesirable results and to identify and prioritize projects for inclusion in the GSPs.

The Board will consider opening a public comment period at its January 3, 2018, meeting. There will be evening workshops on the GSPs on February 1, 2018, for the Las Posas Basin at the Camarillo City Hall and on February 8, 2018, for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins at the Ventura County Government Center. The preliminary draft GSPs are available for download at [www.fcgma.org](http://www.fcgma.org). GSP related comments can be submitted by email to [fcgma-gsp@ventura.org](mailto:fcgma-gsp@ventura.org), as can requests to sign up for the GSP email newsletter.

## New Pumping Allocation Systems

The Agency continues efforts working with stakeholders to develop new pumping allocation systems for the Las Posas Valley Basin and the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins. The new pumping allocation systems will replace the current Emergency Ordinance E allocation system.

The State Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires reporting based on the water year, October 1 through September 30. The Agency will switch to the new reporting period on October 1, 2018. The Board has indicated that it intends to have new allocation systems in place by then. New fixed allocation systems are needed to comply with SGMA requirements to bring the basins into sustainable management within 20 years.

In the Las Posas Valley Basin, the Las Posas Users Group developed the framework for a new allocation system under an Agency approved charter. Subsequently, a group of stakeholders voiced concerns with the proposed system. Agency staff is working with stakeholders to identify concerns and complete development of the new allocation system.

Stakeholder groups in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins representing agricultural and municipal and industrial pumpers have been working on development for a new pumping allocation system for a couple of years. However, these groups have yet to come to agreement on several fundamental issues. At the direction of the Board, Agency staff developed a proposed interim pumping allocation system for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins which was presented at the November 13, 2017, Board meeting.

The stakeholder groups continue to work on development of a mutually agreeable allocation system, which the Agency considers the preferable path if it is available in time. If not, the Agency's interim system will be implemented. The Agency will hold an evening workshop on the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins proposed new allocation system on January 18, 2018, at Rio Vista Middle School in Oxnard.

All of the new pumping allocation systems being considered would eliminate Efficiency Allocation and Irrigation Allowance Index (IAI) and replace it with a fixed allocation. The total sustainable allocation will be estimated in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for each basin, which will inform the need for pumping reductions over 20 years to comply with the SGMA. The Board has indicated that it does not plan to start with significant reductions in pumping in the first year of the new allocation system. The proposed new allocation systems will be discussed at Board meetings in the first quarter of 2018. Public hearings will be held for adoption of ordinances implementing the new allocation systems.

## Water Market Pilot Program Update

Phase 2 of the Pilot Water Market will run through September 30, 2018. The Water Market is part of the \$799,000 Conservation Innovation Grant the FCGMA received in partnership with The Nature Conservancy from the National Resources Conservation Service. The first phase of the Water Market ended in July 2017 and included an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System Demonstration Project. Financial incentives toward AMI will be provided by the FCGMA to encourage enrollment in the Water Market. The Phase 2 Pilot allows an unlimited number of participants, and agricultural mutual water companies are now eligible.

To be eligible, an operator must be in compliance with all Agency regulations and install and maintain AMI equipment on their extraction wells. Initially, participation is limited to agricultural operators in the Oxnard Basin, but is expected to be expanded Agency-wide at some time in the future. Market Allocation will be set at 100% of the water pumped by the participant in 2014/15 for the Phase 2 Pilot. Participants may offer a temporary transfer of the unused portion of Market Allocation during the current Water Year ending September 30, 2018. Extractions above Market Allocation net of trades will incur surcharges.

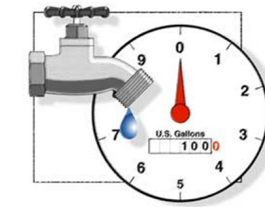
The goal of the Water Market is to provide needed flexibility to growers while being protective of the groundwater resource. Total pumping among traders will not exceed the sum of the allocations (i.e., no increase in total extractions), and trading will be restricted in pumping depressions and areas of saltwater intrusion. More information can be found at: <http://fcgma.org/component/content/article/2-uncategorised/107-water-market-ami-pilot-project>.

## Flowmeters

Accurate flowmeter readings are very important for groundwater management. For that reason, flowmeter calibration tests are **required** at least **every three (3) years**, in accordance with Resolution 2008-04. For more information see [www.fcgma.org/faqs/91-flowmeter-faqs](http://www.fcgma.org/faqs/91-flowmeter-faqs).

A **Flowmeter Update Form** must be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of new installation, repair or replacement of a flowmeter including:

- 1) **Calibration** Test Report
- 2) Individual **Photos** of Flowmeter:
  - FACE
  - SERIAL NUMBER, and
  - INSTALLATION
- 3) **Invoice** or **Work Order** of new installation



You can view your account and flowmeter data at [www.fcgmaonline.org](http://www.fcgmaonline.org). For additional information email [fcgma@ventura.org](mailto:fcgma@ventura.org) or call (805) 645-1372.

## iLobby Visitor Check In

The Hall of Administration building located at the Ventura County Government Center has implemented new security procedures, limiting office access to employees only. Visitors are asked to use the newly installed iLobby visitor check-in system located outside the FCGMA/Watershed Protection District Lobby to alert staff to your arrival.

