



Semi-Annual Newsletter

Board Adopts Groundwater Sustainability Plans

The Agency Board adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the Las Posas Valley Basin, Oxnard Subbasin, and Pleasant Valley Basin at its December 13, 2019, meeting. The GSPs were revised and finalized based on comments received on the Draft GSPs during the public comment period that ended September 23, 2019. The GSPs will be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources, as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The GSPs can be downloaded at www.fcgma.org.

SGMA requires the GSPs be based on the best available science, recognizing there will be data gaps and areas of uncertainty. SGMA requires that the GSPs periodically be reviewed and updated at a minimum of once every five years. These first GSPs set the path to achieve sustainable management of the basins over the next 20 years, as required by SGMA.

The Agency is working on a post-GSP workplan to address data gaps and plans to implement and support regional basin optimization studies and groundwater modeling to assess how to maximize the sustainable yield of the basins. These studies would include identification of potential water supply and infrastructure projects in addition to those included the initial GSPs. These findings will be included in future updates and amendments to the GSPs.



Inside this issue

Amendment to TEA	2
Water Market Pilot.....	2
Ranch AMI Upgrade	3
New Pumping Allocation	3
Nested Monitoring Wells ...	4
Photo Requirement.....	5
Welcome Director Mobley .	6
AMI Developments.....	7
Crop Year Rainfall Data	8
Sustainability Fee Increase .	8

Special points of interest

- Sustainability Fee Increase
- New Pumping Allocation System for Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins
- 2019 Adopted Ordinances



Board Approves Amendment to Emergency Ordinance E TEA

The Agency Board of Directors approved an amendment to Emergency Ordinance E at its December 13, 2019, special meeting to restore the full Temporary Extraction Allocations (TEA) for municipal and industrial operators. This rescinds the 20% TEA reduction beginning on January 1, 2020. The Board requested consideration of this amendment at the October 23, 2019, meeting. All other provisions of Emergency Ordinance E remain in effect.

Update your records at fcgma.org/public-documents/forms

Upcoming 2020 Board Meetings

January 22, 2020

February 26, 2020

March 25, 2020

April 22, 2020

May 27, 2020

June 24, 2020

July 22, 2020

August 26, 2020

September 23, 2020

October 28, 2020

November - DARK
(Combined with December)

December 2, 2020

*All meetings are held in the Board
of Supervisors Hearing Room
1:30 PM*

Water Market Pilot Trading Opens January 6th

The Water Market Pilot will kick off trading January 6, 2020, in the Oxnard Basin. The Water Market Pilot allows pumpers to sell allocation for profit or buy additional allocation to avoid surcharges. The Water Market is supported by a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service through The Nature Conservancy. Eligible well owners who received additional AMI incentive for joining the Water Market are obligated to join the Water Market Pilot, but are not required to submit bids to buy, or offers to sell, water. This year the pilot allows eligible pumpers using Advanced Metering Infrastructure vendors Wildeye or Pumpsight to participate. Because the current Emergency Ordinance E pumping allocations are too flexible to provide the cap needed in this cap-and-trade system, participants' allocations are calculated from a CombCode's allowable pumping in 2017-18 Irrigation Allowance, less any water purveyor or other delivered water in 2017-18. Water Market Pilot allocations have been sent to eligible participants, however participants must return their participation agreements to get started.

Access your account at fcgmaonline.org

Groundwater Extraction Reporting 2019-2

Semi-Annual Extraction Statements (SAES) for the 2019-2 reporting period from July 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, are due to the Agency post-marked no later than the due date printed on the SAES. Access your online account for easy reporting at www.fcgmaonline.org. Email fcgma@ventura.org to set up an online account.

No Cost Ranch AMI Upgrade

Funds remaining in the Natural Resources Conservation Services Grant through The Nature Conservancy have been approved for upgrading the Ranch Systems AMI previously installed through the grant. The Ranch Systems Optical Reader Package was developed as a unique solution to a tough problem. The challenge was to read a wide range of different analog meters, consolidate the data in a uniform digital format, and securely provide the information to users. A one-size-fits-all approach was the best solution at the time. Ranch Systems now has a year of working with the FCGMA well owners and has compiled feedback and requests for additional features. A consistent request is for an additional level of data to provide finer resolution for analysis of irrigation system performance, such as plotting both the daily totals and the gallons per minute on a 5-minute time scale.

The AMI improvement funded through the grant will provide greater detail of water use to operators through pulse output reading. Combined with the optical reader, these options work together to support both the Water Market and provide the necessary insight for irrigation and water management decisions. Ranch Systems will be contacting all owners and operators who have had Ranch Systems installed to schedule an assessment for the improvement. As before, data reported to FCGMA will only be the required monthly extraction totals.

Sustainability Fee Increase on page 8

New Pumping Allocation System for Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins

The FCGMA Board adopted an ordinance establishing a new pumping allocation system for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins at the October 23, 2019, Board meeting. The Agency has been working with stakeholders to develop the new allocation system for four years, which will replace the current extraction allocations set in Emergency Ordinance E and the Agency Ordinance Code beginning October 1, 2020. The new allocations will initially be assigned to wells based on the annual average extraction from 2005 through 2014. The Board has indicated its intent to transition to a land-based system in the future. Operators will continue to be able to combine wells in a basin into CombCodes with some limitations. FCGMA will be sending information to operators in early 2020 on the reported extractions at each well in 2005 through 2014. There will be a variance process for owners or operators who believe there are special circumstances regarding their well. Visit www.fcgma.org for more information and to view the ordinance.

FCGMA Mission Statement

The Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) manages and protects both confined and unconfined aquifers within several groundwater basins underlying the southern portion of Ventura County. The FCGMA is an independent special district, separate from the County of Ventura or any city government. It was created by the California Legislature in 1982 to oversee Ventura County's vital groundwater resources.

The boundary covers 183 square miles, and all lands lying above the deep Fox Canyon aquifer account for more than half of the water needs for over 700,000 residents in the cities of Ventura, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Camarillo, and Moorpark, plus the unincorporated communities of Saticoy, El Rio, Somis, Moorpark Home Acres, Nyeland Acres, Point Mugu and Montalvo.

Our offices are located at the Watershed Protection District Ventura County Government Center Hall of Administration.

Jeff Pratt
Executive Officer

Glenn Shephard
Assistant Executive Officer

Arne Anselm
Deputy Director

Kimball Loeb
Groundwater Manager

Keely Royas
Clerk of the Board

Kathleen Riedel
Groundwater Specialist

Dolores Conlin
Compliance Specialist

Kathy Jones
Business Process Coordinator

Christine Dalida
Management Assistant II

Alberto Boada
Agency Council

Nested Monitoring Wells Installed

In response to the Agency's successful application, the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) installed five nested groundwater monitoring wells in the northern portion of the Pleasant Valley Basin and three nested groundwater monitoring wells in the southeastern portion of the Oxnard Subbasin. Three additional deeper nested monitoring wells are anticipated to be installed in the Oxnard Subbasin in Spring 2020. Permitting and environmental compliance monitoring was paid for by the Agency. Direct charges for installation and development of the monitoring wells was funded by DWR through the Technical Support Systems program. The location and depths of the monitoring wells were designed to fill data gaps in the groundwater monitoring network identified in the Groundwater Sustainability Plans. For more information, see presentations at Board meetings on June 26, 2019, (Item 5) and August 28, 2019, (Item 4) www.fcgma.org.



Oxnard nested well site



Surcharge Rates

Tier I: One to 25.000 AF = \$1,461.00 per AF

Tier II: 25.001 AF to 99.999 AF = \$1,711.00 per AF

Tier III: 100 AF or more = \$1,961.00 per AF

2019 Adopted Ordinances and Resolutions

Water Market Ordinance - Phase 2 Extension 2 , adopted August 28, 2019, to extend Phase 2 of the Water Market Pilot Program

Ordinance for New Pumping Allocation System for the OPV and PVB, adopted October 23, 2019, to establish a new pumping allocation system for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins

Resolution No. 2019-01, adopted February 8, 2019, authorized the Imposition of Civil Penalties for Ordinance Code Violations; rescinded Resolution 2013-01

Resolution No. 2019-02, adopted February 8, 2019, revised policies and procedures for requiring and implementing Accuracy Testing of Flowmeters; rescinded Resolution 2008-04

Resolution No. 2019-03, adopted on September 25, 2019, increased the Sustainability Fee to \$11.00 per acre-foot to fund the costs of a Groundwater Sustainability Program, effective July 1, 2019 for Domestic and Municipal, August 1, 2019 for Agricultural users

Resolution 2019-04, adopted October 23, 2019, granted authorization to apply to California Department of Water Resources to obtain a grant under the 2019 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program, Planning Grant – Round 3

Resolution 2019-05, adopted December 13, 2019, adopted the Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the Las Posas Valley or Basin, the Oxnard Subbasin of the Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin and the Pleasant Valley Groundwater Basin

To learn more visit www.fcgma.org. Click on *Public Documents*, then *Ordinances & Legislation* or *Resolutions*.

*The deadline for Domestic pumpers to install AMI on all active flowmeters is
October 1, 2020*

Photo Requirement with SAES

FCGMA recently required photographs of all flowmeters be submitted with Semi-Annual Extraction Statements (SAES). Many operators voluntarily provided photographs before this was a requirement. These have proven very helpful in reducing errors in reporting and saving staff time in processing the statements. Photos are required for all extractions required to be reported in accordance with Agency Ordinance Code Section 2.3. The photograph(s) must include meter face and meter totalizer reading, be clearly labeled with CombCode, State Well Number, Serial Number and date-stamped or include file details showing the date created (the original camera .jpg file will contain this information). This requirement is effective starting with the 2019-1 reporting period.

Operators with meters with Ranch Systems' Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) optical sensor can download the photo from their data portal at www.ranchsystems.com. The Agency does not have access to these photographs or daily extraction reports, only the monthly extraction totals.

Detailed instructions on downloading Ranch AMI photos can be found on YouTube, enter "*Ranch Systems Photo Upload Instructions*" in the search field or visit: <https://ranchsystems.makekb.com/entry/1258/>

For more information call (805) 645-1372 or (805) 645-4374 or email fcgma@ventura.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eugene F. West, Chair

Director, Camrosa Water District

David Borchard, Vice Chair

Farmer, Agricultural Representative

Steve Bennett

Supervisor, County of Ventura

Charlotte Craven

Councilperson, City of Camarillo

Michael W. Mobley

Director, United Water Conservation District

Welcome New Director Michael Mobley

Michael Mobley was appointed by United Water Conservation District to represent UWCD on the FCGMA Board. Prior to his appointment he served as a Board Alternate for two and a half years. He is a lifelong resident of Ventura County, and he owns and operates Progressive Land Management, Inc. which provides complete ranch management and consulting services throughout Ventura County and southern Santa Barbara County. Mr. Mobley has served on the boards of numerous trade and community organizations including Board Chairman for the Mound Basin GSA, California Farm Bureau Federation, Ventura County Farm Bureau (President 1996-97), Ventura County Ag Advisory Committee, Ventura County Resource Conservation District (Vice President, 2004-2014), Member of the Rotary Club of Santa Paula (President 2008/2009), Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Clara Valley (President 2006-2008), and Fillmore-Piru Citrus Association. Mr. Mobley earned a B.S. from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and is a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program. His current term expires December 1, 2020.



Semi-Annual Extraction Reports due mid February 2020

Do not forget to include meter photos

Well Sellers Checklist

Selling your well? Complete these steps to avoid recurring Agency notices:

- Notify Agency at close of escrow
- Inform Agency of new owner
- Refer new owner to Agency
- Record deed with the Ventura County Assessor's Office
- Notify AMI vendor of ownership change
- Close account with Agency



Statements submitted after the due date incur a Civil Penalty of \$50 a day

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Developments

Since the relatively recent requirement of AMI, there are several lessons learned we would like to share with the community. Once AMI is installed operators can take steps to prolong the length of their unit's life as well as maintain its functioning.

- AMI units should be installed above ground level.
- For Ranch Systems AMI, occasionally wipe off the face of the flowmeter to ensure legible photos, and make sure the lid is always down so the camera does not take a photo of the sky.
- If you are repairing or replacing your flowmeter, let the AMI manufacturer know so they can come out and either reinstall the AMI, or if you have done so, confirm that the unit is again operating at peak performance, and that the warranty is still in effect.
- Periodically check your User Dashboard the manufacturer establishes for you to ensure the extractions your AMI is recording are accurate; it is easier to address a problem the earlier it is found.
- In the event of theft of remotely located wells/AMI units, the User Dashboard will reflect that no data is produced. One owner of a stolen AMI unit built a structure around the replacement unit to prevent future theft.

Please share any tips or suggestions you discover with the Agency so that we can pass along any future lessons learned.

Update on Approved Calibration Contractors

New flowmeter calibration contractors have been approved by the Agency. Don Maulhardt of Maulhardt Flow Testing and Chad Carter of Coastal Pipco are now approved for testing flowmeters. Additionally, Scott Rupert of ProUsys has been approved for mag meter only flow testing. Contact information may be found on our complete list of Approved Calibration Contractors at www.fcgma.org/forms/Approved Flowmeter Calibration Contractors.

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 2019-2.

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: i) FACE, ii) SERIAL NUMBER, and iii) INSTALLATION
- 3) Invoice or work order of new installation

For more information visit FAQs-Flowmeter at www.fcgma.org.

Preliminary 2019-2020 Crop Year Rainfall Data in Inches 5 Station Average

(data from only 3 stations available at print)



Sustainability Fee Increase

The Board adopted Resolution 2019-03 at the September 25, 2019, meeting which increased the Sustainability Fee to \$11.00 per acre-foot (AF) to fund the Groundwater Sustainability Program. This increases the extraction fees to a total of \$17.00 per AF including the \$6.00 pump charge. The increase is effective July 1, 2019, for Domestic and Municipal & Industrial operators and August 1, 2019, for Agricultural operators. Note that the sustainability fee does not apply to Domestic operators who extract two AF per year or less. To learn more visit www.fcgma.org, select *Resolutions* and scroll to bottom and click link to *19-03*.

For more information please contact us at:

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