

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY y



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eugene F. West, Chair, Director, Camrosa Water District
David Borchard, Vice Chair, Farmer, Agricultural Representative
Kelly Long, Supervisor, County of Ventura
Lynn Maulhardt, Director, United Water Conservation District
Tony Trembley, Mayor, City of Camarillo

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jeff Pratt, P.E.

March 8, 2024

Board of Directors
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1610

SUBJECT: Approval of the Three Voting Members of the Las Posas Valley Basin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) [LPV Watermaster] – (New Item)

RECOMMENDATIONS: (1) Approve voting member nominees to the Las Posas Valley Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee; (2) Authorize the Executive Officer to enter into a professional services contract with each TAC nominee on the standard form shown (Attachment 3B) for a two-year term at the hourly billing rates shown (Attachment 3A); and (3) Authorize the Executive Officer to approve amendments to the standard form contract to conform with the judgment entered in the Las Posas Valley groundwater adjudication (Judgment) and subject to Agency Counsel review and approval.

BACKGROUND:

The Judgment describes the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) as the primary advisory body to the LPV Watermaster on all matters requiring technical expertise to be considered by the Watermaster relating to groundwater management and sustainability of the Basin, including implementation and any modification of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Physical Solution governing the Basin. (Judgment § 6.11.1). The objectives of the TAC are to: (a) Provide independent and unbiased technical review and recommendations, based on best available science, on matters referred to it by Watermaster (Judgment § 6.11.1.1); and (b) Work collaboratively and in good faith for the benefit of the Basin as a whole, rather than advocate exclusively for one constituency, to achieve consensus and make unified technical recommendations to the extent possible on Basin water management and Groundwater sustainability. (Judgment § 6.11.1.2). The Judgment defines three permanent voting members in the TAC appointed to 2-year terms: a TAC administrator and two representatives appointed one each by the East and West Las Posas Management Area Constituency Groups.

The Judgment provides criteria for the nomination of the three permanent voting members of the TAC: they shall be professional consultants, California licensed professional geologist or registered civil engineer in accordance with the California Business and Professions Code and have at least 10 years of relevant experience that will help the Watermaster with Basin Management, and the consulting fees charged by these professionals shall be paid from the funds raised from the Basin Assessment. (Judgment § 6.11.2.1). Each TAC member, as part of their contract with Watermaster, shall annually submit a statement of economic interests in a form approved by Watermaster. (Judgment § 6.11.2)

In addition to the 3 permanent voting members, the Judgment allows a non-voting Watermaster representative and each PAC member an option to appoint a non-voting member to the TAC at their

discretion. Non-voting members must satisfy the qualifications criteria under the Judgment but will not be compensated from the Basin Assessment and need not be approved by Watermaster.

DISCUSSION:

The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) evaluated potential candidates for appointment to the TAC and selected their nominees on February 15, 2024. These were presented to your Board acting as LPV Watermaster at the February 28, 2024, meeting. The LPV Watermaster must consent to appoint nominees or demonstrate cause for declining such appointment and the TAC member shall meet the requirements under Judgment § 6.11.2.1. Staff is in the process of vetting the nominees and are currently working on the required paperwork to fulfil contracting with the TAC nominees.

The following are the TAC nominees:

- TAC Administrator, Chad Taylor (PG, CHG) Todd Groundwater
- West Las Posas West Constituency Group, Robert Abrams (PhD, PG, CHG) Aquilogic
- East Las Posas West Constituency Group, William Tony Morgan (PG, CHG) Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, Inc.

Until contracts are in place the LPV Watermaster has no means to pay TAC members for their consulting services. To expedite the formation of the TAC your Board is requested to approve the hourly billing rates in Attachment 3A and authorize the Executive Officer to enter into two-year contracts with the TAC nominees using the standard form contract in Attachment 3B.

This letter has been reviewed by Agency Counsel. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 654-2954.

Sincerely,



Kudzai Farai Kaseke Ph.D., PMP, CSM
Assistant Groundwater Manager

Attachments Item 3A – TAC Nominee Billing Rates and Resumes
 Item 3B – Standard Form Contract