

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY



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INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Arne Anselm

September 25, 2024

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

SUBJECT: Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Five-Year Evaluations, Workshops, and Timeline – (Returning Item)

RECOMMENDATIONS: (1) Receive an update a presentation on Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Five-Year Evaluations and (2) Provide input and direction if desired.

BACKGROUND:

On March 27, 2024, the Board requested frequent updates on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Five-Year Evaluations development. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) periodically evaluate their GSP(s) to “assess changing conditions in the basin that may warrant modification of the plan or management objectives and may adjust components in the plan.” The GSP Emergency Regulations require that GSAs evaluate their GSPs at least every five years, and whenever the GSP is amended. Evaluations for the Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Basin (collectively, the OPV Basin) and the Las Posas Valley Basin (LPV Basin) are being prepared by Dudek, which prepared the original GSPs for the OPV Basin and the LPV Basin. The GSP Evaluations are due to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) no later than January 13, 2025. GSP

Key Work Completed

After releasing drafts to the public on August 22nd, The Agency held additional LPV and OPV Workshops to provide information and receive input from members of the public and stakeholders on September 9th and 10th. A 45-day review period has since occurred, with written comments due on October 7th, 2024.

DISCUSSION:

Written Comments Received

The Agency received 15 comment letters on the GSP Evaluations by the October 7 deadline. Some comment letters covered more than one subbasin. Seven comment letters were received for Las Posas Valley, 6 for Oxnard, and 8 for Pleasant Valley. Comments ranged from detailed analysis on numeric model fluxes, to high-level comments regarding planning, collaboration, and shifting focus to solutions. Comments were thoughtful and insightful. Agency staff and Dudek are currently working to respond and incorporate comments into the GSP Evaluations.

Comments fell into 10 general categories:

1. Regional Collaboration,
2. Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model,
3. Projects and Management Actions,

4. Modeling,
5. Monitoring,
6. Sustainable Management Criteria,
7. Stakeholder Engagement,
8. Litigation,
9. Recommended Corrective Actions, and
10. Commendation of the agency / stakeholders.

DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

1. Stakeholder Engagement / Outreach – ongoing through January 2025
 - a. Workshop No. 1 (LPV & OPV): August 30, 2023 – Kick-off
 - b. Workshop No. 2: April 2024 – Modeling
 - i. LPV April 25, 2024
 - ii. OPV April 24, 2024
 - c. OPV Technical Workshop – April 30, 2024, 8:00 - 12:00
 - d. Workshop No. 3: September 2024 – 5-year Evaluation Review and Feedback
 - i. LPV September 2024
 - ii. OPV September 2024
 - e. Workshop No. 4 – November 2024 – GSP Amendment Review and Feedback
 - i. LPV November 2024
 - ii. OPV November 2024
2. Modeling and Data Analysis – July 2023 through June 2024
3. Board Meeting Discussions on Minimum Thresholds and Minimum Objectives - August 2024
4. Report Preparation – November 2023 through August 2024
 - a. Monitoring Network Review
 - b. New Information
 - c. Projects and Management Actions
 - d. Current Groundwater Conditions
 - e. Plan Element Review
 - f. Agency Action and Coordination
5. Report Review – August 2024 through November 2024
 - a. Public Review – August 2024
 - b. Final Draft Report– November 2024
 - c. Board and Public Discussions on Final Draft – October and November 2024
 - d. FCGMA Board Adoption of Evaluation – December 2024
 - e. Reports Submitted to DWR – January 13, 2025
6. GSP Amendment
 - a. Public Notice – tentatively scheduled for January 2025
 - b. Public Workshops

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that your Board receive and file this report and provide feedback as appropriate. This letter has been reviewed by Agency Counsel. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 654-3952.

Sincerely,


Robert Hampson
FCGMA Hydrologist