

# FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A State of California Water Agency



## 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*  
**Bert Perello**, *Councilperson, City of Oxnard*

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Jeff Pratt, P.E.**

September 27, 2023

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

**SUBJECT: REVISED Update on Las Posas Valley Basin Extraction Allocations for Water Year 2023-24 – (New Item)**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive an update and presentation on Las Posas Valley Basin extraction allocations for Water Year 2023-24 which begins October 1, 2023.

## DISCUSSION:

As discussed in the preceding agenda item, on September 13, 2023, the Santa Barbara Superior Court determined that the appeals recently filed and challenging the judgment in *Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition, et al. v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency*, Santa Barbara Sup. Ct. Case No. VENC100509700 (LPV Judgment), did not stay implementation of the LPV Judgment. Accordingly, Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA), acting as the Las Posas Valley Watermaster, has resumed implementing the LPV Judgment.

The LPV Judgment has determined and allocated all groundwater rights to the Las Posas Valley Basin. Importantly, the LPV Judgment will replace FCGMA's "An Ordinance to Establish an Extraction Allocation System for the Las Posas Valley Groundwater Basin" (LPV Allocation Ordinance), including existing extraction allocations. In its place, the LPV Judgment provides for the administration of water rights and several changes to FCGMA policies and practices, including, for example, new rules and requirements for water-use reporting, permanent and temporary transfers, calculation of carryover, assessments for overuse.

The LPV Judgment requires individual water right allocations to be calculated according to specific protocols and formulas each year. Annual allocations are also subject to review and consultation by the advisory committees created by the LPV Judgment. As explained in the previous item, FCGMA is currently scheduling initial organization meetings where landowner constituency groups will elect representatives to serve on the Policy Advisory Committee. The Policy Advisory Committee will then select the members of the Technical Advisory Committee. It is unclear when these committees will be formed, and their required consultation will be completed. Given these requirements, however, water right allocations for Water Year 2023-24 will not be available by October 1, 2023. Once allocations are calculated, and the committees complete their consultation, FCGMA will publish a chart of Water Year 2023-24 allocations to the LPV Watermaster website and notify water right holders.

---

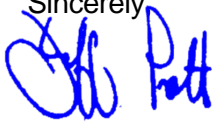
800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1610  
(805) 654-2014 or 645-1372 FAX: (805) 654-3350  
Website: [www.fcgma.org](http://www.fcgma.org)

Item 6 - Page 1 of 2

Note that the allocation bases set forth in the Groundwater Allocation Schedule (Exhibit C) attached to the LPV Judgment are not water right holders' allocations for Water Year 2023-24. The protocols and formulas for calculating annual water right allocations require consideration of the operating yield for the Las Posas Valley Basis. While the Groundwater Allocation Schedule (Exhibit C) attached to the LPV Judgment allocates more than 41,850 acre-feet per year (AFY) of allocation bases among water right holders, the LPV Judgment provides that the operating yield for Water Year 2023-24 will be 40,000 AFY. So, water right holders' Water Year 2023-24 allocations may be slightly less than their respective allocations bases set forth in the Groundwater Allocation Schedule.

This letter has been reviewed by Agency Counsel. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 654-2073.

Sincerely,



Jeff Pratt, P.E.  
Executive Officer