



PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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**AD HOC SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER PLANNING ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY **DRAFT****

Thursday, May 13, 2021, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Committee Members	
Present	Not Present
Kirk Schmidt, Chair	Tom Broz, Director, <i>Alternate</i>
Bob Culbertson, Director, Vice Chair	Sandra Hoppe
Amy Newell, Director	
Mary Bannister, Director	
Robert Rodoni	
Marla Anderson	
Mayra Hernandez, <i>Alternate</i>	
Jonathan Pilch	
Robert Johnson	
Christi Suchil	
Sandy Coplin	
Tannis Thorlakson	
Kyle Monper, <i>Alternate</i>	
Sierra Ryan	
Beau Kayser	
Gary Vincelet	
Staff & Other Attendees	
Brian Lockwood, General Manager (GM)	Cameron Tana, Montgomery & Associates
Gregory Kamman, cbec eco engineers	Ellen Cross, Strategy Driver, Inc.
Marcus Mendiola, Water Conservation and Outreach Specialist (WCOS)	Laura Taay, Administrative Analyst/Board Secretary
Margie Kay, Member of Public	Patrick Wickham, Montgomery & Associates
Rick Rogers, National Marine Fisheries Service	Amanda Peisch-Derby, Department of Water Resources
Heather Lukacs, Community Water Center	John Ricker, Member of the Public
Javier Zamora, Director	Martin Feeney, Consulting Hydrogeologist
Jessie Maxfield, California Department of Fish & Wildlife	Joel Casagrande, National Marine Fisheries Service

Michelaina Johnson, UCSC Graduate Student	Marino Hernandez, Water Resources Technician
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- **INTRODUCTIONS**

Meeting called to order at 2:02 p.m. Chair Schmidt and meeting facilitator Ms. Cross welcomed attendees. A roll call of GSU22 Committee Members was completed (attendance presented in the above table) along with a review of the current meeting objectives, guidelines, and the GSU22 schedule.

- **Received Correspondence**

Ms. Cross reported communication was received from a group of 37 petitioners, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and committee member Anderson. Ms. Cross noted that their feedback was considered and where appropriate addressed in the meeting materials, today's presentation and the Groundwater Levels (GWL) Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC). It was noted that NMFS Letter regarding Interconnected Surface Water was received on May 12th and Preliminary Responses would be addressed today with more discussion with NMFS following this meeting and will be reported out on at Meeting #9 in June.

- **Comments for Items Not on Agenda**

None received.

- **MANAGEMENT/GOVERNANCE**

- **Consider Corrections of GSU22 April 8th Meeting Summary**

None received.

- **Receive Report on PV Water Board Meeting**

GM provided a brief report on the April 21, 2021 [Board of Directors meeting](#).

- **GSU22 DEVELOPMENT**

- **Consider Groundwater Levels (GWLs) SMCs**

Mr. Tana presented a summary of the results from the Committee survey, reviewed the relationship of the GWLs SMCs to groundwater dependent ecosystems, and presented the proposed GWLs SMCs to the Committee for consideration and approval. Following public comments and a discussion about water quality, well function, seawater intrusion, the Salt & Nutrient Management Plan, future projects, and implementation timelines under SGMA, Director Newell moved to approve a recommendation that the Board of Directors adopt the following sustainable management criteria for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels; committee member Johnson seconded.

Sustainable Management Criteria for the Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels

- *Significant and unreasonable chronic lowering of groundwater levels occurs when groundwater levels decline such that a significant number of domestic, agricultural, or municipal wells, experience a long-term reduction in groundwater supply.*
- *The Minimum Threshold (MT) for GWL is the average of the 2 lowest annual minimum groundwater elevations from water year (WY) 2000-2020.*
- *An Undesirable Result for GWL occurs when any of the below occurs in either in the area within 1,000 feet of the Delivered Water Zone or in the area outside 1,000 feet of the Delivered Water Zone:*

- *More than 15% of Representative Monitoring Point (RMP) wells experience a drop in groundwater elevations below MT during 4 out of 5 consecutive years, or*
- *More than 20% of RMP wells experience a drop in groundwater elevations below MT during 3 out of 5 consecutive years, or*
- *More than 25% of RMP wells experience a drop in groundwater elevations below MT during 2 out of 5 consecutive years.*

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Ayes: Schmidt, Culbertson, Newell, Bannister, Vincelet, Kayser, Ryan, Rodoni, Coplin, Johnson, Anderson, Pilch, Suchil

Noes: Thorlakson

Abstain: None

Absent: Hoppe

Following the previous vote and preceding discussion, Director Newell moved to approve a recommendation that the Board of Directors adopt the following measurable objectives and interim milestones for chronic lowering of groundwater levels; committee member Suchil seconded.

- *The Measurable Objective (MO) for GWL is the average of 2016-2020 spring (March-May) groundwater measurements, plus the projected rise in average spring elevations between 2015-2018 and 2035-2040 as simulated by the Pajaro Valley Hydrologic Model (PVHM) in simulations of the Basin Management Plan (BMP) Update.*
- *Interim milestone (IM) for GWL incorporate increases simulated by the PVHM for the BMP Update over the following time frames:*
 - *2025 IM: The average of 2016-2020 spring groundwater elevations plus simulated average recovery in spring groundwater elevations between 2015-2018 and 2020-2025.*
 - *2030 IM: The average of 2016-2020 spring groundwater elevations plus simulated average recovery in spring groundwater elevations between 2015-2018 and 2025-2030.*
 - *2035 IM: The average of 2016-2020 spring groundwater elevations plus simulated average recovery in spring groundwater elevations between 2015-2018 and 2030-2035.*

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Ayes: Schmidt, Culbertson, Newell, Bannister, Vincelet, Kayser, Ryan, Rodoni, Coplin, Johnson, Anderson, Pilch, Suchil, Thorlakson

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hoppe

- **Consider and Approve Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) SMC**
Mr. Tana introduced Mr. Kamman who presented a summary of the ISW analysis, outlined consideration of groundwater dependent ecosystems in development of the ISW SMCs, and

presented the proposed ISW SMCs. Mr. Kamman also responded to the NMFS letter received May 12, 2021. Discussion and comments on the proposed ISW SMCs included the following topics:

- The amount of analysis of the Alluvial in relation to the Upper Aromas.
 - The amount/occurrence of groundwater pumping from the Alluvial aquifer and the basis for including wells in the Alluvial aquifer in water level monitoring.
 - Concern over the distribution and coverage of GWL representative monitoring points (RMPs), acknowledgement of the need for more monitoring wells.
 - Measureable Objectives being too optimistic.
 - A desire for staff and consultants to meet with NMFS before a vote is held on ISW SMCs.
 - Committee member Johnson made a motion to move approval of the proposed ISW SMCs, there was no second.
 - **Review Drought Resiliency Actions**
This item was postponed until the next meeting to accommodate NMFS discussion and due to time limitations.
 - **Review Schedule**
The current schedule was presented and briefly reviewed.
 - **Committee/Public Questions + Comments**
No additional comments or questions received.
 - **COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT (C&E)**
 - **Update on C&E Activities**
WCOS reported outreach is ongoing and an Agency newsletter will be issued in June.
 - **NEXT STEPS**
 - **Identify Agenda Items for Future Meetings**
None requested.
 - **Next GSU22 Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2021, 2:00 – 4:30 PM**
- Meeting Adjourned at 4:27 p.m.**