



PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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

Thursday, June 10, 2021, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Committee Members	
Present	Not Present
Kirk Schmidt, Chair	Tannis Thorlakson
Bob Culbertson, Director, Vice Chair	Gary Vincelet
Amy Newell, Director	Tom Broz, Director, <i>Alternate</i>
Mary Bannister, Director	
Robert Rodoni	
Marla Anderson	
Mayra Hernandez, <i>Alternate</i>	
Jonathan Pilch	
Robert Johnson	
Christi Suchil	
Sandy Coplin	
Sandra Hoppe	
Kyle Monper, <i>Alternate</i>	
Sierra Ryan	
Beau Kayser	
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)	Casey Meusel, Associate Hydrologist (AH)
Margie Kay, Member of Public	Daniel Castillo, Member of Public
Jessie Maxfield, California Department of Fish & Wildlife	Michelaina Johnson, UCSC Graduate Student

● **INTRODUCTIONS**

Meeting called to order at 2:05 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 email communication was received from Committee Member Anderson which was forwarded to the Committee at her request.

- **Comments for Items Not on Agenda**
Committee Member Pilch requested and received clarification of when and how groundwater dependent ecosystems were addressed by the GSU22 Committee.
- **MANAGEMENT/GOVERNANCE**
 - **Consider Corrections of GSU22 April 8th Meeting Summary**
Committee Member Alternate Hernandez stated that Committee Member Anderson, who was not yet identified, had issue with her vote on chronic lowering of groundwater levels sustainable management criteria (SMC) at Meeting #8 and she will provide a letter describing the issue. No corrections were requested.
 - **Receive Report on PV Water Board Meeting**
GM Lockwood provided a brief report on the May 19, 2021 [Board of Directors meeting](#).
- **GSU22 DEVELOPMENT**
 - **Consider and Approve Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) SMC**
Mr. Tana introduced Mr. Kamman who reviewed findings from the ISW analysis and summarized the project team's two meetings with regulatory agency representatives from California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Department of Water Resources (DWR). DWR provided feedback that led to revision of qualitative statement of significant and unreasonable conditions in the proposed ISW SMC. Ms. Maxfield of CDFW confirmed the descriptions of the meetings. Mr. Kamman then presented the proposed ISW SMC to the Committee for consideration and approval. Following public comments and discussion about representative monitoring point locations, the nature of hydraulic connection between the Aromas and Alluvial aquifers, future monitoring efforts, neighboring basin ISW findings, and monitoring plan development, Committee Member Ryan moved to approve a recommendation that the Board of Directors adopt the following ISW SMC; Committee Member Newell seconded.

Interconnected Surface Water Sustainable Management Criteria

- *Significant and unreasonable depletions of interconnected surface waters occur when pumping groundwater in the Aromas aquifer causes depletions of interconnected surface waters greater than what occurred during Water Years 2000-2015 in surface waters typically interconnected with groundwater in the Aromas aquifer during Water Years 2000-2015.*
- *Analysis of best available information indicate no potential for significant and unreasonable conditions for ISW in the Basin.*
 - Minimum thresholds for depletion of ISW are not necessary.*
 - Undesirable results for depletion of ISW are not necessary.*
- *Measurable objectives are set to raise groundwater to the adjacent channel bed elevations to increase the frequency and duration of ISW between the Aromas aquifer and surface water in the Basin where reasonably achievable with implementation of the BMP Update.*

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Ayes: Schmidt, Culbertson, Newell, Bannister, Kayser, Ryan, Rodoni, Coplin, Hoppe, Monper, Hernandez, Johnson, Pilch, Suchil

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Vincelet

○ **Review and Consider Land Subsidence Recommendations**

Mr. Tana presented a summary of the land subsidence analysis and presented the proposed subsidence recommendation to the Committee for consideration and approval. Following opportunity for public comment and discussion, Committee Member Johnson moved to approve a recommendation that the Board of Directors adopt the following statement on land subsidence; Committee Member Suchil seconded.

- *It is reaffirmed that sustainable management criteria for subsidence are not needed for the Basin based on the preliminary results of the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) evaluation of subsidence presented to the GSU22 Committee meeting on December 15, 2020 confirming the lack of observed permanent subsidence in the Pajaro Valley Subbasin (Basin).*

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Ayes: Schmidt, Culbertson, Newell, Bannister, Kayser, Ryan, Rodoni, Coplin, Hoppe, Monper, Hernandez, Johnson, Pilch, Suchil

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Vincelet

○ **Review and Consider Drought Resiliency Actions**

Mr. Tana presented a summary drought resiliency actions being implemented and that are described in the associated technical memorandum. Following public comments and discussion about drought and dry year characterization, surface water quality, surface water project yields, frequency of resiliency evaluations, current dry conditions, pumping restrictions, well failure mitigation, water level monitoring, and unmetered pumping. Chair Schmidt questioned need for committee to vote on this item. Committee Member Newell moved to approve a recommendation that the Board of Directors adopt the following statement on drought resiliency actions; Committee Member Johnson seconded.

- *The 2014 Basin Management Plan Update includes drought resiliency actions that provide resiliency for achieving the sustainability goal of the Pajaro Valley Subbasin.*

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Ayes: Culbertson, Newell, Bannister, Kayser, Ryan, Rodoni, Coplin, Hoppe, Monper, Johnson, Suchil

Noes: Anderson

Abstain: Schmidt

Absent: Vincelet, Pilch

- **Review Schedule**
The current schedule was presented which includes a September meeting to allow the Committee to review entire GSU22 document prior to the Board of Director consideration.
- **Committee/Public Questions + Comments**
The potential for in-person meetings was discussed.

- **COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT (C&E)**
 - **Update on C&E Activities**
WCOS Mendiola reported outreach is ongoing and an agency newsletter summarizing GSU22 effort will be sent to residents this month. WCOS Mendiola also noted recent outreach efforts to Rural Residents for Water and an offer to host a meeting with the group.

- **NEXT STEPS**
 - **Identify Agenda Items for Future Meetings**
None requested.
 - **Next GSU22 Committee Meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2021, 2:00 – 4:30 PM**
 - **Board of Directors Meeting to propose approve recommendations from GSU22 Committee is scheduled for July 21, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting Adjourned at 3:35 p.m.