

# MINUTES OF THE YUCAIPA SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## Board Meeting – July 31, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.

This Board meeting was held at the City of Yucaipa, 34272 Yucaipa Boulevard, Yucaipa, California.

- I. Call to Order - Chairman Mark Iverson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
- II. Roll Call - The following representatives, as assigned by each Party, attended the meeting:

Purveyors	Present	Primary Representative	Present	Alternative Representative
South Mesa Water Company	✓	David Armstrong	✓	Brittany Lim
South Mountain Water Company	✓	Allison Edmisten	✓	Brett Granlund
Western Heights Water Company	✓	Mark Iverson	✓	Brooke Shorey
Yucaipa Valley Water District	✓	Joseph Zoba	✓	Jennifer Ares
Municipals				
City of Redlands	✓	John Harris	✓	Paul Mariscal
City of Yucaipa	✓	Chris Mann	✓	Fermin Preciado
Regionals				
San Bernardino Valley MWD	✓	Michael Plinski	✓	Adekunle Ojo
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	✓	Lance Eckhart	✓	Emmett Campbell
Stakeholders				
County of Riverside		Steve Horn		Jeff Johnson
County of San Bernardino		Bob Page		
City of Calimesa		Wil Kolbow		

A quorum of the Board of Directors was present to start the meeting.

In addition to the Board of Directors identified above, the following members of the public were registered as attending the meeting:

Jonathan Bastedo, Private Well Owner  
Madeline Blua, YVWD  
Thomas and Christine Breese, Private Well Owner  
Debra Brown, Private Well Owner  
Mark Buster, Private Well Owner  
Cristy Cacucciolo, Private Well Owner  
Wayne Challis, Private Well Owner  
Kent Colby, Private Well Owner  
Joe Corney, Private Well Owner  
Silvia Cuencol, Private Well Owner  
S. Doucette, Oak Glen Resident  
Ron Duncan, SGPWA

Joyce McIntire, YVWD  
Aggie and Steve Morse, Private Well Owner  
Jim and Carol Oedekerker, Private Well Owner  
Paul Plaxton, Private Well Owner  
Devon Riley, Private Well Owner  
Stephen Rogers, Private Well Owner  
Cesar Roldan, Private Well Owner  
Elizabeth Schreckengost, Private Well Owner  
Steven Stuart, Dudek  
DeEsta West, Private Well Owner  
Greg Wessels, Private Well Owner

David Duron, Private Well Owner  
Glenn and Cindi Foster, Private Well Owner  
Matt Howard, SGPWA  
Mike Kostelecky, YVWD

Sherri Wilson, Private Well Owner  
Jim Wolfe, Private Well Owner  
Allen, Private Well Owner  
Terry, Private Well Owner

III. Public Comment

Chairman Iverson deferred public comment until item V. B. Private Well Owner Outreach

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from April 24, 2024, were postponed for approval until the October 30, 2024 meeting at the request of Dave Armstrong. The request was to include more discussion from item V. C. Update on YVWD becoming Major Shareholder of South Mountain Water Company. Dave Armstrong will provide language that has been requested to be added to the meeting minutes.

V. Discussion Items

A. Update on 2024 WY Conditions in the Yucaipa Subbasin

Steve Stuart provided an overview of the USGS weather stations, the conditions in the North Bench Management Area, the Calimesa Management Area, and the Western Heights Management Area.

B. Update on Private Well Owner Outreach

Steve Stuart provided an overview of the private well owner outreach responses. He reported on the number of responses received and the amount of information provided by each private well owner.

Comments from the Public:

- Devon Riley - The Yucaipa GSA should monitor the water coming out of the creek running through his yard, not his private well. We are the lowest user, the lowest water user as shown on the projections presented in the presentation. He is upstream and he currently has four dry wells. Drought is not a problem, it's the population increasing in the area. Also, lateral wells are no longer producing.
- Terry - Why is Yucaipa Valley Water District selling water to Western Heights Mutual Water Company? Chairman Iverson clarified it's imported water, not local water from the basin. Brett Granlund stated that Yucaipa Valley Water District has a drinking water treatment plant which treats imported water. The Wilson Creek and Oak Glen Creek basins also utilize imported water for storage. It's not water from the Oak Glen community.
- Cristy Cacucciolo - The residents of Oak Glen pay for water through electricity and treatment. What is the end goal for wanting the information? Chairman Iverson stated there is no charge for private well owners. The information is needed to know the current conditions of the basin. What do the pumping credits mean? There is already a well ordinance? What does that mean? Also, many residents did not get the correspondence. Were people left out on purpose? Iverson stated, another workshop can be scheduled to understand the
- Jim Wolfe – The board packet discussed pumping credits. That is a concern. How is the GSA going to define the pumping credits? Chairman Iverson clarified the pumping credits were for the retailers, not necessarily the private well owners. He

added the GSA is mandated by the State of California and the Yucaipa GSA is complying to the requirements of SGMA, developed by the State. Brett Granlund added the purchase of water is from San Geronimo Pass in Riverside County and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District in San Bernardino County. Lance Eckhart also added this regulatory framework stemmed from the Central Valley and the depleted groundwater as a result of agricultural practices and aging infrastructure with private wells along with adjudicated basins in the high desert areas. Michael Plinski added the State is trying to manage a finite resource and this procedure is an accounting process to understand the local resources.

- Allen – Expressed concern about metering of the wells in the future since there were past attempts to meter the private wells.
- Kent Colby – The Oak Glen residents have septic systems, and the water is reintroduced into the basin. Privacy is important and he does not want agencies on his property. Also drilling a well costs approximately \$40,000.
- David Duron – Agricultural practices and septic systems have added a lot of nitrates to the water. He also asked about the water coming from Oak Glen and would it water the downstream orchards. Jennifer Ares stated that the Yucaipa Valley Water District is expanding their recycled water program to provide a drought proof source of water for the area. There are no plans to drill new potable production wells in the Oak Glen area.
- Mark Buster – Who will be the reasonable water use “police.” Mark Iverson discussed the well ordinance and restrictions. Western Heights Mutual Water Company completed a well request recently and the new well had restrictions that coincided with protecting the basin. For example, only 2 acre-feet a year of production. Mike also added that he understands SGMA is well intended but he feels it opens the door for more private well user regulations. Mark Iverson stated the well survey responses are not mandatory. This exercise is to obtain information that is intended to actually protect the private well users.
- Miscellaneous Comments:
  - One resident stated they will provide annual consumption but not the additional information that was requested in the survey.
  - Another resident stated there is plenty of rain and we need reservoirs. The majority of the group disagreed that there isn't plenty of rain consistently and reliably.
  - Another resident stated in the early 1980's Yucaipa Valley Water District sent cease and desist letters regarding well drilling in Oak Glen. She also added that Oak Glen residents also paid for sewer fees without the service.

A workshop will be scheduled on September 25, 2024 to discuss the private well owner information further.

#### C. Discussion on DWR Recommended Corrective Actions for the GSP

Steve Stuart provided an overview of the nine corrective actions recommended by the

Department of Water Resources as part of the Approval Notice provided to the Yucaipa GSA on January 18, 2024.

D. Discussion on Developing Policy to Transfer Pumping Credits in the Yucaipa Subbasin

Steve Stuart led a discussion about the transfer of pumping credits in the Yucaipa Subbasin. Pursuant to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, Chapter 4, Section 4.2.2., Management Action No. 2 - Sustainable Yield Pumping Allocations and Groundwater Replenishment, "The Yucaipa GSA is continuing discussions on implementing a policy that will allow the transferability of pumping credits between groundwater users within a given management area or within the Subbasin."

Steve Stuart provided a preliminary framework outlining the opportunities and constraints associated with the transfer of pumping credits. This item will be discussed further at a future meeting and/or community workshop.

E. Update of the Well Ordinance for Yucaipa Subbasin and Resolution to Adopt Well Ordinance

Steve Stuart provided an overview of the well ordinance and associated resolution. The board members reached a consensus that the well ordinance and resolution will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting and/or workshop.

F. Discussion of City of Redlands Withdrawing from the Yucaipa GSA

Steve Stuart discussed the withdrawal request from the City of Redlands. The request letter was sent on June 5, 2024 which begins the 90-day written withdrawal notice to all Yucaipa GSA Parties subject to the conditions of Section IX of the MOA. The official date that the City of Redlands withdraws from the GSA is September 3, 2024. This also reallocates the portion of GSA expenses covered by the municipalities and regionals.

G. Consideration of Dudek Proposal to Prepare the 2024 WY Annual GSP Update Report

Steve Stuart discussed the deliverables and agency cost-share to prepare the 2024 Annual GSP Report.

Lance Eckhart moved to approve the Dudek Proposal to Prepare the 2024 WY Annual GSP Update Report

Jennifer Ares seconded the motion.

South Mesa Water Company	Yes
South Mountain Water Company	Yes
Western Heights Water Company	Yes
Yucaipa Valley Water District	Yes
City of Redlands	
City of Yucaipa	Yes
San Bernardino Valley MWD	Yes
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	Yes

VI. Topics for Future Meetings - The following topics were listed for discussion at a future meeting.

- Community Workshop to Discuss Private Well Owner Outreach
- Policy for transferring pumping credits between groundwater users.
- Consideration of the groundwater well ordinance and resolution

VII. Comments by the Board of Directors

None

VIII. Announcements

The next scheduled meeting of the Yucaipa Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency will be on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 10:30 am.

Future board meetings are scheduled on the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 10:30 am - Board Meeting
- Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 10:30 am - Board Meeting
- Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 10:30 am – Board Meeting

IX. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.