

MINUTES OF THE YUCAIPA SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Board Meeting – October 30, 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 attendees at the meeting:

Ron Duncan, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
David Duron
Micah Knox, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Michele Lieux
Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Yasmeen Nubani, Ortega Strategies Group
Nate Scheevel, Scheevel Engineering
Larry Smith, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Steven Stuart, Dudek
Jay West

III. Public Comment:

None

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Allison Edmisten moved to approve the meeting minutes from April 24, 2024, and July 31, 2024.

David Armstrong 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 Geronio Pass Water Agency	Yes

V. Discussion Items

A. Summary of Conditions in the Yucaipa Subbasin for the 2023-2024 WY

Steve Stuart provided an overview of the climate stations located in the Yucaipa Basin Watershed. Precipitation during the last water year ranged from 23.17 at the Yucaipa NOAA monitoring station at an elevation of 2,776 feet, to a low of 18.84 inches at the County Line Road monitoring station at an elevation of 2,362 feet. Rainfall at the Redlands NOAA monitoring station was 15.15 inches at an elevation of 1,417 feet. Overall, the mean rainfall for the Yucaipa Basin was 19.53 inches which is 125% of normal rainfall of 15.58 inches.

In the North Bench Management Area, water spreading operations exceeded the past five years with about 6,400 acre feet of water recharged into the basin. Municipal pumping by Yucaipa Valley Water District exceeded the Sustainable Pumping Allocation, but sufficient pumping credits exist, and water levels in the Management Area are continuing to trend upwards.

In the Calimesa Management Area, municipal groundwater extractions were below the Sustainable Pumping Allocation for Yucaipa Valley Water District, South Mesa Water Company, and South Mountain Water Company. Private groundwater extractions were above their allotted Sustainable Pumping Allocation. Groundwater elevation trends are continuing to generally increase in the Calimesa Management Area.

In the Western Heights Management Area, the municipal pumping by Western Heights Water Company was less than the Sustainable Pumping Allocation which resulted in upward trends for groundwater elevations in the area.

In the San Timoteo Management Area, the depth to water continued to be above the measurable objective.

B. Presentation on Potential Stream Gaging Stations in Yucaipa Subbasin and Consideration of Next Steps for Funding

Nate Scheevel from Scheevel Engineering provided a presentation focused on stream gaging options and considerations for the Yucaipa Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Nate Scheevel discussed different types of stream gages, their costs, accuracy, and maintenance requirements. The presentation covered various stream gage options, ranging from basic measuring devices to more complex systems with rating curves and direct flow measurement structures like weirs and flumes. Mr. Scheevel emphasized the trade-offs between upfront capital costs and long-term operation and maintenance (O&M) expenses. He also discussed factors affecting gage selection, such as flow variability, channel characteristics, and desired accuracy.

A key focus was the California Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP), which offers grant funding for installing, upgrading, or reactivating stream gages. The program requires gages to be telemetered to the State's data exchange center and maintained at least six times per year. Mr. Scheevel presented the current status of CalSIP applications across California and outlined the program's schedule.

Two potential gage sites for the Yucaipa GSA were discussed: Live Oak Canyon Road and San Timoteo Canyon Road. For each site, various alternatives were presented with estimated costs and considerations. The Live Oak Canyon site options ranged from a simple pipe flow rating (under \$50,000) to a new bridge with a weir or flume (over \$3 million). The San Timoteo Canyon site alternatives included rating the existing high flow (under \$50,000) to constructing a new weir or flume (over \$5 million).

The discussion highlighted the need to balance data quality, cost, and long-term maintenance commitments when selecting a stream gaging approach.

C. Ratification of Board Approval of Dudek's Proposal to Participate at Private Well Owner Workshop

Steve Stuart discussed the work performed by Dudek related to the preparation and participation in the private well owner workshop on September 25, 2024.

David Armstrong moved to ratify the Dudek contract for this work in the amount of \$12,280. The motion was seconded by Mike Plinski.

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 Geronio Pass Water Agency	Yes

D. Update on Private Well Owner Outreach & Workshop

Steve Stuart provided an overview of the outreach efforts and workshop held for the benefit of the Private Well Owners. There was a general consensus to conduct an annual community meeting to discuss the current issues and progress of the Yucaipa Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency with the community each Spring.

E. Update on Executive Order N-3-24 and Draft Well Ordinance

Steve Stuart discussed the issuance of Executive Order N-3-24, which terminated the drought state of emergency in most counties and provisions in previous executive orders that required GSAs to review well permit applications. The draft well ordinance will be revised to exclude references to the terminated executive orders, but retain the requirements for new wells to include a flow meter, sounding port, and sampling port. There was a general consensus to request that San Bernardino and Riverside counties continue to provide the GSA with copies of well permit applications to stay apprised of the installation or refurbishments of wells in the Yucaipa Subbasin.

F. Consideration of Resolution Accepting the Withdrawal of the City of Redlands from the Yucaipa GSA.

Steve Stuart presented the background related to Resolution No. 2024-01.

Joseph Zoba moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-01 accepting the withdrawal of the City of Redlands from the Yucaipa Groundwater Sustainability Agency. The motion was seconded by Allison Edmisten.

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

G. Consideration of Dudek Proposal to Prepare for and Participate in Pumping Credits Workshop

Steve Stuart provided an overview of Dudek's preparation and participation in the Pumping Credits Workshop scheduled for November 20, 2024.

Joseph Zoba moved to approve the proposal from Dudek for a sum not to exceed \$9,000. The motion was seconded by David Armstrong.

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

H. Consideration of Dudek Proposal to Address DWR Recommended Corrective Actions #3, # 4, 5, and #6 for the GSP

Steve Stuart provided an overview of the planned responses to the recommended actions suggested by the Department of Water Resources in correspondence dated January 18, 2024.

There was a general consensus to further discuss this item to best determine how to best respond to the nine recommended corrective actions suggested by the Department of Water Resources.

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

- 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 a workshop on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 10:30 am.

Future board meetings are scheduled for 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
- Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 10:30 am - Board Meeting
- Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 10:30 am - Board Meeting

IX. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.