3.2.6 Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water – Undesirable Results

Under SGMA, depletions of surface waters interconnected with groundwater in the OVGB that have significant and adverse impacts on beneficial uses of surface waters constitute an undesirable result (CWC Section 10721(x)(6)). As discussed in Chapter 2, Section 2.3.4.6, Groundwater–Surface Water Connections, the interaction between groundwater and surface water within the OVGB is currently being studied. Available data indicate the primary production aquifer in the southern and western portion of the OVGB is confined and separated from the shallow perched aquifer. The shallow perched aquifer is in hydraulic connection with surface water of San Antonio Creek. However, available stream gauge and shallow monitoring well data are limited in temporal resolution (i.e., short length of record and/or coarse measurement interval) and additional data are needed to quantify the degree of stream-aquifer connectivity. Monitoring of groundwater levels and stream discharge and stage, as well as field investigations to assess the degree of interconnection between surface water and groundwater are warranted and ongoing.

As discussed in Chapter 2, Section 2.3.4.7, Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems, 12 priority potential groundwater dependent ecosystems that could be impacted by groundwater production were identified in the OVGB. The habitats consist of coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*); riparian mixed hardwood; willow (*Salix spp.*); valley oak (*Quercus lobata*); riversidean alluvial scrub; palustrine, scrub-shrub, seasonally flooded; and riverine, unknown perennial, unconsolidated bottom, semi-permanently flooded vegetation and wetland communities located near or along the bed and bank of the perennial reach of San Antonio Creek. Because available information suggests a potential nexus between the health of the mapped potential GDEs and groundwater levels, field studies to verify dependence on groundwater are warranted. Undesirable results with respect to depletions of interconnected surface water would be considered significant and unreasonable if such depletions cause a decline or permanent loss of identified GDEs.

The steps that will be taken to fill data gaps and support development of minimum thresholds and measurable objectives as they relate to depletion of interconnected surface water and GDEs are discussed in Section 3.5.7.2, Identification of Data Gaps.

3.3 MINIMUM THRESHOLDS

A minimum threshold refers to a numeric value for each sustainability indicator used to define undesirable results (Title 23 CCR Section 351(t)). A GSP must establish minimum thresholds that quantify groundwater conditions for each applicable sustainability indicator at each monitoring site or representative monitoring site. The numeric value used to define minimum thresholds shall represent a point in the basin that, if exceeded, may cause undesirable results (Title 23 CCR Section 354.28(a)).

A GSA may establish a representative minimum threshold for groundwater elevation to serve as the value for multiple sustainability indicators, where the GSA can demonstrate the representative value is a reasonable proxy for multiple individual minimum thresholds as supported by adequate evidence (Title 23 CCR Section 354.28(d)). Minimum thresholds are not required for sustainability indicators that are not present and not likely to occur in the OVGB (Title 23 CCR Section 354.28(e)).

Per Title 23 CCR Section 354.28(b), the description of minimum thresholds shall include the following:

1. The information and criteria relied upon to establish and justify the minimum thresholds for each sustainability indicator. The justification for the minimum threshold shall be supported by information provided in the basin setting, and other data or models as appropriate, and qualified by uncertainty in the understanding of the basin setting.
2. The relationship between the minimum thresholds for each sustainability indicator, including an explanation of how the Agency has determined that basin conditions at each minimum threshold will avoid undesirable results for each of the sustainability indicators.
3. How minimum thresholds have been selected to avoid causing undesirable results in adjacent basins or affecting the ability of adjacent basins to achieve sustainability goals.
4. How minimum thresholds may affect the interests of beneficial uses and users of groundwater or land uses and property interests.
5. How state, federal, or local standards relate to the relevant sustainability indicator. If the minimum threshold differs from other regulatory standards, the Agency shall explain the nature of and basis for the difference.
6. How each minimum threshold will be quantitatively measured, consistent with the monitoring network requirements described in [the GSP Regulations].

The following sections address minimum thresholds for each sustainability indicator.

3.3.1 Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels – Minimum Thresholds

3.3.1.1 Minimum Threshold Justification

The GSP regulations provide that the "minimum threshold for chronic lowering of groundwater levels shall be the groundwater level indicating a depletion of supply at a given location that may lead to undesirable results" (Title 23 CCR Section 354.28(c)(2)).

Chronic lowering of groundwater levels in the OVGB, as discussed in Section 3.2.1, Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels – Undesirable Results, cause significant and unreasonable declines if they are sufficient in magnitude to lower the rate of production of existing groundwater wells below that necessary to meet the minimum required to support the overlying beneficial uses, where alternative means of obtaining sufficient groundwater resources or local surface water resources from Lake Casitas are not technically or financially feasible for the well owner to absorb, either independently or with assistance from the OBGMA, or other available assistance/grant program(s). Therefore, groundwater elevations will be managed to ensure the aquifers in the OVGB are not depleted in a manner that causes significant and unreasonable impacts to other sustainability indicators.

Maintaining groundwater levels above recorded historical low static levels at RMPs during multi-year drought conditions was selected as the minimum desired threshold for groundwater elevations that would be protective of beneficial uses in the OVGB. These minimum thresholds would be protective of all potable and non-potable beneficial uses because undesirable results have not historically occurred at these levels.

The minimum thresholds for chronic lowering of groundwater levels are also intended to protect against significant and unreasonable impacts to groundwater storage volumes and groundwater quality. The development of the minimum thresholds for chronic lowering of groundwater levels included review of the hydrogeologic conceptual model, climate, current and historical groundwater conditions including groundwater level trends and groundwater quality, land subsidence data, interconnected surface water and the water budget as discussed in Chapter 2, Plan Area and Basin Setting.

As previously discussed, the climate in the OVGB is both highly variable and has a decadal periodicity (Chapter 2, Section 2.2.3.1, Precipitation). Further, applying DWR change factors for projected climate conditions in 2030 and 2070 to the historical precipitation record for the Ojai station (Station No. USC00046399) from water year 1916 to 2019 indicates the number of extreme wet and dry water years is predicted to increase. Historical precipitation data from the Ojai station indicates that the period from water year 2012 to 2016 was the driest consecutive five-year period on record. During this time, groundwater elevations in the OVGB approached historical lows (Figure 2-19, Hydrographs for Select Wells and Appendix D, Groundwater Level Hydrographs). Well 04N22W05L008S located in the central part of the OVGB has the longest and most continuous groundwater elevation record spanning from October 1949 to present. The lowest groundwater level recorded in well 04N22W05L008S was approximately 312 feet below ground surface (bgs) in September 1951. In December 2016 the groundwater level in well 04N22W05L008S reached a low of 287 feet bgs, which is approximately 25 feet higher, or approximately 10% less, than the September 1951 historical low. Assuming a repeat of historical climate conditions, the record low static groundwater levels measured at RMPs during the 2012 to 2016 drought, with a 10% buffer

applied to correct for the OVGB record low groundwater level as measured in well 04N22W05L008S in September 1951, are established as the minimum thresholds to avoid the undesirable results of chronic lowering of groundwater levels.

The minimum thresholds represent groundwater elevations in the OVGB that, if exceeded at multiple wells for a duration of greater than one year, may cause undesirable results. The one year criterion is based on the rapid recovery of groundwater levels and groundwater in storage observed in average and wet water years. The one year period also provides the OBGMA sufficient time to implement management actions to reduce groundwater extraction and conserve groundwater supplies. Groundwater level minimum thresholds at RMPs are presented in Figure 3-1, Historical Groundwater Levels and Minimum Thresholds at Representative Monitoring Points and Table 3-2, Minimum Thresholds for Groundwater Levels. Table 3-2 also provides the well use, well depth, top of screen, bottom of screen, and surface elevation. The locations of the RMPs are shown in Figure 3-2, Representative Monitoring Points.

Table 3-2
Minimum Thresholds for Groundwater Levels

Well Name	SWN	Well Use	Well Depth (feet)	Top of Screen (feet bgs)	Bottom of Screen (feet bgs)	Reference Point Elevation (feet amsl)	Minimum Threshold (feet bgs)	Minimum Threshold (feet amsl)
Elrod Well	04N22W05L003S	Agricultural	632	236	620	879.00[a]	315.8	576.3
Topa Topa Ranch Well No. 5	04N22W04Q001S	Agricultural	970	102	920	1,045.50[b]	129.6	915.9
Lagomarsino Well	04N22W06E006S	Agricultural	454	105	415	847.00[a]	TBD	TBD
Hansen Well	04N23W01J003S	Agricultural	400[c]	250	400	784.50[a]	217.0	567.5
Mutual Well 4	04N22W06K003S	Municipal	600	150	580	801.80[b]	245.3	556.5
SACSGRP DDMW	05N22W32P003S	Monitoring	210	190	210	976.00[b]	204.4	771.6

Notes: SWN = state well number; bgs = below ground surface; amsl = mean sea level; — = not available; TBD = To be Determined.

[a] Estimated elevation of ground surface based on Google Earth. Well reference point and ground surface elevation will be surveyed in future.

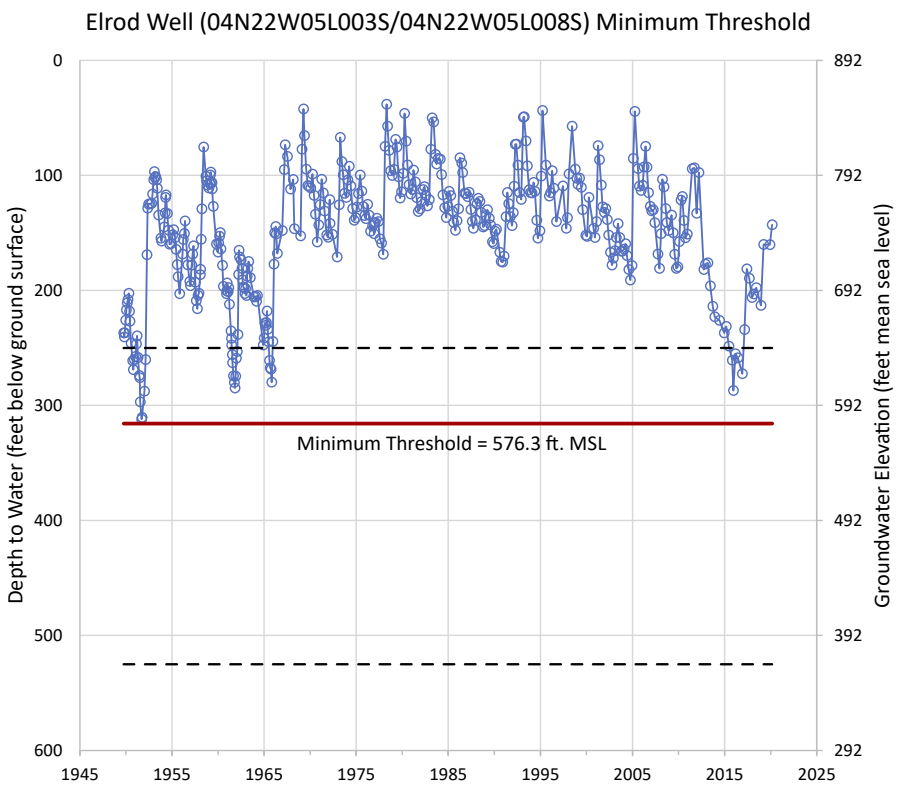
[b] Well reference point elevation as reported by Ventura County Watershed Protection District (Dorrington pers. comm.).

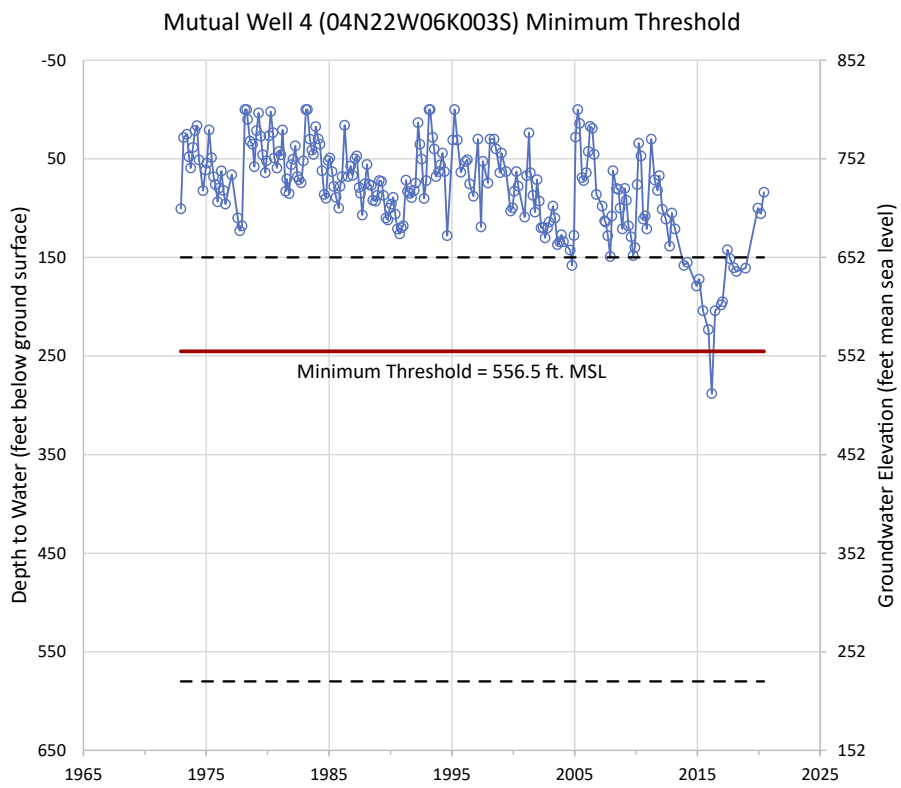
[c] Total well depth and screen interval are approximate. Well needs to be video surveyed to confirm depth and screen interval(s).

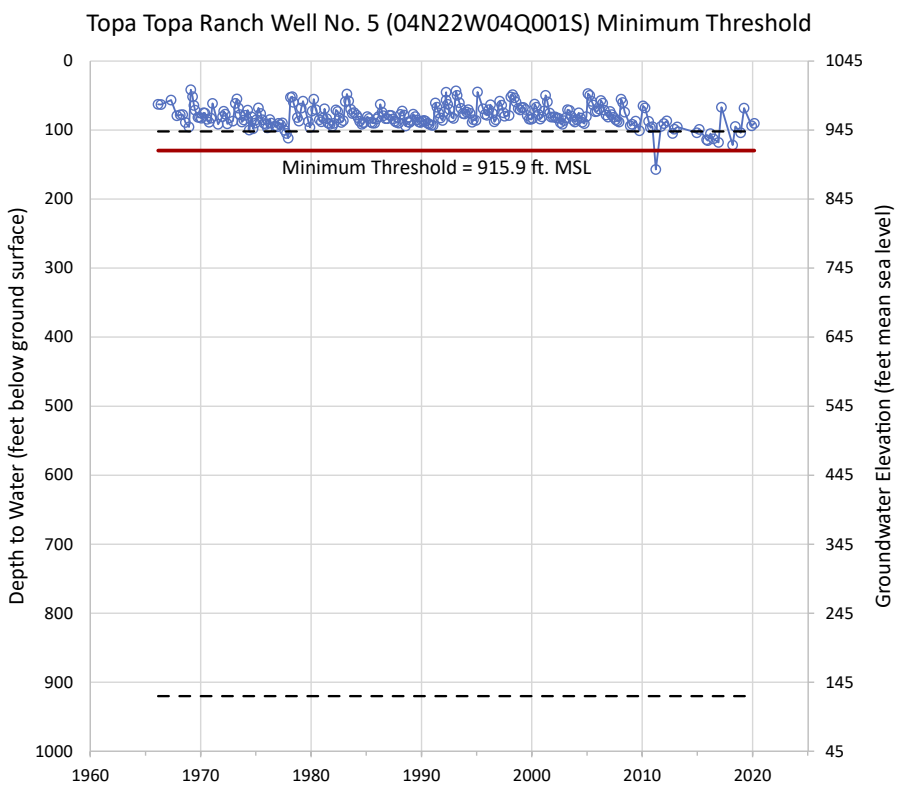
Since February 2017 the OBGMA has monitored groundwater levels in the Elrod Well using a pressure transducer and data logger. The Elrod Well is located approximately 640 feet west of well 04N22W05L008S. The Elrod Well is at an elevation of approximately 879 feet amsl and well 04N22W05L008S is at an elevation of approximately 892 feet. The Elrod Well and well 04N22W05L008S are completed in the same aquifer and groundwater level data from the wells

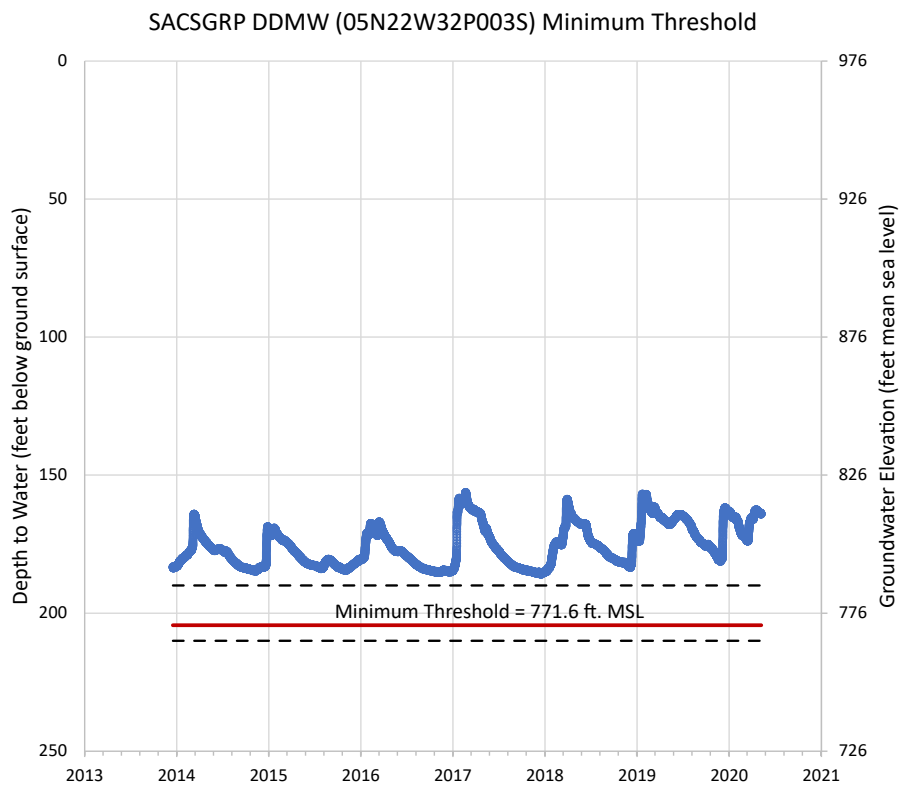
exhibit a similar trend. Due to reported access issues at well 04N22W05L008S that prevent installation of a pressure transducer and data logger, the Elrod Well was selected as a representative monitoring point. The minimum threshold established at the Elrod Well is based on the historical groundwater level record of well 04N22W05L008S, and accounts for the difference in land surface elevation of approximately 13 feet between the two wells.

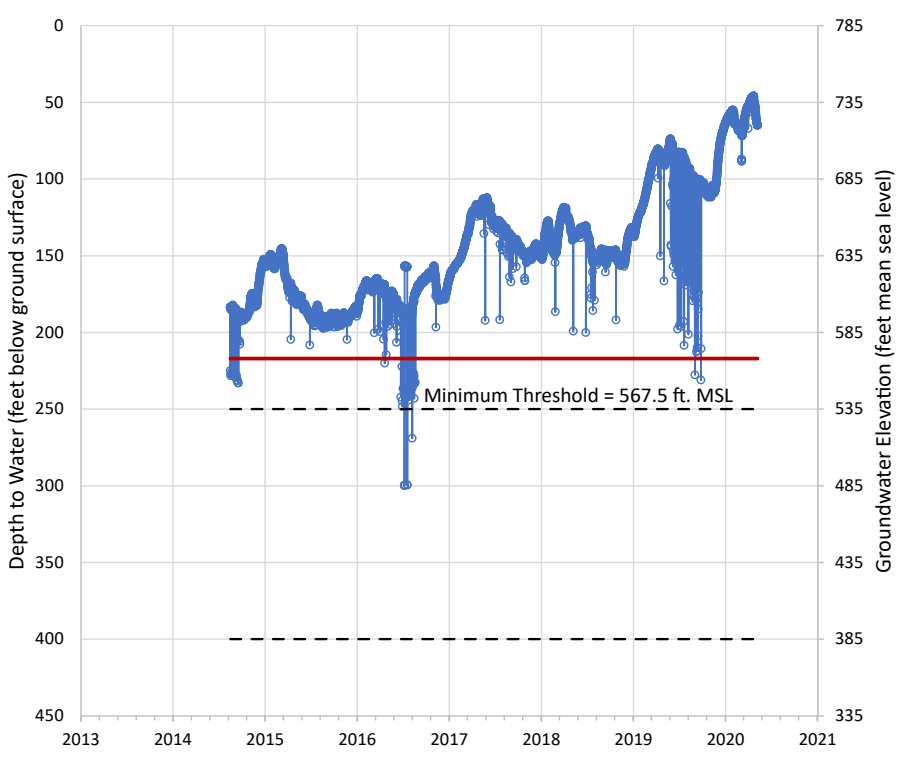
The OBGMA will evaluate the minimum thresholds and measurable objectives at least every 5 years based on the preceding GSP implementation period climate and measured groundwater extractions to determine the likelihood that the GSP will maintain the sustainability goal. The OBGMA will revisit minimum thresholds and/or evaluate implementation of identified PMAs if the minimum thresholds in Table 3-2 are exceeded. Furthermore, RMPs could be added or replaced for the purpose of minimum threshold compliance monitoring as new data become available.

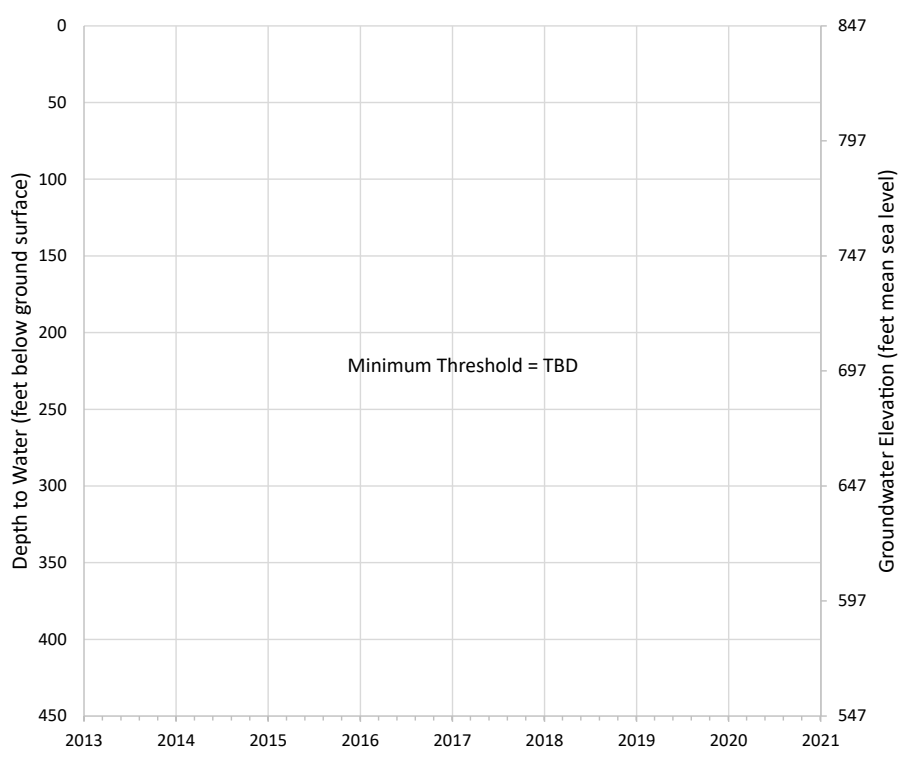












Groundwater Level — Minimum Threshold — - - - Top/Bottom of Screen

SOURCE: VCWPD; OBGMA

FIGURE 3-1

Historical Groundwater Levels and Minimum Thresholds at Representative Monitoring Points

Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin

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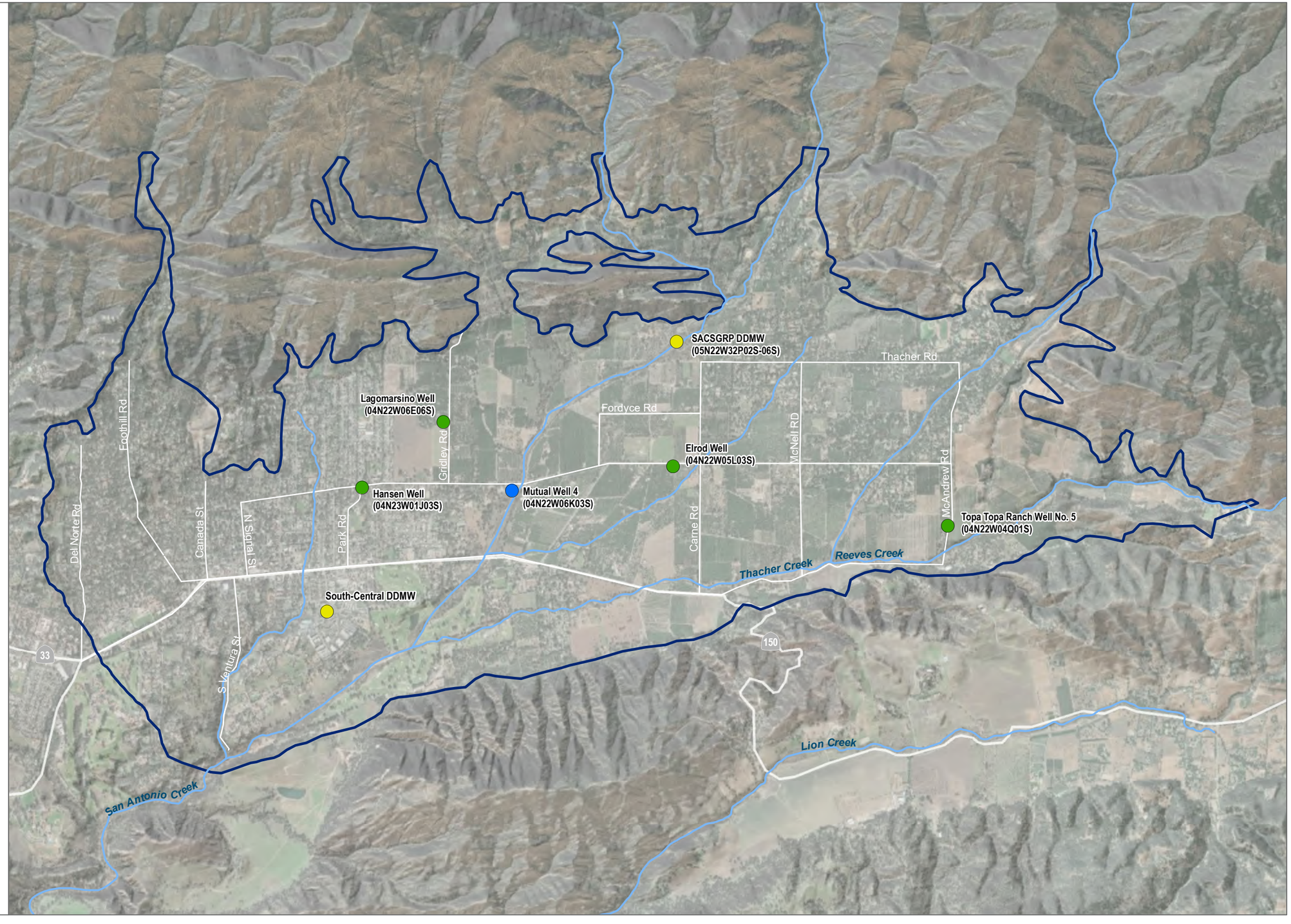
Legend

- Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin (4-002)

Representative Monitoring Point

Well Type

- Agricultural
- Municipal
- Monitoring



DRAFT

DATUM: NAD 1983 DATA SOURCE: ESRI; DWR; USGS; VCWPD; OBGMA

DUDEK

0 0.5 1 Miles

FIGURE 3-2

Representative Monitoring Points

Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin

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3.3.1.2 Relationship between Minimum Thresholds and Sustainability Indicator(s)

a. Relationship between the established minimum thresholds and the Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Sustainability Indicator

   The wells described in Table 3-2 are in locations that reflect a wide cross section of OVGB conditions. These locations are representative of overall OVGB conditions because they are spatially distributed throughout the OVGB both vertically (across aquifers) and laterally. The OBGMA has determined that maintenance of groundwater elevations above the minimum elevation thresholds at each of the listed monitoring site locations will help avoid the undesirable results of chronic lowering of groundwater levels, because it will minimize the chance that access to adequate water resources for beneficial users within the OVGB will be compromised.

b. Relationship between the established minimum thresholds and the other sustainability indicators applicable to the OVGB.

   Use of groundwater elevations at the wells outlined in Table 3-2, are appropriate minimum thresholds for the following sustainability indicators: reduction of groundwater storage and degraded groundwater quality. Lowering groundwater levels can reasonably be considered a proxy for decreases in groundwater in storage. The relationship between chronic lowering of groundwater levels and degraded groundwater quality is not direct, but deeper groundwater may be the source of elevated chloride concentrations. Chronic lowering of groundwater levels may, therefore, result in the need to treat groundwater for municipal and domestic uses.

3.3.1.3 Minimum Threshold Impacts to Adjacent Basins

As described in the water budget in Chapter 2, Section 2.4.4.4, Subsurface Outflow, subsurface outflow from the OVGB is minor (estimated at 90 AFY). The eastern and western boundaries of the OVGB correspond to recognized bedrock highs that limit groundwater exchange flow between the Ojai Valley Basin and adjacent basins (DWR 2004; Kear 2005). Thus, the minimum threshold of groundwater elevations selected to prevent chronic lowering of groundwater levels and to avoid triggering the other three applicable sustainability indicators in the OVGB are not expected to cause undesirable results in adjacent basins or adversely affect the ability of adjacent basins to achieve sustainability goals.

3.3.1.4 Minimum Threshold Impact on Beneficial Uses

Beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the OVGB are discussed above and in in Chapter 2, Section 2.1.4, Beneficial Uses and Users, and generally include three primary sets of pumpers: agriculture, municipal, and industrial. Other OVGB pumpers include small water systems and *de-*

minimis users. The minimum thresholds developed represent groundwater elevations in the OVGB that, if exceeded, may cause undesirable results (Title 23 CCR Section 354.28(a)). It is expected that, if groundwater elevations fall below the established minimum thresholds, water supplies available to beneficial uses and users in the OVGB will be limited or challenging to produce, and significant and unreasonable degradation of groundwater quality and other adverse impacts to sustainability indicators may occur.

3.3.1.5 Comparison between Minimum Threshold and Relevant State, Federal, or Local Standards

The OBGMA is not aware of any other state, federal, or local standards specific to lowering of groundwater levels in the OVGB. The California Environmental Quality Act (Guidelines Appendix G) has a requirement to examine whether a program or project would "substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)." The minimum thresholds established in this GSP quantify the meaning of this requirement in the local context of the OVGB. In 2019, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research released an update to the CEQA Guidelines that included a new requirement to analyze projects for their compliance with adopted GSPs. Specifically, the new applicable significance criteria include the following:

- Would the program or project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?
- Would the program or project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Therefore, land use plans and projects subject to CEQA will be required to evaluate their impacts on groundwater based on the sustainable management criteria established in this GSP.

There are no quantitative local standards that define or limit specific groundwater elevations or amount of allowable groundwater level decline. As described in Chapter 2, Section 2.1.2.4, Regulatory Programs, the County of Ventura (County) has however taken action to protect groundwater resources by passing Ordinance No. 4468 prohibiting the construction of new wells or modification or repair of existing wells within groundwater basins designated as high or medium priority until GSAs are formed, and have adopted and submitted to DWR a GSP or alternative plan. Additionally, as further described in Chapter 2, Section 2.1.3.2, General Plans, the County recently updated the County's general plan. Although the Ventura County 2040 General Plan (VCPD 2020) does not set local quantitative standards with respect to the sustainability indicators,

the County's general plan encourages the sustainable management of groundwater resources and supports GSAs in the implementation of GSPs. Following adoption of this GSP, this GSP may be incorporated by reference within future general plan and/or community plan updates.

3.3.1.6 Minimum Threshold Measurement Method

The static groundwater level will be measured at each RMP at least two times per year to evaluate groundwater elevation trends at anticipated seasonal low and seasonal high groundwater conditions. All measurements will comply with a forthcoming Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (Chapter 4, Project and Management Actions). The monitoring network is described in further detail in Section 3.5, Monitoring Network.

3.3.2 Reduction of Groundwater in Storage – Minimum Thresholds

3.3.2.1 Minimum Threshold Justification

Reduction of groundwater in storage in the OVGB as discussed in Section 3.2.2, Reduction of Groundwater Storage – Undesirable Results, is significant and unreasonable if it is sufficient in magnitude to lower the rate of production of active groundwater wells below the minimum required to support the overlying beneficial uses, where an alternative means of obtaining sufficient groundwater resources or local surface water resources from Lake Casitas are not technically or financially feasible for the well owner to absorb, either independently or with assistance from the OBGMA, or other available assistance/grant program(s).

Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater in storage could occur if there were a long-term deficit in the groundwater budget. As discussed above and described in Chapter 2, Section 2.4.3, Change in Annual Volume of Groundwater in Storage, results of the OBGM indicate that overall groundwater outflow from the OVGB is roughly balanced by inflow. During the period from water year 1971 through 2019, results from the OBGM indicate that groundwater in storage in the OVGB declined at an average rate of approximately 15 AFY; this resulted in a total cumulative loss in storage of approximately 750 AF, which is within the predictive uncertainty of the numerical model (Chapter 2, Section 2.4.4, Quantification of Current, Historical, and Projected Water Budgets). The historical low volume of groundwater in storage, based on static springtime groundwater levels, was estimated to be 41,310 AF in 2016 (OBGMA 2018), and based on OBGM simulations, was 59,049 AF in 2016.

Based on observed OVGB conditions and results of the OBGM, significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater in storage has not occurred historically and is not currently occurring. The chronic lowering of groundwater levels minimum thresholds will be used as a proxy for evaluation of groundwater in storage. To ensure the GSP's sustainability goal is maintained, the OBGMA will evaluate current groundwater storage compared to minimum thresholds and

measurable objectives, at least annually. If necessary, the OBGMA will evaluate additional PMAs if the minimum thresholds are exceeded, or the measurable objectives are not being achieved.

3.3.2.2 Relationship between Minimum Threshold and Sustainability Indicator(s)

The minimum thresholds for reduction of groundwater in storage are related to the other applicable sustainability indicators, including chronic lowering of groundwater levels and degraded groundwater quality. The minimum thresholds for reduction of groundwater in storage, which are directly correlated with the minimum thresholds for chronic lowering of groundwater levels, will protect the OVGB from conditions that could lead to overdraft and associated undesirable results. Maintaining groundwater levels above minimum thresholds at RMPs will ensure groundwater in storage and groundwater quality continue to be suitable for beneficial use throughout the OVGB.

3.3.2.3 Minimum Threshold Impacts to Adjacent Basins

As described in Section 3.3.1, Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels – Minimum Threshold, the minimum threshold selected for reduction of storage avoids causing undesirable results in adjacent basins or affecting the ability of adjacent basins to achieve sustainability goals.

3.3.2.4 Minimum Threshold Impact on Beneficial Uses

The minimum thresholds will maintain the groundwater supply for beneficial uses and users in the OVGB as discussed in Section 3.3.1, Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels – Minimum Threshold. The minimum threshold impact on beneficial uses for both chronic lowering of groundwater levels and reduction of groundwater storage is the same.

3.3.2.5 Comparison between Minimum Threshold and Relevant State, Federal, or Local Standards

The comparison between minimum threshold and relevant state, federal, or local standards is generally the same as previously discussed for Section 3.3.1, Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels – Minimum Threshold.

3.3.2.6 Minimum Threshold Measurement Method

Reduction in groundwater storage is not a parameter that can be directly measured; rather, change in storage will be regularly estimated based on either the OVGB water budget or monitoring results derived from analysis of groundwater elevations and aquifer properties. To monitor the changes in storage to the OVGB, the generalized water budget equation is as follows:

Sum of inflows - Sum of outflows = Change in storage

The water budget is an accounting framework used to quantify all inflows and outflows from the OVGB over a given period of time, with the difference equating to the change in storage. The OBGM is used to estimate the water budget. The simulated water budget included water inputs from underflow, infiltrating rainfall, applied irrigation, and infiltrating surface water flows in creeks (i.e., losing streams); the water outputs included evapotranspiration, pumping, and subsurface flow out of the OVGB. The water budget developed using the DBS&A model is an important tool to manage water resources and will be updated at least every 5 years to document progress toward maintaining OVGB sustainability.

Change in groundwater storage will be estimated annually based on change in groundwater elevations. This involves documenting change in measured groundwater elevations at all monitoring network wells in the OVGB over a given period of time. The groundwater elevation change is then multiplied by the overlying OVGB area and estimated specific yield of the aquifer sediments to determine the change in groundwater storage. Changes in storage in the OVGB are determined from the generalized groundwater elevation and aquifer properties equation:

$$\textit{Overlying Area} \times (GWE_{t0} - GWE_{t1}) \times \textit{Specific Yield} = \textit{Change in Storage}$$

Where:

GWE_{t0} = the groundwater elevation at time zero (e.g., spring 2021)
GWE_{t1} = the groundwater elevation after time zero (e.g., spring 2022)

Groundwater elevation surfaces will be created from measured groundwater elevation data using a geographic information system (GIS) for specific time periods (e.g., Spring 2021 and Spring 2022). Each surface represents a specific elevation of the groundwater table. The difference between the two surfaces multiplied by the surface area of the OVGB represents the change in saturated volume of aquifer material between the two periods. This difference will be calculated using GIS and multiplied by the specific yield to estimate the change in groundwater storage. The reduction in groundwater storage will be calculated annually and reported by the OBGMA to document groundwater conditions with respect to the sustainability goal.

Reduction of groundwater in storage will be monitored using routine groundwater level measurements. Additionally, the hydrogeologic properties of the aquifer will be updated as additional pump test data becomes available.

3.3.3 Seawater Intrusion – Minimum Thresholds

As described in Section 3.2.3, Seawater Intrusion – Undesirable Results, seawater intrusion is not an applicable undesirable result in the OVGB, and a minimum threshold is not warranted.

3.3.4 Degraded Water Quality – Minimum Thresholds

Degraded groundwater quality in the OVGB, as discussed in Section 3.2.4, Degraded Water Quality – Undesirable Results, is significant and unreasonable if it is sufficient in magnitude to affect use of existing groundwater wells such that the groundwater quality precludes the use of groundwater to support the overlying beneficial uses, and that alternative means of obtaining sufficient water resources are not technically or financially feasible. For municipal and domestic wells, this means groundwater quality that meets potable drinking water standards specified in Title 22 of the CCR. For non-potable production wells, groundwater quality should generally be suitable for agricultural and industrial use. The drinking water standards specified in Title 22 of the CCR are established as the minimum thresholds for degraded groundwater quality for potable supply wells, provided there is a nexus between groundwater extraction and groundwater quality impairment. A summary of the drinking water standards specified in Title 22 of the CCR for the primary groundwater quality COCs in the OVGB are provided in Table 3-3.

Table 3-3
Degraded Groundwater Quality Minimum Thresholds for Identified Constituents of Concern

Constituent (mg/L)						
TDS[a]	*Sulfate*[a]	*Chloride*[a]	*Boron*[b]	*Nitrate (as N)*[c]	*Iron*[d]	*Manganese*[d]
1,000	500	500	1	10	0.3	0.05

Source: Title 22 CCR.
Notes: mg/L = milligrams per liter; TDS = total dissolved solids; N = nitrogen.
[a] Secondary maximum contaminant level (MCL) consumer acceptance contaminant level upper limit.
[b] State notification level (NL).
[c] Primary MCL.
[d] Secondary MCL.

To ensure the GSP's sustainability goal is maintained, the OBGMA will evaluate the minimum thresholds and measurable objective at least every 5 years. If necessary, the OBGMA will evaluate additional PMAs if the minimum thresholds are exceeded or the measurable objectives are not being achieved.

3.3.4.1 Minimum Threshold Justification

The minimum threshold for degraded groundwater quality is protective of existing and potential beneficial uses and users in the OVGB. Alternative means of addressing degraded groundwater quality such as wellhead treatment may also be technically and financially achievable.

3.3.4.2 Relationship between Minimum Threshold and Sustainability Indicator(s)

Degraded groundwater quality is related to the sustainability indicators: chronic lowering of groundwater levels and reduction of groundwater in storage. As groundwater levels decline and storage decreases there exists the potential for increased concentration of COCs as a result of poorer groundwater quality identified in deeper aquifers of the OVGB. Additionally, degradation of groundwater quality is associated with irrigation return flow and septic recharge that has percolated to the aquifer and has the potential to migrate laterally as a result of pumping. Degradation of groundwater quality is not a predictor of other sustainability indicators. Rather, it is a potential response. As such, it is sufficient to establish the minimum threshold for degraded groundwater quality in isolation from the other sustainability indicators.

3.3.4.3 Minimum Threshold Impacts to Adjacent Basins

As described in Section 3.3.1.3, Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels – Minimum Threshold, the minimum threshold selected for degraded groundwater quality is protective of causing undesirable results in adjacent basins or affecting the ability of adjacent basins to achieve sustainability goals.

3.3.4.4 Minimum Threshold Impact on Beneficial Uses

The minimum threshold for degraded groundwater quality maintains existing and potential future beneficial uses of groundwater in the OVGB.

3.3.4.5 Comparison between Minimum Threshold and Relevant State, Federal, or Local Standards

The minimum threshold for degraded groundwater quality is compliant with potable drinking water standards specified in Section 64431 et seq. of Title 22 of the CCR. Section 13241, Division 7 of the California Water Code (CWC) specifies that "[e]ach regional board shall establish such water quality objectives in water quality control plans as in its judgement will ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses and the prevention of nuisance; however, it is recognized that it may be possible for the quality of water to be changed to some degree without unreasonably affecting beneficial uses...". Water quality objectives established in the Los Angeles Basin Plan were considered as part of development of measurable objectives described below in Section 3.4.

3.3.4.6 Minimum Threshold Measurement Method

Groundwater quality will be monitored on a semi-annual basis in the spring and fall of each year at the six RMPs, and at the South Central depth-discrete monitoring well (DDMW) which will be included as a RMP in the future when sufficient data are available to establish a minimum threshold

and measurable objectives, to evaluate concentrations of identified COCs (Table 3-3). All measurements will comply with a forthcoming SAP/QAPP (Chapter 4, Projects and Management Actions). The monitoring network and monitoring protocols are described in Section 3.5, Monitoring Network, and Section 3.5.5, Protocols for Data Collection and Monitoring. Groundwater quality trends will be evaluated semi-annually using the Mann-Kendall test to assess whether or not the historical dataset exhibits a trend with a selected significance level of 0.05 or confidence interval of 95%. In addition, groundwater quality data collected by Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) as part of the County's ongoing groundwater monitoring program and groundwater quality data for municipal supply wells submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW) will be analyzed as data are made available. Groundwater quality results will be compared to the potable drinking water standards specified in Title 22 of the CCR discussed in Section 3.3.4, Degraded Water Quality – Minimum Thresholds and the Los Angeles Basin Plan groundwater quality objectives discussed in Section 3.4.4, Degraded Water Quality – Measurable Objectives.

3.3.5 Land Subsidence – Minimum Thresholds

As explained in Section 3.2.5, Land Subsidence – Undesirable Results, land subsidence is not presently an applicable sustainability indicator in the OVGB, and a minimum threshold is not presently warranted.

3.3.6 Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water – Minimum Thresholds

As described in Section 3.2.6, Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water, there is not sufficient information at this time to establish minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, or interim milestones for depletions of interconnected surface water or GDEs. The steps that will be taken to fill the data gaps and support development of minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones for depletions of interconnected surface water and GDEs are discussed in Section 3.5.4.2, Identification of Data Gaps and Chapter 4, Projects and Management Actions.

3.4 MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES

Standards for Establishing Measurable Objectives

A GSP is to include "measurable objectives, as well as interim milestones in increments of 5 years, to achieve the sustainability goal in the basin within 20 years of implementation of the plan" (CWC Section 10727.2(b)(1)). In addition, the GSP is to describe "how the Plan helps meet each objective and how each objective is intended to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin for the long-term beneficial uses" (CWC Section 10727.2(b)(2)). The GSP Regulations define "measurable objectives" as "specific, quantifiable goals for the maintenance or improvement of specified

groundwater conditions that have been included in an adopted Plan to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin" (Title 23 CCR Section 351(s)).

Per GSP Regulations (Title 23 CCR Section 354.30):

a. Each Agency shall establish measurable objectives, including interim milestones in increments of five years, to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin within 20 years of Plan implementation and to continue to sustainably manage the groundwater basin over the planning and implementation horizon.

b. Measurable objectives shall be established for each sustainability indicator, based on quantitative values using the same metrics and monitoring sites as are used to define the minimum thresholds.

c. Measurable objectives shall provide a reasonable margin of operational flexibility under adverse conditions which shall take into consideration components such as historical water budgets, seasonal and long-term trends, and periods of drought, and be commensurate with levels of uncertainty.

d. An Agency may establish a representative measurable objective for groundwater elevation to serve as the value for multiple sustainability indicators where the Agency can demonstrate that the representative value is a reasonable proxy for multiple individual measurable objectives as supported by adequate evidence. Each Plan shall describe a reasonable path to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin within 20 years of Plan implementation, including a description of interim milestones for each relevant sustainability indicator, using the same metric as the measurable objective, in increments of five years. The description shall explain how the Plan is likely to maintain sustainable groundwater management over the planning and implementation horizon.

The measurable objectives developed for each of the applicable sustainability indicators in this GSP are based on the current understanding of the OVGB setting as discussed in detail in Chapter 2. Because the OVGB is not experiencing undesirable results and is not considered to be in an overdraft condition, no interim milestones for the sustainability indicators were developed in this GSP.

3.4.1 Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels – Measurable Objectives

A reasonable margin of operational flexibility under adverse conditions was factored in when developing minimum thresholds and evaluating measurable objectives for chronic lowering of groundwater levels. The minimum thresholds are based on an evaluation of historical climate conditions and groundwater level trends as discussed in Section 3.3.1, Chronic Lowering of

Groundwater Levels – Minimum Threshold. The primary measurable objective for chronic lowering of groundwater levels is for groundwater levels at RMPs to remain above established minimum thresholds, and for groundwater levels to stabilize and recover after each drought period in average and wet water years. Numeric measurable objectives for groundwater levels will be developed as part of a comprehensive conjunctive management plan as described below and in Chapter 4, Projects and Management Actions.

In August 2017, the OBGMA approved adoption of Resolution No. 2017-4 to work cooperatively on the development of an agreement for the integrated use of surface water and groundwater. Following adoption of Resolution No. 2017-4, the OBGMA developed preliminary groundwater conservation actions based on groundwater levels at key well 04N22W05L08S, target volumes of groundwater in storage, and CMWD's Water Efficiency Allocation Program (WEAP) (OBGMA 2018). Similar to the storage and action table presented in the *Groundwater Management Plan – 2018 Update Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin* (OBGMA 2018), as part of development of the comprehensive conjunctive management plan the OBGMA may establish formal numeric groundwater level measurable objectives at RMPs based on groundwater levels and corresponding target volumes of groundwater in storage. The groundwater levels and storage measurable objectives will be used to inform groundwater conservation actions and track progress toward the sustainability goals. The OBGMA may take additional information into consideration such as current water storage in Lake Casitas when determining the stage and optimum annual pumping volume. Specifics of management actions to be taken will be included in the comprehensive conjunctive management plan.

3.4.2 Reduction of Groundwater in Storage – Measurable Objectives

Reduction of groundwater in storage measurable objectives will be developed as part of a comprehensive conjunctive management plan as described in Section 3.4.1, Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels – Measurable Objectives and in Chapter 4, Projects and Management Actions. The reduction of groundwater in storage measurable objectives will be used to inform groundwater conservation actions and track progress toward the sustainability goals. The OBGMA may take additional information into consideration such as current water storage in Lake Casitas when determining the stage and optimum annual pumping volume. Specifics of management actions to be taken will be included in the comprehensive conjunctive management plan.

3.4.3 Seawater Intrusion – Measurable Objectives

As explained in Section 3.2.3, Seawater Intrusion – Undesirable Results, seawater intrusion is not an applicable undesirable result in the OVGB, and a measurable objective is not warranted.

3.4.4 Degraded Water Quality – Measurable Objectives

Groundwater extraction wells in the OVGB are generally screened in multiple aquifer units (i.e., wells have long well screens intercepting multiple aquifer units). The aquifer units that compose the primary production aquifer are discussed in Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2, Principal Aquifers and Aquitards. Wellhead concentrations represent the average groundwater quality of the formations producing flow to the well and in most cases do not represent the groundwater quality of a specific aquifer unit. As discussed in Chapter 2, Section 2.3.4.4, Groundwater Quality, the primary COCs identified in the OVGB include TDS, sulfate, chloride, boron, nitrate, iron, and manganese.

As discussed in Section 3.2.4, Degraded Water Quality – Undesirable Results and Section 3.3.4, Degraded Water Quality – Minimum Thresholds, the minimum threshold for degraded groundwater quality is based on intended beneficial uses. For municipal and domestic wells, this means groundwater quality that meets potable drinking water standards specified in Title 22 of the CCR. For non-potable production wells, groundwater quality should generally be suitable for agricultural and industrial use. The Los Angeles Basin Plan has established numerical objectives for groundwater quality in the OVGB (Table 3-4; RWQCB 2014). Since the drinking water standards specified in Title 22 of the CCR are the minimum thresholds for degraded groundwater quality, the Los Angeles Basin Plan groundwater quality objectives are established as the measurable objectives, provided there is a nexus between groundwater extraction and groundwater quality impairment. In addition to the Los Angeles Basin Plan groundwater quality objectives, the measurable objectives for groundwater quality are for identified COCs to exhibit a stable or improving trend, as measured at each 5-year evaluation.

Table 3-4
Degraded Groundwater Quality Measurable Objectives for Select Constituents of Concern

	Objectives (mg/L)			
Area of Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin	*TDS*	*Sulfate*	*Chloride*	*Boron*
West of San Antonio-Senior Canyon	1,000	300	200	0.5
East of San Antonio-Senior Canyon	700	200	50	—

Source: RWQCB 2014.
Notes: mg/L = milligrams per liter; TDS = total dissolved solids; — = not available or not applicable.

3.4.5 Land Subsidence – Measurable Objectives

As explained in Section 3.2.5, Land Subsidence – Undesirable Results, land subsidence is not presently an applicable undesirable result in the OVGB, and a measurable objective is not warranted at this time.

3.4.6 Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water – Measurable Objectives

As described in Section 3.2.6, Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water, there is not sufficient information at this time to establish a minimum threshold or measurable objective for depletions of interconnected surface water or GDEs. The steps that will be taken to fill the data gaps and support development of minimum thresholds and measurable objectives as they relate to depletions of interconnected surface water and GDEs are discussed in Section 3.5.7.2, Identification of Data Gaps.

3.5 MONITORING NETWORK

Standards for Establishment of Monitoring Networks

Under SGMA, a GSP is to contain information regarding:

1. The monitoring and management of groundwater levels within the basin;
2. The monitoring and management of groundwater quality, groundwater quality degradation and changes in surface flow and surface water quality that directly affect groundwater levels or quality or are caused by groundwater extraction in the basin;
3. The type of monitoring sites, type of measurements, and the frequency of monitoring for each location monitoring groundwater levels, groundwater quality, subsidence, streamflow, precipitation, and evaporation, including a summary of monitoring information such as well depth, screened intervals, and aquifer units monitored, and a summary of the type of well relied on for the information, including public, irrigation, domestic, industrial, and monitoring wells; and
4. Monitoring protocols that are designed to detect changes in groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and quality of surface water that directly affect groundwater levels or quality or are caused by groundwater extraction in the basin (CWC Section 10727.2).

According to GSP Regulations, the GSP is also to include descriptions of:

- How the monitoring network is capable of collecting sufficient data to demonstrate short-term, seasonal, and long-term trends in groundwater and related surface conditions, and yield representative information about groundwater conditions as necessary to evaluate Plan implementation
- Monitoring network objectives including explanation of how the network will be developed and implemented to monitor:
    - Groundwater and related surface conditions

  - Interconnection of surface water and groundwater
- How implementation of the monitoring network objectives demonstrate progress toward achieving the measurable objectives, monitor impacts to beneficial uses or users of groundwater, monitor changes in groundwater conditions, and quantify annual changes in water budget components
- How the monitoring network is designed to accomplish the following for each sustainability indicator:
  - Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels. Demonstrate groundwater occurrence, flow directions, and hydraulic gradients between principal aquifers and surface water features
  - Reduction of Groundwater Storage. Estimate the change in annual groundwater in storage
  - Seawater Intrusion. Monitor seawater intrusion
  - Degraded Water Quality. Determine groundwater quality trends
  - Land Subsidence. Identify the rate and extent of land subsidence
  - Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water. Calculate depletions of surface water caused by groundwater extractions
- How the monitoring plan provides adequate coverage of the sustainability indicators
- The density of monitoring sites and frequency of measurements required to demonstrate short-term, seasonal, and long-term trends
- The scientific rational (or reason) for site selection
- Consistency with data and reporting standards
- For each well, the corresponding sustainability indicator, minimum threshold, measurable objective, and interim milestone
- The location and type of each monitoring site on a map (Title 23 CCR Section 354.34).

3.5.1 Monitoring Network Objectives

The overall objective of the monitoring network in the OVGB is to track and monitor parameters to demonstrate progress toward maintaining the sustainability goals, including the minimum thresholds and measurable objectives defined in Section 3.3, Minimum Thresholds and Section 3.4, Measurable Objectives, respectively. The monitoring network is designed to collect sufficient data to demonstrate short-term, seasonal, and long-term trends in groundwater and related surface conditions, and provide representative information about basin-wide groundwater conditions as necessary to evaluate GSP implementation. In order to accomplish this objective, the monitoring network in the OVGB must be capable of:

- Monitoring changes in groundwater conditions (in applicable sustainability categories)
- Monitoring compliance with minimum thresholds and measurable objectives
- Quantifying annual changes in water budget components

The most critical sustainable management criteria to be monitored directly for the OVGB are chronic lowering of groundwater levels and degraded groundwater quality. Reduction in groundwater storage is not a parameter that can be directly measured; therefore, change in storage will be regularly estimated based on either the OVGB water budget or monitoring results derived from analysis of groundwater elevations and aquifer properties. No direct measurements of land subsidence are proposed at this time, and depletions of interconnected surface water present a data gap to be addressed during GSP implementation.

3.5.2 Description of Existing Monitoring Network

The existing monitoring network for groundwater and related surface conditions in the OVGB includes groundwater production wells, dedicated groundwater monitoring wells, weather stations, and stream flow gages. The components of the monitoring network are discussed below in the context of their ability to demonstrate short-term, seasonal, and long-term trends in groundwater and related surface conditions, and of the ability of the network to document representative conditions in the OVGB. A discussion of how the monitoring network relates to each of the sustainable management criteria follows this discussion in Section 3.5.4, Monitoring Network Relationship to Sustainability Indicators.

3.5.2.1 Groundwater Monitoring

The existing network of groundwater monitoring wells includes both dedicated monitoring wells and production wells (Section 2.1.2, Water Resources Monitoring and Management Programs). Currently, groundwater levels are monitored by VCWPD and OBGMA, groundwater quality is monitored by VCWPD and operators of drinking water systems, namely the Ojai Water System operated by CMWD, who report groundwater quality data to the SWRCB DDW, and groundwater extraction from all active production wells is monitored by individual operators who self-report extraction volumes to the OBGMA.

The existing groundwater level and quality monitoring network consists of 37 wells in total. Of the 37 wells, 23 are monitored for groundwater levels, 24 are monitored for groundwater quality, and 35 are monitored for production (Figure 3-3 Groundwater Monitoring Network and Table 3-5). This network is capable of documenting the groundwater conditions in the OVGB and has been used for this purpose in the past. The current groundwater well network will be used to monitor groundwater conditions moving forward in order to continue to assess long-term trends in groundwater elevation and quality, and groundwater in storage, in the OVGB.

Table 3-5
Current Groundwater Monitoring Network

Well Name	SWN	CASGEM ID	Well Use	Monitoring Entity	Groundwater Monitoring Networks		
					Elevation	*Quality*	*Production*
South Central DDMW	—	—	Monitoring	OBGMA	X	X	—
SACSGRP DDMW	05N22W32P002S –006S	—	Monitoring	OBGMA	X	X	—
Elrod Well	04N22W05L003S	—	Agricultural	OBGMA	X	—	X
Lagomarsino Well	04N22W06E006S	—	Agricultural	OBGMA, VCWPD	X	X	X
Hansen Well	04N23W01J003S	—	Agricultural	OBGMA, VCWPD	X	X	X
Topa Topa Ranch Well No. 5	04N22W04Q001S	2813	Agricultural	OBGMA, VCWPD	X	X	X
—	04N22W05L008S	2816	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	—	X
Mutual Well 4	04N22W06K003S	—	Municipal	OBGMA, SWRCB, VCWPD	X	X	X
Mutual Well 5	04N22W06K011S	—	Municipal	SWRCB	—	X	X
Mutual Well 6	04N22W06K015S	—	Municipal	SWRCB	—	X	X
Mutual Well 7	—	—	Municipal	SWRCB	—	X	X
Gorham Well	04N22W06K013S	—	Municipal	SWRCB	—	X	X
Well 4	04N22W07A005S	—	Municipal	SWRCB	—	X	X
Grant Well	—	—	Municipal	SWRCB	—	X	X
San Antonio Well 3	04N22W06K010S	—	Municipal	SWRCB, VCWPD	—	X	X
San Antonio Well 4	04N22W06K014S	—	Municipal	SWRCB, VCWPD	—	X	X
—	05N22W32K002S	—	Agricultural	VCWPD	—	X	X
—	04N23W12B003S	—	Agricultural	VCWPD	—	X	X
—	04N22W06J009S	—	Agricultural	VCWPD	—	X	X
—	04N22W05M004S	—	Agricultural	VCWPD	—	X	X
—	04N22W04P005S	—	Agricultural	VCWPD	—	X	X
—	05N22W33J001S	—	Agricultural	VCWPD	—	X	X
—	04N22W06D001S	2818	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	—	X
—	04N23W01K002S	2837	Domestic	VCWPD	X	X	X
—	04N22W07G001S	2826	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	—	X
—	04N22W08B002S	26333	Industrial	VCWPD	X	—	X
—	04N22W05H004S	39777	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	X	X
—	04N22W05M001S	2817	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	—	X
—	04N22W07B002S	2824	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	—	X
—	04N22W05D003S	2814	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	X	X
—	04N22W06M001S	2822	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	—	X

Table 3-5
Current Groundwater Monitoring Network

Well Name	SWN	CASGEM ID	Well Use	Monitoring Entity	Groundwater Monitoring Networks		
					Elevation	*Quality*	*Production*
—	04N23W02K001S	46068	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	—	X
—	05N22W32J002S	38094	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	—	X
—	04N23W12L002S	26381	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	—	X
—	04N22W06K012S	26330	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	—	X
—	04N23W12H002S	26380	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	X	X
—	04N22W06D005S	46108	Agricultural	VCWPD	X	—	X

Notes: — = not available or not applicable; SWN = state well number; CASGEM = California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program; OBGMA = Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency; VCWPD = Ventura County Watershed Protection District; SWRCB = State Water Resources Control Board.

Groundwater Elevation

Groundwater elevations are currently the primary metric by which sustainability will be measured. The OBGMA has historically measured groundwater levels in a number of wells in the OVGB as described in Chapter 2, Section 2.1.2.1, Groundwater Monitoring, and plans to continue to monitor groundwater levels in the seven wells identified in Table 3-5 and shown in Figure 3-3. The seven wells include Mutual Well 4, Elrod Well, Lagomarsino Well, Hansen Well, Topa Topa Ranch Well No. 5, SACSGRP DDMW, and South Central DDMW. South Central DDMW is a new depth-discrete monitoring well consisting of four 2-inch diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) casings installed in June 2021 to further document groundwater elevation trends by aquifer depth and evaluate aquifer connectivity. In addition, the VCWPD monitors groundwater levels in 18 wells located throughout the OVGB. The OBGMA will incorporate the groundwater level data collected by VCWPD as data are made available.

The spatial and temporal coverage of the existing groundwater elevation monitoring network is sufficient to provide an understanding of representative conditions in the aquifer system, and this network will be used to demonstrate progress toward the sustainability goals for the OVGB. Although evaluation of the current groundwater elevation monitoring network suggests that the network is sufficient to document groundwater conditions in the OVGB, areas for future improvement of the network are identified in Section 3.5.7, Assessment and Improvement of Monitoring Network.

Groundwater in Storage

Groundwater in storage has historically been estimated based on groundwater elevation changes and aquifer properties using the measurement method described in Section 3.3.2.6, Minimum Threshold Measurement Method, and based on OBGM simulations. The groundwater in storage monitoring network is the same as the groundwater elevation monitoring network.

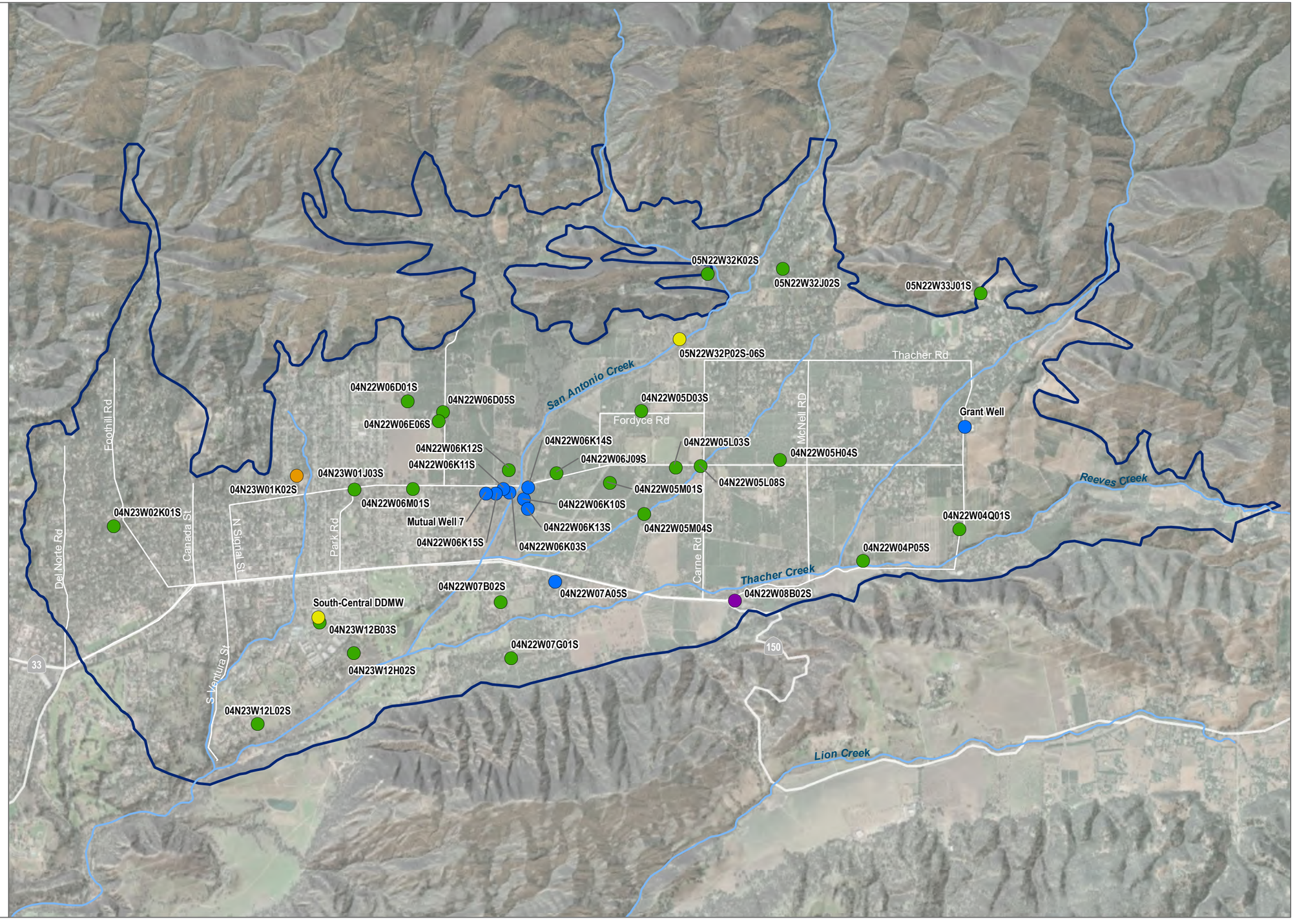
Legend

Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin (4-002)

Groundwater Monitoring Network

Well Type

- Agricultural
- Domestic
- Industrial
- Municipal
- Monitoring



DRAFT

DATUM: NAD 1983 DATA SOURCE: ESRI; DWR; USGS; VCWPD; OBGMA

DUDEK

0 0.5 1 Miles

FIGURE 3-3

Groundwater Monitoring Network

Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin

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Groundwater Quality

The OBGMA plans to monitor groundwater quality in the seven wells identified in Table 3-5 and Figure 3-3. The seven wells include Mutual Well 4, Elrod Well, Lagomarsino Well, Hansen Well, Topa Topa Ranch Well No. 5, SACSGRP DDMW, and South Central DDMW. The Elrod Well, South Central DDMW, and SACSGRP DDMW are not currently routinely monitored for groundwater quality but will be routinely monitored moving forward. In addition, the VCWPD monitors groundwater quality in 14 wells and groundwater quality data from nine municipal supply wells are reported to the SWRCB. Groundwater quality data collected by the OBGMA and provided by the VCWPD and SWRCB will be analyzed with respect to degraded groundwater quality minimum thresholds and measurable objectives.

The spatial and temporal coverage of the existing groundwater quality monitoring network is sufficient to provide an understanding of representative conditions in the aquifer system, and this network will be used to demonstrate progress toward the sustainability goals for the OVGB. Although evaluation of the current groundwater quality monitoring network suggests that the network is sufficient to document groundwater conditions in the OVGB, areas for future improvement of the network are identified in Section 3.5.7, Assessment and Improvement of Monitoring Network.

Groundwater Extraction

All operators of active production wells measure and report extractions to the OBGMA, including *de minimis* extractors pumping less than 2 AFY.

3.5.2.2 Surface Conditions Monitoring

The primary surface conditions that impact groundwater conditions in the OVGB are surface water flows and precipitation. The monitoring networks for both surface conditions are discussed below and in Chapter 2, Section 2.1.2.2, Precipitation and Streamflow Monitoring.

Surface Water

Surface flows in the OVGB are monitored by three stream gauges, two located on San Antonio Creek and one on Thacher Creek, maintained by the County. Two additional stream gauges located on San Antonio Creek downstream and outside of the OVGB provide additional streamflow data. Surface water flow in San Antonio Creek has been recorded daily since 1949 by station 605 located on lower San Antonio Creek at Highway 33, and since 2013 by stations 648 and 649 located on upper San Antonio Creek in the OVGB. In addition, since 2017 the OBGMA has conducted monthly manual stream discharge monitoring, and continuous stream stage monitoring using a pressure transducer set to record at a frequency of every 3-minutes, on lower San Antonio Creek.

The historical and existing spatial and temporal coverage of the surface water flow gauges provide adequate coverage for the short-term, seasonal, and long-term surface flow conditions in the OVGB. In the future, to the extent possible, additional stream gauges will be installed and incorporated into the existing monitoring network (Section 3.5.7, Assessment and Improvement of Monitoring Network).

Precipitation

Precipitation in the OVGB is monitored by four weather stations, three of which are maintained by the County and one by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Five additional precipitation stations located outside of the OVGB, but in the vicinity, provide additional precipitation data.

Precipitation in the OVGB has been recorded for more than a century. The historical and existing spatial and temporal coverage of the precipitation stations provide adequate coverage for the short-term, seasonal, and long-term monitoring of trends in precipitation. Additional precipitation monitoring locations are not currently recommended for characterizing surface conditions in the OVGB.

3.5.3 Monitoring Network Relationship to Sustainability Indicators

To document changes in groundwater conditions related to each of the applicable sustainability indicators, monitoring will be conducted using the existing network of groundwater wells. This network includes a greater number of wells than the list of RMPs presented in Section 3.3.1, Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels – Minimum Threshold. Minimum thresholds have been selected for the set of RMPs but have not been selected for every well used to monitor groundwater conditions in the OVGB. Conditions measured at the RMPs will be used to document progress toward the sustainability goals. Groundwater conditions measured in the broader network of wells, which includes the RMPs, will be used to document conditions in the OVGB at a greater spatial coverage than is provided by the RMPs. Recommendations and findings based on the RMP data will be supported by the data collected by the broader well network.

3.5.3.1 Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels

To monitor conditions related to chronic lowering of groundwater levels, the groundwater monitoring network must be structured to accomplish the following:

- Track short-term, seasonal, and long-term trends in water elevation
- Demonstrate groundwater elevations in spring and fall for each primary aquifer or aquifer system
- Record groundwater elevations at RMPs for which minimum thresholds and measurable objectives have been identified to track progress toward the sustainability goals for the OVGB

Spatial Coverage

The OVGB monitoring well density for groundwater elevation is currently approximately 1 well per 0.4 square miles (OVGB is approximately 9.2 square miles). While there is no definitive rule for the density of groundwater monitoring points needed in a basin, for comparison the monitoring well density recommended by CASGEM Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Guidelines ranges from 1 to 10 wells per 100 square miles (DWR 2010). Additional California DWR guidelines recommend a well network with a density of 1 observation per 16 square miles (DWR 2010, 2016a). Therefore, the density of wells in the monitoring network for the OVGB meets the criteria for adequate coverage for chronic lowering of groundwater levels; however, well density alone does not ensure collection of sufficient data to detect changes in groundwater conditions. Spatial (both lateral and vertical) and temporal representation need to be considered in assessment of the ability of the monitoring network to demonstrate short-term, seasonal, and long-term trends. In the future, to the extent possible, additional dedicated monitoring wells will be incorporated into the existing monitoring network (Section 3.5.7, Assessment and Improvement of Monitoring Network). The wells could include existing wells or new monitoring wells and will provide information on groundwater conditions in geographic locations and/or at depths where data gaps are identified.

Temporal Resolution

Groundwater elevation data will be collected from the network of groundwater wells to provide groundwater elevation conditions, at a minimum, in the spring and fall of each year. Further discussion of the monitoring schedule is provided in Section 3.5.4, Monitoring Network Implementation.

3.5.3.2 Reduction of Groundwater in Storage

To monitor conditions related to reduction of groundwater storage, the groundwater monitoring network must be structured to accomplish the following:

- Demonstrate groundwater elevations in spring and fall for each primary aquifer or aquifer system.
- Calculate year-over-year (spring to spring) change in storage by aquifer.
- Provide data from which lateral and vertical hydraulic gradients within and between aquifers can be calculated.
- Record groundwater elevations at RMPs for which minimum thresholds and measurable objectives have been identified to track progress toward the sustainability goals for the Subbasin.

The requirements for documenting reduction in groundwater storage are similar to those for chronic lowering of groundwater levels, because these two sustainability indicators are interrelated. Reduction in groundwater storage is not a parameter that can be directly measured; rather, change in storage will be estimated based on the OVGB water budget every 5 years and monitoring results derived from analysis of groundwater elevation changes annually (aquifer properties will be refined if there are additional pumping tests performed within the OVGB).

Based on the current understanding of aquifer properties and groundwater elevation data, monitoring of groundwater levels in the OVGB is a sufficient surrogate for evaluating reduction of groundwater in storage (Title 23 CCR Section 354.36(b)). The method for measurement of estimating annual reduction of groundwater in storage is described in Section 3.3.2.6, Minimum Threshold Measurement Method.

3.5.3.3 Degraded Water Quality

To monitor conditions related to degraded groundwater quality, groundwater quality samples will be collected in such a way as to track long-term trends in groundwater quality that may impact beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the OVGB. Specifically, these groundwater quality samples will be targeted to constituents of concern and areas of the OVGB that have documented degradation, or the potential for degradation, in groundwater quality related to groundwater production from the OVGB.

Water Quality Constituents

Monitoring has occurred for constituents of concern including TDS, chloride, and nitrate in addition to a number of other analytes. The network of existing wells is capable of providing an adequate assessment of groundwater quality trends for these constituents.

Spatial Coverage

The OVGB monitoring well density for groundwater quality is currently approximately 1 well per 0.4 square miles. The density of wells in the monitoring network for the OVGB meets the criteria for adequate coverage for degraded groundwater quality. Additional dedicated monitoring wells in geographic locations and/or at depths where data gaps are identified will be incorporated into the existing monitoring network in the future to the extent possible.

Temporal Resolution

Degradation of groundwater quality occurs on a longer timescale than changes in groundwater elevation. Operators of drinking water systems in the OVGB collect groundwater quality samples from drinking water supply wells at least every 3 years and submit results to the SWRCB. The

VCWPD collects groundwater quality samples from a network of wells on an annual basis. Together these data provide information on trends in groundwater quality across the OVGB and are of adequate temporal resolution to document conditions over time. In addition, the OBGMA plans to monitor groundwater quality in seven wells on a semi-annual basis. Groundwater quality data collected by the OBGMA and made available by the VCWPD and SWRCB will be used to document trends moving forward.

3.5.3.4 Seawater Intrusion Monitoring

Seawater intrusion is not an applicable undesirable result in the OVGB, and monitoring is not warranted (Section 3.2.3, Seawater Intrusion – Undesirable Results).

3.5.3.5 Land Subsidence Monitoring

Land subsidence is not an applicable undesirable result in the OVGB and monitoring is not warranted (Section 3.2.5, Land Subsidence – Undesirable Results). Vertical displacement data for the OVGB derived from interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) provided through DWR's SGMA Data Viewer will be analyzed on an annual basis, if available, to track changes in land surface elevation. If during the GSP implementation timeline it becomes evident that minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for lowering of groundwater levels and groundwater in storage are not being met, the degree to which land subsidence may become an undesirable result will be re-evaluated.

3.5.3.6 Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water Monitoring Network

The depletions of interconnected surface water monitoring network currently relies on the existing groundwater elevation and surface water monitoring networks. Previous assessments of stream-aquifer interactions in the OVGB have been performed using available groundwater level and stream gauge data, and some conclusions have been made (Chapter 2, Section 2.3.4.6, Groundwater-Surface Water Connections); however, existing stream gauge and shallow monitoring well data are limited in temporal resolution (i.e., short length of record and/or coarse measurement interval) and additional data are needed to quantify the degree of stream-aquifer connectivity. In order to adequately characterize the interaction between groundwater and surface water within the OVGB, additional monitoring of groundwater levels in the shallow perched aquifer, and streamflow and stage in San Antonio Creek is required. To this end, the OBGMA installed South Central DDMW to evaluate the connectivity between the principle aquifer and the shallow perched aquifer in hydraulic connection with surface flows in San Antonio Creek. Groundwater level data collected in South Central DDMW will facilitate quantitative assessments of groundwater-surface water interactions and representation of these processes in the OBGM. Additional improvements to the depletions of interconnected surface water monitoring network are discussed in Section 3.5.7, Assessment and Improvement of Monitoring Network.

3.5.4 Monitoring Network Implementation

3.5.4.1 Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Schedule

To reduce uncertainty associated with hydraulic gradients, and to follow guidance documents produced by DWR (DWR 2016a, 2016b), groundwater level measurements used in the evaluation of seasonal high and seasonal low groundwater conditions will be collected in a two week window in the spring and fall of any given calendar year. Pressure transducers and data loggers at RMPs will continue to be used to monitor short-term and seasonal trends, and data will be downloaded, semi-annually, at a minimum, and stored in a central database.

3.5.4.2 Groundwater in Storage Monitoring Schedule

Groundwater in storage is directly related to, and calculated from, groundwater elevations. Consequently, the schedule for monitoring groundwater in storage is the same as that for monitoring groundwater elevations.

3.5.4.3 Groundwater Quality Monitoring Schedule

To demonstrate short-term, seasonal, and long-term trends in groundwater quality, and to follow guidance documents produced by DWR (DWR 2016a, 2016b), groundwater quality monitoring will be completed at least semi-annually. Annual reviews of the groundwater quality trends will be used to assess whether sampling frequency or the spatial density of samples needs to be adjusted.

3.5.4.4 Groundwater Extraction Monitoring Schedule

Monitoring of groundwater extraction rates will take place quarterly, using flowmeters installed on individual wellheads, and quarterly totals of pumped water will be self-reported to the OBGMA, including *de minimis* extractors pumping less than 2 AFY.

3.5.5 Protocols for Data Collection and Monitoring

Standards for Establishing Monitoring Protocols

"Under SGMA, the GSP must contain monitoring protocols that are designed to detect changes in groundwater levels, groundwater quality, inelastic surface subsidence for basins for which subsidence has been identified as a potential problem, and flow and quality of surface water that directly affect groundwater levels or quality or are caused by groundwater extraction in the basin.

The CWC Section 10727.2(f). According to GSP Regulations, "Each Plan shall include monitoring protocols adopted by the Agency for data collection and management, as follows:

a. Monitoring protocols shall be developed according to best management practices.

b. The Agency may rely on monitoring protocols included as part of the best management practices developed by the Department, or may adopt similar monitoring protocols that will yield comparable data.

c. Monitoring protocols shall be reviewed at least every five years as part of the periodic evaluation of the Plan, and modified as necessary" (Title 23 CCR Section 352.2).

Protocols in the OVGB

The protocols for data collection and monitoring will be detailed in a forthcoming SAP/QAPP (Chapter 4, Projects and Management Actions). The SAP/QAPP will be updated periodically to address findings of the data and compliance criteria presented in this GSP. The SAP will provide a plan that includes sampling objectives, potential COCs, monitoring frequency, methods for groundwater elevation and quality monitoring, and sample handling. The QAPP will define roles and responsibilities, quality objectives and criteria, special training, documentation and records, field and laboratory analytical methods, field and laboratory quality control, assessments and response actions, data processing, review, verification and validation, data evaluation roles and responsibilities, and data reporting. Technical standards, data collection methods, and quality assurance will be described in detail in the SAP/QAPP to ensure comparable data and methodologies.

3.5.6 Representative Monitoring

Standards for Representative Monitoring

The GSP Regulations provide that a GSA may designate a subset of monitoring sites as representative of conditions in the basin as follows:

1. Representative monitoring sites may be designated by the Agency as the point at which sustainability indicators are monitored, and for which quantitative values for minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones are defined.
2. Groundwater elevations may be used as a proxy for monitoring other sustainability indicators if the Agency demonstrates the following:
    a. (1) Significant correlation exists between groundwater elevations and the sustainability indicators for which groundwater elevation measurements serve as a proxy.
    b. (2) Measurable objectives established for groundwater elevation shall include a reasonable margin of operational flexibility taking into consideration the basin setting

to avoid undesirable results for the sustainability indicators for which groundwater elevation measurements serve as a proxy.

3. The designation of a representative monitoring site shall be supported by adequate evidence demonstrating that the site reflects general conditions in the area (Title 23 CCR Section 354.36).

Groundwater elevations and groundwater quality are the primary indicators to be directly measured and are the only sustainability indicators for which RMPs are warranted at this time. Groundwater elevations are also a proxy for evaluation of groundwater in storage as previously described in Section 3.5.3.2.

RMPs have been selected throughout the OVGB. Multiple RMPs are warranted to address the diversity of land uses, proximity to pumping centers and recharge areas, elevation differences, and variations in hydrogeology. As such, selected RMPs are anticipated to be updated as the OVGB pumping centers evolve or other pertinent data are obtained over the GSP implementation period. RMPs are presented in Table 3-6 and shown on Figure 3-2.

Table 3-6
Representative Monitoring Points

Well Name	SWN	Rationale
Elrod Well	04N22W05L03S	Agricultural production well with pressure transducer data
Topa Topa Ranch Well No. 5	04N22W04Q01S	Agricultural production well with long-term groundwater level and quality record
Lagomarsino Well	04N22W06E06S	Agricultural production well with pressure transducer and groundwater quality data
Hansen Well	04N23W01J03S	Agricultural production well with pressure transducer and groundwater quality data
Mutual Well 4	04N22W06K03S	Municipal production well with long-term groundwater level and quality record
SACSGRP DDMW	05N22W32P02S–06S	Dedicated depth-discrete monitoring well

Notes: SWN = state well number.

The new depth-discrete monitoring well (South Central DDMW) will be included as a RMP in the future when sufficient data are available to establish a minimum threshold and measurable objectives.

3.5.7 Assessment and Improvement of Monitoring Network

Standards for Assessment and Improvement of Monitoring Network

Section 354.38 of the GSP Regulations provide that a GSA should continue to assess and improve the monitoring network throughout the planning and implementation horizon, as follows:

1. Each Agency shall review the monitoring network and include an evaluation in the Plan and each 5-year assessment, including a determination of uncertainty and whether there are data gaps that could affect the ability of the Plan to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin.
2. Each Agency shall identify data gaps wherever the basin does not contain a sufficient number of monitoring sites, does not monitor sites at a sufficient frequency, or utilizes monitoring sites that are unreliable, including those that do not satisfy minimum standards of the monitoring network adopted by the Agency.
3. If the monitoring network contains data gaps, the Plan shall include a description of the following:
    a. The location and reason for data gaps in the monitoring network.
    b. Local issues and circumstances that limit or prevent monitoring.
4. Each Agency shall describe steps that will be taken to fill data gaps before the next 5-year assessment, including the location and purpose of newly added or installed monitoring sites.
5. Each Agency shall adjust the monitoring frequency and density of monitoring sites to provide an adequate level of detail about site-specific surface water and groundwater conditions and to assess the effectiveness of management actions under circumstances that include the following:
    a. Minimum threshold exceedances.
    b. Highly variable spatial or temporal conditions.
    c. Adverse impacts to beneficial uses and users of groundwater.

3.5.7.1 Review and Evaluation of the Monitoring Network

The OVGB monitoring network will be reviewed and evaluated for effectiveness annually and for each 5-year assessment. The review and evaluation will address uncertainty and data gaps that could affect the ability of the Plan to achieve the sustainability goal for the OVGB, and will consider localized effects that may not be represented by the RMPs.

3.5.7.2 Identification of Data Gaps

Groundwater Elevation

Identification of data gaps for groundwater elevations must consider vertical and lateral representation of the OVGB. For vertical representation, as discussed in Chapter 2, Section 2.3.4, Historical and Current Groundwater Conditions, review of existing groundwater elevation data within the OVGB suggests that although four distinct aquifer units are delineated in varying thickness across the OVGB, the effect of well screen lengths and intervals is potentially minimal with respect to measured depths to groundwater (i.e., potentiometric surface) in the primary production aquifer. However, multi-completion wells or well clusters screened at discrete intervals in the various aquifer units would allow for measurement of potentiometric surface by aquifer unit. Measurement of groundwater levels by aquifer unit would improve understanding of groundwater conditions with respect to monitoring the applicable sustainability indicators, in particular depletions of interconnected surface water and impacts to GDEs. The OBGMA plans to monitor groundwater elevations in two existing depth-discrete monitoring wells to improve understanding of connectivity between aquifer units. The need for additional monitoring wells will be evaluated as part of the annual and 5-year review process.

Laterally, the pattern of existing overlying land uses, and beneficial uses of groundwater are well represented by the monitoring network. As conditions may change throughout GSP implementation, representation of overlying land uses and beneficial groundwater uses will be evaluated annually along with the network's reliability (i.e., well access and condition). Each monitoring well will be tracked and the need for alternative or additional monitoring wells will be evaluated as part of the annual and 5-year review processes.

As described in Section 3.5.2 and Section 3.5.3, based on the nature of the OVGB and review of historical data, sub-daily measurement of groundwater levels at representative monitoring points using pressure transducers and data loggers, and semi-annual manual measurement of groundwater levels at all wells in the monitoring network, together provide an appropriate monitoring frequency to continue to track short-term, seasonal, and long-term trends, and address the minimum standards of the monitoring network.

Groundwater Quality

As discussed in Chapter 2, Section 2.3.4.4, Groundwater Quality, there are both anthropogenic and natural sources of the COCs in the OVGB. All COCs are found in differing concentrations spatially, with variability in groundwater quality between wells. Extraction wells in the OVGB are generally screened in multiple aquifer units. As such, groundwater quality samples collected at the wellhead represent an average concentration of the formations screened and do not represent depth-discrete or aquifer specific conditions. Multi-completion wells or depth discrete groundwater quality

samples would be required to better characterize groundwater quality by aquifer unit and depth in the OVGB. The OBGMA plans to monitor groundwater quality in two existing depth-discrete monitoring wells on a semi-annual basis to improve understanding of potential variability in groundwater quality at depth. The need for alternative or additional monitoring wells to improve the spatial coverage of the current groundwater quality monitoring network will be evaluated as part of the annual and 5-year review process.

Groundwater quality samples have historically been collected at a frequency of one to three years depending on the monitoring entity, well, and parameters measured. To track short-term and seasonal groundwater quality trends in the OVGB, the OBMGA plans to initially monitor groundwater quality in seven wells on a semi-annual basis.

Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water

As discussed in Section 3.5.3.6, existing shallow monitoring well and stream gauge data are limited in temporal resolution (i.e., short length of record and/or coarse measurement interval) and additional data are needed to quantify the degree of stream-aquifer connectivity. Groundwater level monitoring in multi-completion wells or wells screened in discrete aquifer units adjacent to surface water monitoring sites using pressure transducers and data loggers will allow for assessment of stream-aquifer connectivity and establishment of minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for depletions of interconnected surface water and GDEs, if appropriate. The OBGMA plans to fill existing data gaps as they pertain to depletions of interconnected surface water and GDEs by continuing to monitor stream discharge and stage on lower San Antonio Creek, and groundwater levels in South Central DDMW, and by preparing a groundwater dependent ecosystems assessment as described in Chapter 4, Projects and Management Actions. Following completion of the GDE assessment, the need for additional studies and monitoring will be evaluated as part of the annual and 5-year review process. In the future, to the extent possible, additional multi-completion monitoring wells and stream gauges will be installed and incorporated into the existing groundwater and surface water monitoring networks.

Regulatory Data Gaps

SGMA requires that the GSP consider relevant state, federal, and local standards. As such, pertinent regulatory agencies are considered stakeholders. Data gaps associated with relevant agencies are not known to currently exist.

Ojai Basin Groundwater Model

SGMA requires that the GSA identify data gaps and uncertainty associated with key water budget components and model forecasts, and develop an understanding of how these gaps and uncertainty may affect implementation of proposed projects and water management actions.

As part of the 5-year assessments, results from the monitoring network will be incorporated into updated numerical model simulations performed using the OBGM. Importantly, data collected during the GSP implementation will be used to refine model-estimates of groundwater-surface water interactions along San Antonio Creek, which have historically accounted for approximately 50% of the average annual groundwater discharges from the OVGB (Table 2-13). These estimates of groundwater-surface water interactions are not well-constrained by data collected in the OVGB (DBS&A 2011). The recent completion and monitoring of the new depth-discrete monitoring well (South Central DDMW) facilitates quantitative assessments of the OBGM's representation of these processes (Section 3.5.2.1, Groundwater Monitoring).

3.5.7.3 Description of Steps to Fill Data Gaps

The process for addressing identified data gaps is for the OBGMA to evaluate the potential significance of the data gaps, anticipated duration, costs, and overall benefit to the effectiveness of the GSP. As an initial step to address identified data gaps, the OBGMA has evaluated and proposed several projects in Chapter 4, Projects and Management Actions intended to fill existing data gaps. The PMAs developed to fill existing data gaps include Conduct Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring, Prepare Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Assessment, and Simulate Extreme Climate Scenarios.

3.5.7.4 Description of Monitoring Frequency and Density of Sites

Based on OVGB conditions, as described in Chapter 2, Section 3.5.2.1, Groundwater Monitoring, and the monitoring plan (described above), semi-annual monitoring of groundwater quality and groundwater elevations is considered adequate to demonstrate short-term, seasonal, and long-term trends in groundwater and related surface conditions, and yield representative data to compare to measurable objectives and minimum thresholds.

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CHAPTER 4
PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

4.1 PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY GOAL

Standards for Projects and Management Actions

Under the Regulations, the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is to include the following:

1. "Each Plan shall include a description of the projects and management actions the Agency [Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)] has determined will achieve the sustainability goal for the basin, including projects and management actions to respond to changing conditions in the basin.
2. Each Plan shall include a description of the projects and management actions that include the following:
    a. A list of projects and management actions proposed in the Plan with a description of the measurable objective that is expected to benefit from the project or management action. The list shall include projects and management actions that may be utilized to meet interim milestones, the exceedance of minimum thresholds, or where undesirable results have occurred or are imminent. The Plan shall include the following:
        i. A description of the circumstances under which projects or management actions shall be implemented, the criteria that would trigger implementation and termination of projects or management actions, and the process by which the Agency shall determine that conditions requiring the implementation of particular projects or management actions have occurred.
        ii. The process by which the Agency shall provide notice to the public and other agencies that the implementation of projects or management actions is being considered or has been implemented, including a description of the actions to be taken.
    b. If overdraft conditions are identified through the analysis required by California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 354.18 [Water Budget], the Plan shall describe projects or management actions, including a quantification of demand reduction or other methods, for the mitigation of overdraft.
    c. A summary of the permitting and regulatory process required for each project and management action.
    d. The status of each project and management action, including a time-table for expected initiation and completion, and the accrual of expected benefits.

e. An explanation of the benefits that are expected to be realized from the project or management action, and how those benefits will be evaluated.

f. An explanation of how the project or management action will be accomplished. If the projects or management actions rely on water from outside the jurisdiction of the Agency, an explanation of the source and reliability of that water shall be included.

g. A description of the legal authority required for each project and management action, and the basis for that authority within the Agency.

h. A description of the estimated cost for each project and management action and a description of how the Agency plans to meet those costs.

i. A description of the management of groundwater extractions and recharge to ensure that chronic lowering of groundwater levels or depletion of supply during periods of drought is offset by increases in groundwater levels or storage during other periods.

3. Projects and management actions shall be supported by best available information and best available science.

4. An Agency shall take into account the level of uncertainty associated with the basin setting when developing projects or management actions" (CCR Section 354.44).

Further, a GSA "has and may use the powers [in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)] to provide the maximum degree of local control and flexibility consistent with the sustainability goals of [SGMA]" (California Water Code (CWC), Section 10725(b)). "A groundwater sustainability agency may perform any act necessary or proper to carry out the purposes of [SGMA]" (CWC, Section 10725.2(a)).

4.2 INTRODUCTION TO PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Projects and management actions (PMAs) have been developed to address sustainability goals, minimum thresholds, and data gaps identified for the OVGB. The PMAs in this Chapter document the existing management of the OVGB undertaken by the OBGMA and potential actions that the OBGMA could undertake to further refine operation and management of the OVGB.

The OBGMA was created in 1991 and is currently one of only 15 special act districts with legislative authority to manage groundwater in California. As such, the OBGMA has a rich history of groundwater management and project implementation. OBGMA developed Groundwater Management Plans (GMPs) in 1994, 2007, and 2018 (OBGMA 1994, 2007, and 2018). Included in the GMPs are five primary goals to manage the OVGB, each with a number of action elements, that are effectively equivalent to PMAs:

1. Understand the Basin

2. Protect and Manage the Basin
3. Encourage Supporting Activities
4. Communicate Effectively
5. Administrate Efficiently

These existing management goals and associated action elements, as described in the GMPs, were developed by the OBGMA based on basin studies and vetted through stakeholder outreach and agency collaboration.

This chapter is organized by management action first, then projects that support each management action discussed separately under each management action. The discussion includes a description of the project, as well as additional details mandated by SGMA such as the legal, financial, and regulatory considerations for each and implementation timetables. The PMAs proposed in this GSP are summarized in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1
Summary of Project and Management Actions for Potential Implementation

Management Action	Project/Element	Sustainability Indicator(s) Benefited	Circumstances for Implementation	Schedule
Management Action #1 Understand the Basin	Conduct Groundwater Level, Groundwater Quality, and Streamflow Monitoring	GL, GS, WQ, GDE	Implementation ongoing, improvements to be incorporated as needed	At least semi-annually
	Conduct Groundwater Extraction Monitoring	GL, GS		Quarterly reporting
	Prepare Sampling and Analysis Plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan	GL, GS, WQ, GDE	Updated/consistent SAP/QAPP procedures to be implemented upon plan completion/adoption	To be prepared prior to first 5-year update
	Prepare Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Assessment	GDE	GDE sustainability criteria to be developed once assessment is complete	
	Develop Data Management System	GL, GS, WQ, GDE	To be administered on an ongoing basis once DMS is completed within first few years of GSP implementation	
	Simulate Extreme Climate Scenarios	GL, GS	Will assist in refining minimum thresholds and measurable objectives	
Management Action #2 Protect and Manage the Basin	Develop Comprehensive Conjunctive Management Plan	GL, GS, WQ, GDE	Contingent upon agreement with CMWD and funding availability	
	Develop Groundwater Allocation	GL, GS	If undesirable results are determined to be occurring or likely to occur	As needed.
	Develop Water Conservation Program	GL, GS	Implementation ongoing, improvements to be incorporated as needed	As needed.
	Encourage Voluntary Pumping Reductions	GL, GS	If undesirable results are determined to be occurring or likely to occur	As needed.
Management Action #3 Encourage Supporting Activities	Develop Salt and Nutrient Management Plan	WQ	If required by the RWQCB, or if undesirable results are determined to be occurring or likely to occur	As needed.
	Evaluate Feasibility of Recycled Water Production for Non-Potable Use	GL, GS	Based on future study and funding availability	No specific schedule.
	Explore Opportunities to Implement Focused Recharge	GL, GS, GDE	Contingent upon funding availability	No specific schedule.

Table 4-1
Summary of Project and Management Actions for Potential Implementation

Management Action	Project/Element	Sustainability Indicator(s) Benefited	Circumstances for Implementation	Schedule
	Explore State Water Project Delivery Options	GL, GS	Initial study ongoing by CMWD. Contingent upon agreement with CMWD and funding availability	No specific schedule.
Management Action #4 Communicate Effectively	Evaluate Settlement Management Plan from Physical Solution	GDE	When settlement Management Plan is finalized	As needed.
	Implement Public Outreach and Engagement Plan	GL, GS, WQ, GDE	To be implemented as a component of the GSP	Ongoing
	Complete Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Reports and 5-Year Updates	GL, GS, WQ, GDE		Yearly
Management Action #5 Administrate Effectively	Explore Grant Funding Opportunities	GL, GS, WQ, GDE	Current and ongoing implementation	Ongoing

Notes: GL = declines in groundwater levels, GS = reduction of groundwater in storage, WQ = degraded groundwater quality, GDE = depletions of interconnected surface water (groundwater dependent ecosystems), GSP = Groundwater Sustainability Plan, CMWD = Casitas Municipal Water District, SAP/QAPP = Sampling and Analysis Plan/ Quality Assurance Project Plan, DMS = Data Management System

4.2.1 Conduct Groundwater Level, Groundwater Quality, and Streamflow Monitoring

As described in Chapters 2 and 3, the OBGMA routinely monitors groundwater and surface water conditions in the OVGB. The OBGMA currently monitors groundwater levels in six wells using pressure transducers and data loggers, and conducts monthly manual stream discharge monitoring, and continuous stream stage monitoring, on lower San Antonio Creek. The Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) monitors groundwater levels in 18 wells on at least a semi-annual basis and groundwater quality in 14 wells on an annual basis. The VCWPD also operates several stream gauges on San Antonio Creek and its tributaries. In addition, operators of drinking water systems monitor groundwater quality in nine municipal supply wells and report results to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW). The OBGMA regularly reviews the groundwater and surface water data collected by VCWPD, and the groundwater quality data submitted to the SWRCB, and uses the information to inform management of the OVGB.

The OBGMA plans to continue to monitor groundwater levels and quality on at least a semi-annual basis in the seven wells identified in Chapter 3, Table 3-5, and stream discharge and stage on lower San Antonio Creek, as well as continue to map points of daylighting and infiltrating surface water over time. Groundwater level and quality data made available by the VCWPD and SWRCB will be analyzed and used to document groundwater trends moving forward. Annual reviews of the groundwater level and quality data will be used to assess whether sampling frequency or the spatial density of samples needs to be adjusted.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater in storage, degraded groundwater quality, and depletions of interconnected surface water would benefit from implementation of this project.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

Groundwater level and groundwater quality measurements collected by the OBGMA and VCWPD, and groundwater quality data submitted to the SWRCB, will continue to be used to assess basin conditions, provide warning of potential undesirable results, and evaluate the effectiveness of management activities at preventing undesirable results and maintaining sustainability of the OVGB.

This program has been successful in tracking historical and current groundwater levels and has been continually improved throughout past years. For example, in 2021, OBGMA installed a depth-discrete monitoring well (South Central DDMW) in the southwestern part of the OVGB to

evaluate aquifer connectivity and has been monitoring groundwater levels within it since. In addition, as discussed in Chapter 3, Section 3.5.7.2, the existing network currently has an appropriate monitoring frequency to continue to track short-term, seasonal, and long-term trends, and address the minimum standards of the monitoring network as specified by DWR's Monitoring Networks and Identification of Data Gaps BMP (DWR 2016a). Moving forward, the existing network will be periodically evaluated for its effectiveness, and additional wells added, if necessary. Once sufficient historical information is gathered for the South Central DDMW, it may be added as an RMP with specific minimum thresholds and measurable objectives.

Circumstances for Implementation

This project is currently being implemented and future opportunities to expand and/or improve the groundwater and surface water monitoring networks will continue to be evaluated moving forward.

Public Noticing

There is no public notice required to continue existing groundwater and surface water monitoring activities, aside from working with any private parties for access to a well in the network. If OBGMA decides to drill a new dedicated monitoring well, public noticing would occur consistent with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. However, the OBGMA will inform interested parties of any new monitoring well installations through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA will obtain any required permits easements and access agreements necessary for installing additional monitoring wells in the OVGB, if it is determined that new dedicated monitoring wells should be added to the network.

Implementation Schedule

The implementation schedule for this management action will continue as it currently is being conducted, as described in Chapter 3, Section 3.5. Should the need for additional groundwater level or groundwater quality monitoring wells be identified in the future, a schedule for such an action would be developed at that time, reported to DWR, and included as part of the 5-year GSP evaluation process (CWC § 10733.8).

Legal Authority

The OBGMA and has the authority to install monitoring wells in the OVGB.

Estimated Costs

Ongoing annual costs associated with general OBGMA operations and monitoring is approximately $118,000, of which approximately $62,000 is dedicated to groundwater level, groundwater quality, and streamflow monitoring (see Chapter 5, Table 5-2). The preliminary estimate to install a single nested monitoring well in the OVGB, should the need for one be identified in the future, is approximately $300,000 based on the total planning, permitting and installation cost for South Central DDMW. This cost could change depending on multiple factors including well construction, parcel availability, and subsurface conditions encountered.

4.2.2 Conduct Groundwater Extraction Monitoring

The OBGMA is mandated by its enabling legislation to monitor groundwater extractions from all active water supply wells in the OVGB. Since 1993 and the adoption of Ordinance No. 1, the OBGMA has required all wells, including *de minimis* pumpers, in the OVGB to be registered and for extractions to be self-reported. A wellhead fixed fee in addition to an extraction charge based upon the amount of water extracted from the OVGB are assessed to each well operator. All well operators are required to install water measuring devices on extraction facilities. In the event a water measuring device is inoperable extraction volumes may be estimated. Each well operator is required to complete a Groundwater Extraction Statement and file it along with payment and any supporting documents used to calculate extractions to the OBGMA on a quarterly basis. If a well operator is delinquent in payment the well operator is subject to penalties.

The OBGMA will continue monitoring groundwater extraction from all wells in the OVGB. OBGMA continually updates its extraction forms to the highest and best means for collecting reliable and defensible data from pumpers. Fees paid to the OBGMA will be used to help pay for active management of the OVGB including implementation of this GSP.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels and reduction of groundwater in storage would benefit from implementation of this project.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

Groundwater extraction monitoring by the OBGMA will continue to provide an essential input to the OBGMA to track the overall basin water budget, assist the OBGMA in identifying potential wasteful uses of water, financially incentivize groundwater users to be as efficient as possible in their uses of groundwater (due to the extraction charges), and help to continue to fund sustainable management of the OVGB. The extraction monitoring network is essential in monitoring

implementation actions for the groundwater in storage measurable objective that will be developed as part of a comprehensive conjunctive management plan as described in Section 4.3.1.

This program has been successful in tracking extractions and has been continually improved throughout past years. For example, in 2015, OBGMA started quarterly rather than semi-annual reporting, and has started field-verifying certain self-reported extraction volumes by requesting photographs or videos of meters, and/or sending interns to verify extraction wells that have reported unusual extraction volumes (either much higher or lower than "normal"). Continued implementation of this program under the GSP will continue to improve the coverage and accuracy of the groundwater extraction monitoring program.

Circumstances for Implementation

The implementation schedule for this management action will continue as it currently is being conducted, as described in Chapter 3, Section 3.5. Any new well users would need to self-report extraction volumes to the OBGMA, just as current users of groundwater do. Should the need for additional action associated with groundwater extraction monitoring be identified in the future, a schedule for such an action would be developed at that time, reported to DWR, and included as part of the 5-year GSP evaluation process (CWC § 10733.8).

Public Noticing

There is no public notice required to continue existing groundwater extraction monitoring activities, aside from working with any private parties for access to a well in the network. The OBGMA will inform interested parties of any new or updated extraction reporting requirements through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA has the legal authority and responsibility to manage groundwater within its boundaries, including the collection of information concerning groundwater extraction, use, and distribution.

Implementation Schedule

This project is currently being implemented.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA—as the GSA under SGMA—has the legal authority to conduct groundwater extraction monitoring. The OBGMA is mandated by its enabling act to monitor groundwater extractions from all active wells within the OVGB. The County of Ventura Resource Management Agency issues groundwater well permits in the OVGB. In December 2014, the Ventura County

Ordinance No. 4468 was adopted which regulates the construction, maintenance, operation, modification, and destruction of groundwater wells. It incorporates the Statewide standards by reference (DWR Bulletin 74-81 and 74-90, i.e., California Well Standards) along with local requirements (DWR 1981, 1991). These legal standards and authority are described in greater detail in Chapter 2 (Section 2.1.2.1 and 2.1.2.4).

Estimated Costs

Ongoing annual costs associated with general OBGMA operations is approximately $241,000, of which a small amount is dedicated to operations costs associated with assessment and processing of wellhead fixed fees and extraction charges (Chapter 5, Tables 5-1 and 5-2). Although there are some operations costs associated with extraction monitoring the costs are small compared to the revenue generated. As described in Section 4.6.1, the OBGMA is funded solely by wellhead fixed fees and extraction charges, and receipt of grant monies.

4.2.3 Prepare Sampling and Analysis Plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan

The OBGMA may prepare a sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and quality assurance project plan (QAPP) for data collection and monitoring of applicable sustainability indicators. The SAP will provide a plan that includes sampling objectives, potential contaminants of concern (COCs), monitoring frequency, methods for groundwater elevation and quality monitoring, and sample handling. The QAPP will define roles and responsibilities; quality objectives and criteria; special training, documentation and records; field and laboratory analytical methods; field and laboratory quality control, assessments and response actions; data processing, review, verification and validation; data evaluation roles and responsibilities; and data reporting. Technical standards, data collection methods, and quality assurance will be described in detail in the SAP/QAPP to ensure comparable data and methodologies.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater in storage, degraded water quality, and depletions of interconnected surface water would benefit from implementation of this project because the SAP/QAPP would improve the accuracy and reliability of data collected.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

Implementation of the SAP/QAPP would ensure the field protocols and data collection efforts remain consistent across the OVGB in terms of accuracy, precision, frequency, and reliability. This would maximize the potential to identify temporal or geographic trends in groundwater levels

and/or groundwater quality that are real, rather than the result of inconsistent data collection and/or analysis methods. It would also make protocols and expectations clear to all users in the OVGB with a registered well and would increase the reliability and defensibility of the data reported. Implementation of this program under the GSP will continue to improve the accuracy, defensibility and consistency of the data collected in support of sustainable basin management.

Circumstances for Implementation

This project is anticipated to be implemented within the first five years of GSP implementation, but by 2022 at the earliest.

Public Noticing

The OBGMA will inform interested parties of progress on and/or availability of the SAP/QAPP through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA has the legal authority to document sampling and analysis protocols.

Implementation Schedule

It is anticipated that the GSA would formalize its existing and improved practices into a SAP/QAPP by 2022 at the earliest. The SAP/QAPP would be periodically revisited, and updated if required, concurrently with the GSP's 5-Year Updates.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the legal authority to document sampling and analysis protocols.

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to prepare a SAP/QAPP is approximately $13,000 (Chapter 5, Table 5-4).

4.2.4 Prepare Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Assessment

There is not sufficient information at this time to establish a minimum threshold or measurable objective for depletions of interconnected surface water or groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs). To fill existing data gaps and support development of minimum thresholds and measurable objectives the OBGMA will prepare a riparian and aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystems assessment for the OVGB. The assessment would include a work plan for completion of biological surveys, additional stream and aquifer monitoring, and removal and identification of potential funding of non-native phreatophytes. The assessment would expand upon the work

completed in this GSP to identify potential GDEs, particularly those identified as "priority potential GDEs" and "potential GDEs" identified in Chapter 2 (Section 2.3.4.7) and Appendix E, by doing the following:

- **Identification of additional sites for multi-completion monitoring wells and stream gauges.** Additional monitoring of groundwater levels in the shallow perched aquifer, and streamflow and stage in San Antonio Creek has been identified as needed to validate the importance of the underlying groundwater table for sustaining the streamflow and habitat. Groundwater level monitoring in multi-completion wells or wells screened in discrete aquifer units adjacent to surface water monitoring sites using pressure transducers and data loggers would allow for assessment of stream-aquifer connectivity and establishment of minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for depletions of interconnected surface water and GDEs.
- **Identification of critical riffles and habitat areas.** The assessment would include vegetation mapping and stream reach mapping sufficient in detail to identify conditions that support special status species and whether such conditions have a nexus to the shallow groundwater table. Additional research on maximum rooting depths for identified plant species would further support evaluations of the groundwater dependence of associated habitat. OBGMA would coordinate with SWRCB and others appropriate agencies concerning ongoing study along San Antonio Creek.
- **Inclusion of an Invasive Species Identification and Eradication Plan.** One very significant means of output from the OVGB (and especially along the riparian corridor) is the evapotranspiration of shallow groundwater via native and non-native species. The non-native species tend to proliferate quickly and use much more water than natives. Removal of such species would be contemplated in the GDEs Assessment as a means of maximizing the volume of shallow/percolating water available for special status species.

The GDEs Assessment would also incorporate updated data from the recently-installed South Central DDMW well to evaluate connectivity between the principle aquifer and the shallow perched aquifer in hydraulic connection with surface flows in San Antonio Creek. The GDEs Assessment would include a series of recommendations and work plans (including scope, costs and schedule) for consideration by the OBGMA in the implementation of the GSP. The assessment may also propose initial minimum thresholds and measurable objectives, based on the updated work, for the depletions of interconnected surface waters sustainability criterion, if appropriate.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for depletions of interconnected surface water and groundwater dependent ecosystems would benefit from implementation of this project.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

The groundwater dependent ecosystem assessment will benefit the sustainability criteria for depletions of interconnected surface water by addressing the identified data gaps discussed in Section 2.3.4 and Section 3.5.3.6. In particular, the assessment will provide the necessary information to develop a work plan that may identify additional streamflow monitoring site and sites for multi-completion monitoring wells specifically designed to track interconnected streamflow and groundwater systems.

Circumstances for Implementation

Implementation of this PMA is necessary to establish minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for the depletions of interconnected surface water indicator, and thus should be implemented before the first GSP 5-Year Update.

Public Noticing

Based on the high-level description of this PMA, there is likely no public notice required to complete this work. However, the OBGMA will inform interested parties of schedule, progress, and/or results of the GDEs assessment through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct further studies in support of the GSP. Potential partners could include the City, County, SWRCB, Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC), the Green Coalition, Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA), and several other entities.

Implementation Schedule

The GDEs Assessment should be completed prior to the GSP's first 5-Year Update.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct further studies in support of the GSP.

Estimated Costs

It is estimated that this PMA would cost $50,000 (see Chapter 5, Table 5-2) in addition to costs already incurred for conducting groundwater level, groundwater quality, and streamflow monitoring.

4.2.5 Develop Data Management System

The OBGMA has maintained a database of historical groundwater and surface water data for the OVGB since the agency's formation in the early 1990s. Information contained in the database has been used to prepare annual reports and groundwater management plans.

The OBGMA plans to develop a data management system (DMS) that will be composed of historical data and allow for collection and input of future data with the ability to disseminate information in various formats. Data collected and input into the DMS will have consistent units and formatting as outlined in DWR's Groundwater Monitoring Protocols, Standards, and Sites BMP (DWR 2016b). The data will be stored in a Geographic Information System (GIS) relational geodatabase format or similar database type. The DMS will be viewable in real time via Internet and may be setup to be viewed geographically on a map viewer. The DMS will be able to output data in GIS and/or Microsoft Excel formats. The DMS will be password protected and accessible only by individuals with permissions. The OBGMA Board would develop policy regarding data accessibility and procedures for data requests.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater in storage, degraded water quality, and depletions of interconnected surface water and groundwater dependent ecosystems would benefit from implementation of this project.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

The DMS would benefit sustainable management of the OVGB by making groundwater monitoring data available to all relevant parties in real time in several formats, thereby improving decision making within the basin moving forward. For example, having a widely accessible DMS would facilitate coordination of land use planning and permitting and current groundwater conditions. The OBGMA would have ready access to existing conditions when evaluating policy and making informed management decisions.

Circumstances for Implementation

The OBGMA will develop a DMS where data can be viewed in real time and information disseminated in various formats as funding permits. The DMS will be improved throughout the GSP implementation process.

Public Noticing

The OBGMA will inform interested parties of schedule, progress, and/or availability of the DMS through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA has the authority to develop a DMS to support the GSP. The OBGMA will coordinate data collection and input with other entities who monitor climatic and hydrologic conditions in the OVGB including the VCWPD and SWRCB.

Implementation Schedule

This project is anticipated to be implemented prior to the first 5-year GSP update.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the authority to develop a DMS to support the GSP.

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to develop a DMS as described above is approximately $34,000 (see Chapter 5, Table 5-4). The estimated cost includes creation of the DMS architecture and input of historical data. The estimated annual operations cost to update and maintain the DMS is approximately $11,000 (see Chapter 5, Table 5-2).

4.2.6 Simulate Extreme Climate Scenarios

Two climate change scenarios were simulated to assess the effect of climate change on groundwater resources in the OVGB. These climate scenarios utilized DWR's 2030 and 2070 central tendency change factors, which represent the average monthly adjustments simulated using a suite of 20 different global climate models (DWR 2018). In addition to these two scenarios, DWR has provided monthly adjustments factors representing wetter milder warming (WMW) and drier extreme warming (DEW) conditions. The change factors for the WMW and DEW conditions were developed by DWR using results from a single global climate model that utilized RCP 4.5 intermediate emissions scenario and RCP 8.5 high-emissions scenario, respectively. DWR's climate change guidance identifies these scenarios as conditions that can be used to, "further explore the range of uncertainty in future climate conditions and the impacts of such uncertainty on future water budgets and potential management strategies" (DWR 2018).

As part of the 5-year update to the GSP, the OBGMA will assess projected groundwater conditions under the WMW and DEW climate scenarios. The OBGMA will perform this assessment by updating the projected simulations developed using the Ojai Basin Groundwater Model (OBGM) with the climate change factors developed by DWR representing the WMW and DEW conditions. As part of this update, the OBGMA will reevaluate projected water budgets and groundwater elevations to further characterize uncertainty in groundwater conditions. Measured groundwater

elevation, groundwater extraction data, and climatological data will be incorporated into these model updates to assess current and projected basin demands and management strategies.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels and reduction of groundwater in storage would benefit from implementation of this project.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

OBGMA's incorporation of the WMW and DEW climate scenarios into the OBGM will inform whether adjustments need to be made to minimum thresholds and measurable objectives, and whether additional operational flexibility needs to be incorporated into basin management to account for additional uncertainties associated with extreme climate scenarios.

Circumstances for Implementation

This project is proposed to be implemented as a component of the first 5-year GSP update.

Public Noticing

The OBGMA will inform interested parties of schedule, progress, and/or results of the updated climate simulations through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct additional analyses in support of the GSP.

Implementation Schedule

This project is proposed to be implemented as a component of the first 5-year GSP update.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct additional analyses in support of the GSP.

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to incorporate the WMW and DEW climate scenarios into the OBGM and run simulations is approximately $24,000 (see Chapter 5, Table 5-4).

4.3 MANAGEMENT ACTION NO. 2 – PROTECT AND MANAGE THE BASIN

To ensure that the OVGB continues to operate within its sustainable yield and does not exhibit undesirable results within the planning and implementation horizon of this GSP, the OBGMA may take direct management actions to reduce groundwater extraction and conserve groundwater supplies.

4.3.1 Develop Comprehensive Conjunctive Management Plan

The conjunctive management of groundwater and surface water resources reduces undesirable fluctuations in supply and protects the beneficial uses of water resources. The Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) is the wholesale and retail water supplier in the Ventura River watershed and serves as the backup water supply for many customers in the OVGB when groundwater supplies become depleted. Surface water from Lake Casitas supplied by CMWD and groundwater extracted from the OVGB are currently conjunctively managed to the extent that there is increased use of surface water in lieu of groundwater when groundwater in storage is low, and increased use of groundwater and decreased use of surface water supplies when groundwater in storage is sufficient. In August 2017 the OBGMA approved adoption of Resolution No. 2017-4 to work cooperatively on the development of an agreement for the integrated use of surface water and groundwater. Following adoption of Resolution No. 2017-4, the OBGMA developed preliminary groundwater conservation actions based on groundwater levels at key well 04N22W05L08S, target volumes of groundwater in storage, and CMWD's Water Efficiency Allocation Program (WEAP); however, the conjunctive use program has not been finalized and implementation of the conservation actions are currently on a voluntary basis (OBGMA 2018).

The OBGMA will pursue with CMWD the development of an approved comprehensive conjunctive management plan for the integrated use of surface water and groundwater through the passage of a resolution. The conjunctive management plan will promote efficient water use, water conservation, and beneficial uses of surface water and groundwater for the combined health of Lake Casitas and the OVGB. To accomplish this goal, the conjunctive management plan will include formal conservation actions the OBGMA and CMWD could take during drought conditions when groundwater in storage and/or surface water supplies are low. The specific conservation actions to be taken for various stages of water shortages will be developed as part of this PMA. The OBGMA will pass the ordinances required to formalize and put the conservation actions into effect.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater in storage, degraded water quality, and depletions of interconnected surface water would benefit from implementation of this project.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

The Comprehensive Conjunctive Management Plan would be a benefit to both groundwater and surface water supplies by reducing reliance on the most stressed resource at any given time. By establishing triggers for conservation actions, it helps minimize the impacts of drought conditions on the water resources available to the OVGB. The GSP complements and enhances existing projects and programs currently in place to maximize beneficial use of water resources and increase operational flexibility within the OVGB.

Circumstances for Implementation

The implementation of this PMA is ongoing and based on future study and funding availability.

Public Noticing

The OBGMA will inform interested parties of schedule, progress, and/or availability of the Comprehensive Conjunctive Management Plan through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C). CMWD may also present information regarding development of the Comprehensive Conjunctive Management Plan at its publicly noticed Board meetings.

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct additional analyses and develop plans in support of GSP implementation. The OBGMA will need to work cooperatively with CMWD in order to develop and adopt the Comprehensive Conjunctive Management Plan. Section 708 of the OBGMA's enabling legislation mandates that no groundwater shall be exported from the OVGB except under permit issued by the OBGMA in full compliance with the policy and intent of the law (SB 534). The law mandates the preservation of the groundwater for the common benefit of water users within the OVGB.

Implementation Schedule

This project is proposed to be implemented as a component of the first 5-year GSP update but requires coordination with CMWD in order to develop a firm schedule.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct additional analyses in support of the GSP.

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to develop a Comprehensive Conjunctive Management Plan as described above is approximately $31,000 (see Chapter 5, Table 5-4).

4.3.2 Develop Groundwater Allocation

The existing conjunctive management approach implemented by OBGMA includes a soft allocation based on the estimated volume of groundwater in storage at the springtime high. The OBGMA notifies pumpers of the state of basin conditions and recommends target extraction volumes.

In the event that groundwater extraction rates regularly exceed the estimated sustainable yield of the OVGB, the OBGMA may develop a groundwater allocation for the OVGB. The groundwater allocation may incorporate historical groundwater extraction by existing users and will be developed with stakeholder input. The groundwater allocation may include fees and other penalties for violations of pumping allowance or reporting.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels and reduction of groundwater in storage would benefit from implementation of this project.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

Fees collected for groundwater produced in excess of the allocated amounts could be used to develop and implement groundwater replenishment projects. Groundwater in storage will be measured using groundwater elevations as a proxy. If groundwater elevations stabilize or rise at the groundwater level RMPs, the project will have succeeded in increasing the volume of groundwater in storage, preventing chronic declines in groundwater elevation.

Circumstances for Implementation

This project may be implemented if groundwater level and storage minimum thresholds are exceeded, and undesirable results are determined to be occurring or likely to occur.

Public Noticing

The OBGMA will inform interested parties of schedule, progress, and/or final results of the Groundwater Allocation through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The SGMA legislation allows for charging fees for pumping in excess of allocations or non-compliance with other GSA regulations (CWC Section 10732 (a)).

Implementation Schedule

If a groundwater allocation is deemed necessary based on exceedance of minimum thresholds, it would occur in a similar manner as the soft allocation, except would be mandatory rather than voluntary.

Legal Authority

The SGMA legislation allows for charging fees for pumping in excess of allocations or non-compliance with other GSA regulations (CWC Section 10732 (a)).

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to develop a Groundwater Allocation Plan as described above is approximately $28,000 (see Chapter 5, Table 5-4).

4.3.3 Develop Water Conservation Program

The OBGMA encourages water conservation practices by urban and agricultural users. Water conservation practices that have been implemented in the OVGB are largely a result of enforcement of water conservation policies included in the Ojai Valley Area Plan, rebate offers for conversions offered by CMWD, market forces, and good management practices. The agricultural sector has made significant investment in water efficient technologies such as micro sprinklers and drip irrigation. CMWD has also implemented the WEAP, which includes mandated water conservation targets based on the level of water storage in Lake Casitas. Each CMWD customer is assigned an individual allocation based on reasonable demand for their water use and customers who use water in excess of their allocated amount are issued a penalty (CMWD 2021).

The water conservation program developed by OBGMA would consist of separate components for each water use sector. Programs for each sector would follow a similar approach consisting of reviewing historical programs and projects, identifying areas and methods for greatest potential water

savings, outreach and coordination with potential participants, developing project cost estimates, competitively evaluating project alternatives, implementing projects, and acquiring follow-up metrics.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels and reduction of groundwater in storage would benefit from implementation of this project because the project reduces demand for groundwater.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

The primary expected benefit from this project is a reduction in the demand for groundwater in the OVGB. The success of this project will be evaluated based on the aggregate volume of per capita water use and total groundwater extraction in the OVGB.

Circumstances for Implementation

This project is currently being implemented and future opportunities to increase water conservation will continue to be evaluated moving forward.

Public Noticing

Public noticing will be an integral part of the conservation program implementation. To be most effective, the availability of optional water conservation program services such as water audits and rebate programs will be widely advertised through billing inserts, websites, or mailings to well operators and other members of the public. In addition, water conservation outreach will be discussed at public meetings conducted by the OBGMA.

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA has the authority to develop a water conservation program in support of GSP implementation.

Implementation Schedule

It is anticipated that the Water Conservation Program would be developed and formalized prior to the first 5-Year GSP update but the actual implementation schedule would likely be dependent on funding and coordination with other agencies such as CMWD.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct additional analyses and develop plans in support of GSP implementation.

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to develop a Water Conservation Plan as described above is approximately $29,000(see Chapter 5, Table 5-4).

4.3.4 Encourage Voluntary Pumping Reductions

The OBGMA regularly monitors groundwater levels in wells in the OVGB and uses the information to estimate groundwater in storage. As the volume of groundwater in storage decreases, the OBGMA encourages water users to reduce pumping to conserve groundwater supplies. The OBGMA will continue to employ this management approach, which may be implemented in lieu or as a component of the comprehensive conjunctive management plan described above. Groundwater users will be requested (or mandated by ordinance if implemented as a component of the groundwater allocation or conjunctive management plan PMAs) to minimize the volume of pumping to the maximum extent feasible when groundwater in storage supplies are low.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels and reduction of groundwater in storage would benefit from implementation of this project because the project reduces demand for groundwater.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

The primary expected benefit from this project is a reduction in the demand for groundwater in the OVGB. The success of this project will be evaluated based on the total groundwater extraction in the OVGB.

Circumstances for Implementation

This project may be implemented if groundwater level and storage minimum thresholds are exceeded, and undesirable results are determined to be occurring or likely to occur.

Public Noticing

The OBGMA will inform interested parties of measures and means of voluntary pumping reductions through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct additional analyses and develop plans in support of GSP implementation.

Implementation Schedule

It is anticipated that the voluntary pumping reductions would be encouraged when the amount of groundwater in storage begins approaching the minimum threshold.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the authority to implement voluntary pumping reductions in support of GSP implementation (CWC §10725 - 10726.9).

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to encourage voluntary pumping reductions as described above is approximately $20,000 (see Chapter 5, Table 5-4).

4.4 MANAGEMENT ACTION NO. 3 – ENCOURAGE SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

The OBGMA has a long history of working cooperatively with other agencies, stakeholders, and water users to protect and maintain the groundwater supply for the common benefit of the water users of the OVGB. The OBGMA will continue to support and work collectively on projects with other entities to ensure the sustainability goals of this GSP are achieved.

4.4.1 Develop Salt and Nutrient Management Plan

The OVGB does not currently have a salt and nutrient management plan (SNMP) to address the use of recycled water in the OVGB, and its potential impacts on groundwater quality. Recycled water may play an integral role in maintaining the sustainability of groundwater conditions in the OVGB in the future, as it could be used to replenish groundwater pumped in production areas or for other municipal and industrial uses. A SNMP has not been required primarily because of limited use of recycled water in the OVGB. The SNMP for the OVGB may be prepared at the direction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) by the OBGMA in collaboration with stakeholders and other interested parties, including the Ojai Valley Sanitary District (OVSD). The SNMP process was designated by the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as the appropriate way to address salt and nutrient issues and ensure attainment of water quality objectives and protection of beneficial uses.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels and reduction of groundwater in storage have the potential to benefit from implementation of this project.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

Use of recycled water in the OVGB has the potential to reduce demand on groundwater production and replenish groundwater aquifers. An adopted SNMP for the OVGB would allow for appropriate use of recycled water that maintains beneficial uses of groundwater. This project will be effective if a SNMP for the OVGB is developed by the OBGMA and stakeholders, and accepted by the RWQCB.

Circumstances for Implementation

Development of a SNMP will occur if required by the RWQCB, or if undesirable results are determined to be occurring or likely to occur.

Public Noticing

Developing a SNMP requires substantial public input. This would be undertaken by the OBGMA and stakeholders participating in the development of the SNMP. Scoping meetings for a basin plan amendment would be noticed and held by the RWQCB. The OBGMA will inform interested parties of schedule, progress, and/or availability of the SNMP through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

CEQA needs to be followed if the Basin Plan is amended as a result of the SNMP. The public agencies that participate in the process can be the lead agencies for CEQA and the RWQCB can act as the responsible agency when adopting a basin plan amendment. Alternatively, the RWQCB can act as the lead agency and request that stakeholders prepare the necessary documentation.

Implementation Schedule

There is no implementation schedule for this project.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct additional analyses and develop plans in support of GSP implementation (CWC §10725 - 10726.9).

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to develop a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan as described above is approximately $80,000 (see Chapter 5, Table 5-4).

4.4.2 Evaluate Feasibility of Recycled Water Production for Non-Potable Reuse

The Ojai Valley Sanitary District provides sewer service to approximately 20,000 residents in the City of Ojai, unincorporated Ojai Valley, and north Ventura Avenue area. The OVSD's wastewater treatment plant is located along the Ventura River in the north Ventura Avenue area downstream of the OVGB. The treatment plant has a rated capacity of 3.0 million gallons per day average dry weather flow. For the period from 1983 to 2020 the annual average daily flow ranged from 1.44 to 3.02 million gallons per day. Highly treated effluent from the treatment plant is discharged in accordance with the NPDES Permit requirements to the Ventura River (at approximately river mile 5), with a limited quantity of treated effluent reclaimed for irrigation use at the treatment plant.

The OBGMA will work with the OVSD on a feasibility study for the use of treated effluent from the wastewater treatment plant for non-potable reuse in the OVGB.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels and reduction of groundwater in storage have the potential to benefit from implementation of this project, because non-potable water reuse would be in lieu of groundwater in most cases.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

Use of recycled water in the OVGB has the potential to reduce demand on groundwater production and replenish groundwater aquifers.

Circumstances for Implementation

This PMA is conceptual and would require collaboration with OVSD to evaluate feasibility. No specific trigger has been developed for implementation and likely would be opportunistic based on factors such as the need to upgrade existing wastewater infrastructure.

Public Noticing

The OBGMA will inform interested parties of schedule, progress, and/or results of the feasibility study through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct additional analyses and develop plans in support of GSP implementation.

Implementation Schedule

There is no specific schedule for implementation of this PMA.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct additional analyses and develop plans in support of GSP implementation (CWC §10725 - 10726.9). In addition, SB 534 Article 5, Section 503 provides for the OBGMA to recommend and encourage wastewater reuse.

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to evaluate the feasibility of recycled water production for non-potable use as described above is approximately $26,000 (see Chapter 5, Table 5-4).

4.4.3 Explore Opportunity to Implement Focused Recharge

Managed recharge of the OVGB occurred until 1985 through diversion of San Antonio Creek surface flows to a series of percolations basins at the San Antonio Creek Spreading Grounds. The San Antonio Creek Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation Project (SACSGRP) was undertaken to restore the function of the percolation basins, but the spreading grounds have not been used since the project was completed due to operational issues with the diversion structure.

The OBGMA supports the use of the spreading grounds to recharge the OVGB. The OBGMA will partner with the VCWPD to develop a workplan to bring the spreading grounds back into operation.

The OBGMA also supports stormwater capture for shallow aquifer recharge in portions of the OVGB overlain by the City of Ojai. Enhanced recharge of the shallow aquifer would likely benefit GDEs and downstream water users. The OBGMA will partner with the City of Ojai and conduct a feasibility study to identify opportunities to capture and direct roof and hardscape runoff to open spaces for shallow aquifer recharge.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater in storage, and depletions of interconnected surface water would benefit from implementation of this project if aquifer recharge results in an increase in groundwater elevations and groundwater in storage.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

Increased aquifer recharge would offset groundwater production and increase the sustainable yield of the OVGB. If the project is implemented, the success of the project will be evaluated based on the volume of water that recharges the groundwater aquifers.

Circumstances for Implementation

This project is proposed to be implemented as a component of the first 5-year GSP update. The implementation of this PMA is ongoing and based on future study and funding availability.

Public Noticing

The OBGMA will inform interested parties of progress and results of implementing focused recharge through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct additional analyses and develop plans in support of GSP implementation.

Implementation Schedule

This project is proposed to be developed as a component of the first 5-year GSP update. There is no specific schedule for implementation of this PMA.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct additional analyses and develop plans in support of GSP implementation (CWC §10725 - 10726.9).

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to explore focused recharge opportunities as described above is approximately $32,000 (see Chapter 5, Table 5-4).

4.4.4 Explore State Water Project Water Delivery Options

CMWD does not plan to obtain additional water through surface water transfers and exchanges, from desalinated water, or from recycled water. CMWD does, however, have an entitlement to 5,000 AFY of State Water Project (SWP) water that it is currently not able to receive because CMWD does not have a physical connection to the SWP. In 1963, the Ventura County Flood

Control District (VCFCD), now the Ventura County Watershed Protection District), contracted with the State of California for 20,000 AFY of water from the SWP. In 1971, the VCFCD assigned the administration of the Water Supply Contract to Casitas. Casitas' contractual share is 5,000 AFY, the City of Ventura has 10,000 AFY, and United Water Conservation District (UWCD) has 5,000 AFY. UWCD can access SWP through Lake Piru (via Pyramid Lake and Piru Creek), although local infrastructure is not in place to deliver the contractual share to Casitas and the City of Ventura.

In August 2020, DWR issued its most recent update, the 2019 DWR State Water Project Delivery Capability Report (DCR). The 2019 DCR includes DWR's estimates of SWP water supply availability under both existing (2020) and future (2040) conditions. According to the DCP, the long-term average delivery under existing conditions is 58 percent of Table A, and long-term average delivery under future conditions is 52 percent of Table A (2019 CDR, Appendix A Table A-1 and Appendix B Table B-3). For Casitas, this would result in a long-term average yield of 2,900 AFY under existing conditions and 2,600 AFY under future conditions.

CMWD has been involved in several studies to bring SWP water to the service area. Ultimately, either construction of a pipeline or interagency coordination and water transfers and exchanges, would be required for CMWD to access its SWP entitlement (CMWD 2021; Milner 2016). Currently, CMWD is exploring two SWP water alternatives: 1) connection with Carpinteria Valley Water District for 2,000 AFY on average and 2) connection between Calleguas Municipal Water District and the City of Ventura which could offset the City of Ventura's demands from Lake Casitas by as much as 5,000 AFY. These alternatives are conceptual and further study and implementation will likely be based on eligibility and availability of funding.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels and reduction of groundwater in storage have the potential to benefit from implementation of this project, because any use of SWP water in the OVGB would be in lieu of groundwater in most cases.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

If a water supply pipeline or agency exchange is implemented to allow CMWD to obtain it's full SWP Table A allocation, it is estimated that it could provide a long-term average yield of 2,900 AFY, taking the DCR into account. Depending on how much of this amount is delivered to the OVGB, it could significantly enhance operational flexibility within the basin, and allow for further conjunctive management of the basin.

Circumstances for Implementation

The implementation of this PMA is ongoing and based on future study and funding availability.

Public Noticing

The OBGMA will inform interested parties of State Water Project delivery options through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct additional analyses and develop plans in support of GSP implementation.

Implementation Schedule

There is no schedule for this PMA.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the authority to conduct additional analyses and develop plans in support of GSP implementation (CWC §10725 - 10726.9). The OBGMA would need to coordinate with CMWD to explore SWP options.

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to explore State Water Project delivery options as described above is approximately $20,000 (see Chapter 5, Table 5-4).

4.5 MANAGEMENT ACTION NO. 4 – COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

Effective communication between the OBGMA, stakeholders, and water users is a required component of SGMA and key to successful groundwater sustainability planning and implementation of projects and management actions.

4.5.1 Evaluate Settlement Management Plan from Physical Solution

On September 15, 2020, the City of Ventura, Ventura River Water District, Meiners Oaks Water District, Wood-Claeyssens Foundation, and the Rancho Matilija Mutual Water Company released a Proposed Physical Solution[1] as part of a settlement agreement between the City of Ventura and

[1] A physical solution is a court-supervised management plan that protects water resources within the watershed (in this case for the ecological beneficial uses within the Ventura River watershed), while preserving water right priorities, to the extent that those priorities do not lead to unreasonable use.

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper over a water rights litigation in the Ventura River watershed. The Proposed Physical Solution resolves that it is not necessary at this time for the court to determine the relative priority rights to water or to establish a comprehensive adjudication of water rights in the Ventura River watershed. The Proposed Physical Solution recognizes and requires integration with GSPs under development for the OVGB and Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin. The parties and the management committee, an arm of the court, will coordinate with the GSAs in finalizing and preparing the Management Plan, which is a plan to move the conditions of the Southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) fish population (Fishery) in the watershed from baseline condition to good condition. The Proposed Physical Solution is expressly designed to address one of the six "undesirable results" that the GSP must avoid—the significant and undesirable depletions of interconnected surface water. The Proposed Physical Solution proposes to use the health of the Fishery as a proxy for the overall health of the instream uses in the Ventura River Watershed. The court finds that the Proposed Physical Solution addresses this undesirable result, and if they so choose, the GSAs may adopt the Proposed Physical Solution to meet the requirements of that portion of the GSP. In addition, the Proposed Physical Solution and the final adopted Management Plan will include a water management component that could inform other requirements of the GSPs.

The Proposed Physical Solution consists of three phases: 1) Adoption Phase, 2) Implementation Phase, and 3) Adaptive Management Phase. The Adoption Phase allows the parties time to establish the governance structure and adopt the Management Plan. The Implementation Phase is a 10-year period after adoption of the Management Plan in which the parties will implement the Management Plan, and the Adaptive Management Phase is a continuing series of 10-year periods in which the parties will adaptively manage the implementation of the Management Plan and plan updates. The purpose of this phasing is to allow for transition of existing baseline conditions in the Ventura River watershed to good conditions as measured by the health of the Fishery.

Management Plan actions to achieve good conditions for Fishery health include potential activities such as removing barriers that block the steelhead's access to critical habitat, creation of rearing habitat (pools) and river features such as boulder and large woody material to improve habitat conditions, reducing invasive species, and monitoring water quality and the steelhead population. The OBGMA's preparation of a Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Assessment as part of Management Action 1 is expected to be compatible with Management Plan actions to achieve good conditions for Fishery health.

To date, no settlement agreement has been reached and the current terms of the Proposed Physical Solution have not been resolved. Additionally, no formal coordination by the parties and the management committee has occurred with the OBGMA. As this GSP is due to the DWR on January 31, 2022, it is unlikely that there will be sufficient time to review and incorporate appropriate findings and recommendations of the Management Plan into the GSP. When the

Management Plan is finalized the OBGMA will review the plan and evaluate its applicability to the GSP and management of the OVGB.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for depletions of interconnected surface water and groundwater dependent ecosystems may benefit from implementation of this project (the benefits of the Proposed Physical Solution are still to be determined).

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

The benefits of the Proposed Physical Solution are still to be determined. The primary expected benefit from this project would be enhancement of the Southern California steelhead population in the Ventura River watershed, including in San Antonio Creek, through adoption of the Proposed Physical Solution and implementation of the Management Plan. It is anticipated that the Management Plan will include activities and monitoring on San Antonio Creek and in the OVGB including water quality monitoring and removal of invasive species (see Section 4.2.4). Data collected as part of implementation of the Management Plan may fill data gaps and improve understanding of the hydrogeology of the OVGB.

Circumstances for Implementation

The OBGMA will evaluate the settlement Management Plan when finalized.

Public Noticing

The OBGMA will communicate issues from the Physical Solution, if they relate to activities within the OVGB, through means outlined in the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C). This could include website postings, email distribution, public meeting agenda items, etc.

Permitting and Regulatory Process

There would be no permitting and regulatory process for the OBGMA associated with the Proposed Physical Solution, because the OBGMA's role would be limited to reviewing and incorporating appropriate findings and recommendations of the Management Plan into the GSP at the time of the 5-year update, as appropriate.

Implementation Schedule

The OBGMA will evaluate the settlement Management Plan when finalized. The OBGMA will provide comment and input during the Adoption Phase if contacted by the parties and the management committee.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the legal authority to review and incorporate findings and recommendations of the Management Plan into the GSP, as appropriate (CWC §10725 - 10726.9).

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to evaluate the Management Plan from the Proposed Physical Solution as described above is approximately $24,000 (see Chapter 5, Table 5-4).

4.5.2 Implement Public Outreach and Engagement Plan

In 2020, the GSA prepared a Draft Public Outreach and Engagement Plan to provide individual stakeholders, stakeholder organizations, and other interested parties an opportunity to be involved in the development and evaluation of this GSP. To this end, the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan, included as Appendix C of this GSP, describes the steps the GSA has taken, and will continue to take, to achieve broad, enduring and productive public involvement during the development and implementation phases of this GSP.

The Public Outreach and Engagement Plan includes a list of identified stakeholders as of 2020 and describes the methods and avenues in which the GSA has continued to identify additional stakeholders, continued to solicit public involvement and feedback, and considered and/or incorporated stakeholder comments and concerns into the development and future implementation of this GSP. Examples of outreach and engagement that could occur during the GSP's implementation phase include soliciting input and/or communicating progress on the other PMAs discussed in this chapter, communicating the status of the Basin, and coordinating with other agencies in the watershed affected by GSP implementation.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater in storage, degraded water quality, and depletions of interconnected surface water have the potential to benefit from implementation of this project.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

Stakeholder engagement is an important component of any successful long-term planning effort and is required by SGMA (Sections 10720–10730) and GSP Regulations (Section 353–354). Engaging members of the public on groundwater sustainability planning can improve public understanding of the technical, financial, and political considerations the GSA factors into their decision-making process. Participation by the public can also improve the GSA's understanding of the potential impacts of their decisions.

Circumstances for Implementation

The Public Outreach and Engagement Plan will be implemented as a component of the GSP.

Public Noticing

No public noticing is required to implement the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (because it is already included as Appendix C of this GSP).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA is a public agency subject to the Brown Act, the state law that governs public meetings of agencies. All meetings shall be open and public except when the Brown Act authorizes otherwise.

Implementation Schedule

This PMA will be implemented on an ongoing basis throughout development, implementation, and updates of this GSP.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the authority to implement public outreach and engagement during development and after adoption this GSP (CWC §10720–10730).

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to implement the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan as described above is approximately $35,000 (see Chapter 5, Table 5-4).

4.5.3 Complete Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Reports and 5-Year Updates

SGMA requires GSAs to submit annual reports to DWR by April 1st of each year following adoption of a GSP, and to submit GSP evaluations and periodic updates at least every five years. Annual reports and periodic evaluations shall, at a minimum, include the components described as required pursuant to CCR Section 356.2 and Section 356.4, respectively (see Chapter 5, Section 5.1).

The OBGMA will submit annual reports to DWR each year and evaluate its GSP at least every 5 years. In addition to being available from DWR, the OBGMA will make annual reports and periodic evaluations available to the public and stakeholders through the OBGMA's website, email announcements, newsletters/columns, and/or water bill inserts.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for all sustainability indicators applicable to the OVGB, as discussed in Chapter 3, will benefit from completion of annual reports and 5-year updates.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

Each Periodic Evaluation will include an assessment of changes (in basin status, undesirable results, etc.) that have occurred, or new information impacting water use, and how they may impact the plan implementation and achievement of the sustainability goal. These annual reports and 5-year updates ensure that the OVGB is adaptively managed according to conditions as they exist at the time of each update and allows incorporation of new data or revised basin understanding into basin management, as necessary to meet the overall sustainability goal.

Circumstances for Implementation

The OBGMA will submit GSP annual reports and 5-year periodic evaluations to DWR as required by SGMA.

Public Noticing

The OBGMA will inform interested parties of schedule, progress, and/or availability of the Annual Reports and 5-Year Updates through implementation of the Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (included as Appendix C).

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA is required by SGMA to submit GSP annual reports and 5-year periodic evaluations to DWR.

Implementation Schedule

The OBGMA will submit annual reports to DWR by April 1st of each year and the periodic GSP evaluations and updates every five years.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA is required by SGMA to submit GSP annual reports and 5-year periodic evaluations to DWR.

Estimated Costs

The total annual cost of Annual Comprehensive DWR Reporting is estimated to be $30,000 per year starting in FY 2022. The 5-year update costs, including the Agency Evaluation and

Assessment Report and model updates/simulations, is estimated to be $180,000. If model updates are not required, the cost would be lower. These costs are expected to be funded using a combination of groundwater extraction charges, including quarterly fixed charges and variable pumping fees. Additionally, the OBGMA will proactively seek additional funding through state or other grants.

4.6 MANAGEMENT ACTION NO. 5 – ADMINISTRATE EFFICIENTLY

The resources available to the OBGMA to sustainably manage the OVGB include extraction fees charged to groundwater users and grant funding. Therefore, it is essential that the OBGMA administrates efficiently and pursues alternative funding opportunities to implement the PMAs described in this GSP and keep extraction fees low.

4.6.1 Explore Grant Funding Opportunities

The OBGMA is funded by wellhead fixed fees and extraction charges assessed to each well operator in the OVGB. These funds are used to carry out the groundwater management activities of the agency, though the majority of OBGMA's operating budget is used to pay the agency's staff, insurance, legal services, and regular audit expenses. The OBGMA has successfully secured additional funding through grants, including for development of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Model and completion of the SACSGRP. The OBGMA will continue to explore grant funding opportunities that are within its purview to pay management and administration costs, operations and monitoring costs, and to fund continuation of the existing and implementation of the proposed PMAs identified in this GSP.

Measurable Objective Expected to Benefit

The measurable objectives for chronic declines in groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater in storage, degraded water quality, and depletions of interconnected surface water have the potential to benefit from implementation of this project, because grants funds would pay for sustainable groundwater planning and implementation of projects.

Expected Benefits and Evaluation

Adequate funding is required for the sustainable management of groundwater in the OVGB. The success of this management action will be evaluated based on the OBGMA's ability to secure grant funds for continuation of the existing and implementation of the proposed PMAs identified in this GSP.

Circumstances for Implementation

This project is currently being implemented and will continue through the implementation phase of this GSP.

Public Noticing

State and federal grants funded by taxpayers are subject to public review prior to final distribution of funds. The OBGMA will inform interested parties and the public when grant funding is received and how the funding will support the sustainable management of groundwater resources in the OVGB.

Permitting and Regulatory Process

The OBGMA has the authority to apply for grant funding to support the sustainable management of the OVGB.

Implementation Schedule

The OBGMA will review funding opportunities and submit grant proposals as opportunities arise.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Proposition 68 Implementation Round 2 application solicitation begins in spring 2022, which may be an opportunity for the OBGMA to secure funding for implementation of one or several of the PMAs discussed above.

Legal Authority

The OBGMA has the authority to apply for grant funding to support the sustainable management of the OVGB.

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost to explore grant funding opportunities is approximately $17,000 (Chapter 5, Table 5-4). This includes cost to research funding opportunities and write grant applications.

4.7 REFERENCES CITED

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CHAPTER 5
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND ESTIMATED COSTS

This Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) will be implemented by the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA), acting as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin (OVGB). The following sections include cost estimates for Plan implementation including annual reporting, periodic updates, monitoring protocols, and projects and management actions (PMAs). Potential funding sources and mechanisms are presented along with a tentative schedule for implementing the GSP's primary components. In addition, annual reporting and 5-year update procedures for the OVGB are described.

Standards for Plan Implementation

Under the GSP Regulations (23 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 350, et seq.), the GSP is to include the following:

- An estimate of the cost of implementing the Plan and a general description of how the Agency plans to meet those costs (23 CCR Section 354.6(e)).
- Schedule for Implementation (23 CCR Sections 352.4(c)(2) and 355.4(b)(2)).

Annual Reporting

The OBGMA shall submit an annual report to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by April 1 of each year following the adoption of the GSP. The annual report shall include the following components for the preceding water year:

1. General information, including an executive summary and a location map depicting the basin covered by the report.
2. A detailed description and graphical representation of the following conditions of the basin managed in the Plan:
    a. Groundwater elevation data from monitoring wells identified in the monitoring network shall be analyzed and displayed as follows:
        i. Groundwater elevation contour maps for each principal aquifer in the basin illustrating, at a minimum, the seasonal high and seasonal low groundwater conditions.
        ii. Hydrographs of groundwater elevations and water year type using historical data to the greatest extent available, including from January 1, 2015, to current reporting year.

b. Groundwater extraction for the preceding water year. Data shall be collected using the best available measurement methods and shall be presented in a table that summarizes groundwater extractions by water use sector, and identifies the method of measurement (direct or estimate) and accuracy of measurements, and a map that illustrates the general location and volume of groundwater extractions.

c. Surface water supply used or available for use, for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use shall be reported based on quantitative data that describes the annual volume and sources for the preceding water year.

d. Total water use shall be collected using the best available measurement methods and shall be reported in a table that summarizes total water use by water use sector, water source type, and identifies the method of measurement (direct or estimate) and accuracy of measurements.

e. Change in groundwater in storage shall include the following:

   i. Change in groundwater in storage maps for each principal aquifer in the basin.

   ii. A graph depicting water year type, groundwater use, the annual change in groundwater in storage, and the cumulative change in groundwater in storage for the basin based on historical data to the greatest extent available, including from January 1, 2015, to the current reporting year.

3. A description of progress towards implementing the Plan, including achieving interim milestones, and implementation of projects or management actions since the previous annual report (CCR Section 356.2).

5-Year Evaluation

The OBGMA shall evaluate its Plan at least every 5 years and whenever the Plan is amended and provide a written assessment to DWR. The assessment shall describe whether the Plan implementation, including implementation of PMAs, are meeting the sustainability goal in the OVGB, and shall include the following:

1. A description of current groundwater conditions for each applicable sustainability indicator relative to measurable objectives, interim milestones and minimum thresholds.
2. A description of the implementation of any projects or management actions, and the effect on groundwater conditions resulting from those projects or management actions.
3. Elements of the Plan, including the basin setting, management areas, or the identification of undesirable results and the setting of minimum thresholds and measurable objectives, shall be reconsidered and revisions proposed, if necessary.

4. An evaluation of the basin setting in light of significant new information or changes in water use, and an explanation of any significant changes. If the Agency's evaluation shows that the basin is experiencing overdraft conditions, the Agency shall include an assessment of measures to mitigate that overdraft.
5. A description of the monitoring network within the basin, including whether data gaps exist, or any areas within the basin are represented by data that does not satisfy the requirements of the GSP Regulations (23 CCR Sections 352.4 and 354.34(c)). The description shall include the following:
    a. An assessment of monitoring network function with an analysis of data collected to date, identification of data gaps, and the actions necessary to improve the monitoring network, consistent with the requirements of Section 354.38.
    b. If the Agency identifies data gaps, the Plan shall describe a program for the acquisition of additional data sources, including an estimate of the timing of that acquisition, and for incorporation of newly obtained information into the Plan.
    c. The Plan shall prioritize the installation of new data collection facilities and analysis of new data based on the needs of the basin.
6. A description of significant new information that has been made available since Plan adoption or amendment, or the last 5-year assessment. The description shall also include whether new information warrants changes to any aspect of the Plan, including the evaluation of the basin setting, measurable objectives, minimum thresholds, or the criteria defining undesirable results.
7. A description of relevant actions taken by the Agency, including a summary of regulations or ordinances related to the Plan.
8. Information describing any enforcement or legal actions taken by the Agency in furtherance of the sustainability goal for the basin.
9. A description of completed or proposed Plan amendments.
10. Where appropriate, a summary of coordination that occurred between multiple Agencies in a single basin, Agencies in hydrologically connected basins, and land use agencies.
11. Other information the Agency deems appropriate, along with any information required by DWR to conduct a periodic review as required by California Water Code (CWC) Section 10733 (CCR Section 356.4).

5.1.1 Groundwater Sustainability Agency Annual Budget

The OBGMA has performed substantial work toward estimating the cost of GSP implementation based on historical OBGMA operating costs and estimated costs to complete the activities contemplated in this GSP. Summaries of the tasks and costs are provided in the following subsections.

5.1.1.1 Management, Administration, and Other Costs

The OBGMA management and administration costs are based on historical management of the OVGB. The OBGMA's five-year cost of service analsyis prepared in 2020 was used as the basis for establishing budget through fiscal year (FY) 2024 (OBGMA 2020). Thereafter, future costs were estimated by applying inflation factors[1] to established costs. Table 5-1 provides a comprehensive list of line item expense types that the OBGMA expects to incur in FY 2022. The total annual cost of these tasks in FY 2022 is estimated to be $123,000 (rounded up to the nearest thousand).

Table 5-1
Management, Administration and Other Costs

Expense Item	Estimated Annual Cost (FY 2022)
Management and Administration	
Administrative Personnel	$35,000
Liability Insurance	$2,200
Worker's Comp	$700
Medical Reimbursement	$2,500
Sub-Total Labor Cost:	*$40,400*
Office Expenses	
Rent	$9,600
Telephone	$1,500
Utilities (included in office rent)	$-
Supplies	$2,500
Postage	$2,000
Equipment Purchase/Capital Outlay	$2,500
Bank Charges	$-
Sub-Total Office Cost:	*$18,100*
Training & Memberships	
Staff Training	$1,000
Ventura Watershed Council/Coordinator	$400
IRWMP/Watershed Coalition Membership	$1,600
Sub-Total Training and Memberships Cost:	*$3,000*

[1] Assumes general inflation factor of 2.8% per year. Inflation factors for salary = 3.5%, benefits = 7%, utilities = 5%, construction = 4%, insurance = 6%, engineering = 4% and legal services = 3.5%.

Table 5-1
Management, Administration and Other Costs

Expense Item	Estimated Annual Cost (FY 2022)
Regular Professional/Support Services	
Accounting/Bookkeeping	$10,000
Management Services	$15,000
Legal Services	
Board/Administrative Support	$22,000
Other Support Services	
Financial Audit	$12,000
Website Maintenance	$1,000
Existing Data Base	$1,000
Sub-Total Regular Prof./Support Services Cost:	*$61,000*
Total Management, Administration and Other Costs	**$123,000 (rounded)**

5.1.1.2 Operations and Monitoring Costs

Annual operations include monitoring of groundwater levels, water quality, and streamflow, and compilation of self-reported production data. Cost to compile and report self-reported data is included as part of Management, Administration and Other Costs. Other tasks include data management, monitoring equipment maintenance, and project management and coordination such as attendance of technical staff at OBGMA Board Meetings. The required annual report will be produced in accordance with Section 356.2 of the GSP Regulations. The total annual cost of these tasks is estimated to be $118,000 per year (rounded up to the nearest thousand) starting in FY 2022. A task list and related estimated annual costs are provided in Table 5-2.

Table 5-2
Operations and Monitoring Costs

Expense Item		Estimated Annual Cost (FY 2022)
Task 1:	Monthly Water Level Monitoring	$21,000
Task 2:	Semi-Annual Water Quality Monitoring	$15,000
Task 3:	Monthly Stream Flow Monitoring	$26,000
Task 4:	Annual Data Management System Maintenance	$11,000
Task 5:	Annual Comprehensive DWR Reporting	$30,000
Task 6:	Project Management and Coordination	$15,000
Total Operations and Monitoring Costs		**$118,000 (rounded)**

5.1.2 Reserves and Contingencies

In addition to covering the operations budget, the OBGMA will investigate the need for adoption of a reserves policy which is expressly authorized by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) (CWC Sections 10730(a) and 10730.2(a)(1)). Reasonable and achievable reserves are a prudent financial tool to aid in cash flow timing and unforeseen expenditures. Generally, a reserve for operations targets a specific percentage of annual operating costs or days of cash on hand. The reserve target is influenced by several factors including the frequency of billing and the recurrence of expenses. Comparable agencies use a reserves policy rule of one to two times frequency of cash flow. For example, based on the OBGMA's current quarterly billing cycle, the reserves percentage would be from 25% to 50% of the general operating budget, which would include the costs detailed in Tables 5-1 through 5-3. Additional reserves may be required for implantation of PMAs (Table 5-4) and other future capital improvement projects if implanted by the OBGMA.

5.1.3 Periodic (5-Year) Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update Costs

Every fifth year of GSP implementation and whenever the GSP is amended, the OBGMA is required to prepare and submit an Agency Evaluation and Assessment Report to the DWR together with the annual report for that year. The assessment and report will be prepared as described in CCR Section 356.10. Table 5-3 provides a list of tasks and estimated cost that the OBGMA expects to incur to complete 5-year updates. The total cost to prepare the five-year update due in FY 2027 is estimated to be $180,000 (rounded up to the nearest thousand).

Table 5-3
Groundwater Sustainability Plan 5-Year Update Costs

Expense Item		Estimated 5-Year Additional Costs
Task 1	Model Update and Simulations*	$60,000
Task 2	GSP Evaluation	$40,000
Task 3	GSP Update	$70,000
Task 4	Project Management and Meetings	$10,000
Total Groundwater Sustainability Plan 5-Year Update Costs		**$180,000 (rounded)**

Notes:
* Costs for model update and simulations are provided for every 5 years of the planning horizon, though this task may not be completed each time, or the scope of work may be more limited.

5.1.4 Projects and Management Actions Development Costs

Details of the proposed PMAs are presented in Chapter 4, Projects and Management Actions. Task descriptions and estimated costs associated with development of each PMA are summarized in Table 5-4. Proposed PMAs are presented at the planning level and additional costs will be incurred with full implementation. The level of cost development is categorized into three levels: 1) Rough Order of Magnitude Estimate with a cost variance of plus/minus (+/-) 50%, 2) Budget Estimate

with a cost variance of +25% to -10%, and 3) Definitive Estimate with a cost variance of +10% to -5%. All estimated costs have been rounded up to the nearest thousand. The total cost to implement PMAs is estimated to be $463,000 (rounded up to the nearest thousand).

Table 5-4
Projects and Management Actions Development Costs

PMA Number	PMA	Estimated Cost	Level of Cost Development
Management Action No. 1 – Understand the Basin			
1a	Prepare Sampling and Analysis Plan and Quality Assurance Plan	$13,000	Definitive Estimate
1b	Prepare Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Assessment	$50,000	Rough Order of Magnitude Estimate
1c	Develop Data Management System	$34,000	Budget Estimate
1d	Simulate Extreme Climate Scenarios	$24,000	Budget Estimate
	Sub-total	*$121,000*	
Management Action No. 2 – Protect and Manage the Basin			
2a	Develop Comprehensive Conjunctive Management Plan	$31,000	Rough Order of Magnitude Estimate
2b	Develop Groundwater Allocation	$28,000	Rough Order of Magnitude Estimate
2c	Develop Water Conservation Program	$29,000	Rough Order of Magnitude Estimate
2d	Encourage Voluntary Pumping Reductions	$20,000	Rough Order of Magnitude Estimate
	Sub-total	*$108,000*	
Management Action No. 3 – Encourage Supporting Activities			
3a	Develop Salt and Nutrient Management Plan	$80,000	Budget Estimate
3b	Evaluate Feasibility of Recycled Water Production for Non-Potable Reuse	$26,000	Rough Order of Magnitude Estimate
3c	Explore Opportunity to Implement Focused Recharge	$32,000	Rough Order of Magnitude Estimate
3d	Explore State Water Project Water Delivery Options	$20,000	Rough Order of Magnitude Estimate
	Sub-total	*$158,000*	
Management Action No. 4 – Communicate Effectively			
4a	Evaluate Settlement Management Plan from Physical Solution	$24,000	Budget Estimate
4b	Implement Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Plan	$35,000	Budget Estimate
	Sub-total	*$59,000*	
Management Action No. 5 – Administrate Efficiently			
5a	Explore Grant Funding Opportunities	$17,000	Budget Estimate
	Sub-total	*$17,000*	
	Total PMAs Development Costs	**$463,000**	Rounded to nearest thousand

Notes:
All costs rounded up to the nearest thousandth. Not all of the PMAs may need to be implemented as some PMAs are tied to exceedance of minimum thresholds or regulatory driven as described in Chapter 4.
Cost development ranges are as follows: Rough Order of Magnitude Estimate (variance plus/minus 50%)
Budget Estimate (variance of +25% to -10%)
Definitive Estimate (variance of +10% to -5%)

5.1.5 Total Costs

Annual implementation costs may vary from year to year as a result of the status of PMAs, significance of new data, and increased reporting requirements every fifth year of implementation. For planning purposes, the estimated annual budget for OBGMA operations and monitoring have been adjusted for annual inflation based on the inflation factors previously described in Section 5.1.1 to determine the total GSP implementation cost when costs from the five-year cost of service analsyis prepared in 2020 are not available. After FY 2024, the inflation factors are applied to costs by type. The estimated GSP implementation cost for the 21-year implementation period through FY 2042 for operations and monitoring, management, administration and other costs, and 5-year annual reviews is approximately $8,114,000 as summarized in Table 5-5. Projects and Management Action costs are based on the PMAs described in Chapter 4 and run through FY 2027.

Table 5-5
Groundwater Sustainability Plan Estimated Implementation Cost Through 2042

FY	Management/ Administration	Office Expenses	Training & Memberships	Professional/ Support Services	GSP Cost*	Operations & Monitoring Costs	Five-Year Update	Projects and Management Actions**	Totals	Extraction Fee ($/AF)***
2022	$40,400	$18,100	$3,000	$61,000	$186,000	$118,000		$45,000	$471,500	$118
2023	$40,400	$15,600	$3,000	$49,000		$118,000		$95,000	$321,000	$80
2024	$40,400	$18,100	$3,000	$61,000		$118,000		$92,000	$332,500	$83
2025	$41,974	$16,070	$3,084	$47,598		$123,000		$89,000	$320,726	$80
2026	$43,614	$16,554	$3,170	$49,252		$128,000	$54,000	$55,000	$349,590	$87
2027	$45,322	$17,054	$3,259	$50,965		$133,000	$126,000	$87,000	$462,600	$116
2028	$47,101	$17,570	$3,350	$52,738		$139,000			$259,759	$65
2029	$48,956	$18,102	$3,444	$54,574		$144,000			$269,076	$67
2030	$50,889	$18,651	$3,541	$56,475		$150,000			$279,556	$70
2031	$52,905	$19,218	$3,640	$58,443		$156,000	$63,000		$353,206	$88
2032	$55,006	$19,802	$3,742	$60,481		$162,000	$147,000		$448,031	$112
2033	$57,197	$20,405	$3,846	$62,590		$168,000			$312,038	$78
2034	$59,482	$21,028	$3,954	$64,775		$175,000			$324,239	$81
2035	$61,866	$21,670	$4,065	$67,037		$182,000			$336,638	$84
2036	$64,353	$22,334	$4,179	$69,379		$189,000	$73,000		$422,245	$106
2037	$66,949	$23,018	$4,296	$71,804		$197,000	$170,000		$533,067	$133
2038	$69,657	$23,725	$4,416	$74,315		$205,000			$377,113	$94
2039	$72,485	$24,455	$4,540	$76,915		$213,000			$391,395	$98
2040	$75,437	$25,208	$4,667	$79,608		$222,000			$406,920	$102
2041	$78,520	$25,986	$4,797	$82,396		$230,000	$85,000		$506,699	$127
2042	$81,740	$26,789	$4,932	$85,283		$240,000	$197,000		$635,744	$159
Total	**$1,194,653**	**$429,438**	**$79,921**	**$1,335,629**	**$186,000**	**$3,510,000**	**$915,000**	**$463,000**	**$8,113,642**	**$97**

Notes: Assumes general inflation factor of 2.8% per year. Inflation factors: salary = 3.5%, benefits = 7%, utilities = 5%, construction = 4%, insurance = 6%, engineering = 4% and legal services = 3.5%.

* GSP preparation costs for FY 2022 only are included in the OBGMA 20-year budget. Actual GSP preparation cost is approximately $600,000.

** Projects and Management Action costs are based on the PMAs described in Chapter 4 and run through FY 2027.

*** Extraction fee estimate assumes annual FY costs are funded solely by groundwater extractions at a rate of 4,000 AFY and does not include any outside funding sources such as grants.

Estimated total GSP implementation costs assumes the following general components:

- Data collection, management, and evaluation
- Annual reporting
- 5-year review assessment and reporting
- Data gap analysis and additional evaluation
- PMAs development and implementation of components as funding allows
- Management, administration, and other costs

5.1.6 Funding Sources

In general, the OBGMA plans to fund GSP implementation using a combination of groundwater extraction charges, including quarterly fixed meter charges and variable pumping fees. Additionally, the OBGMA will proactively seek additional funding through state or other grants. Implementation of some PMAs over the GSP implementation period may be dependent on obtaining grant funding.

5.2 IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Pursuant to SGMA, the GSP will be adopted no later than January 31, 2022. Figure 5-1 provides a preliminary schedule for implementation of the primary GSP components through the first 5-year periodic evaluation. The schedule may shift as the process proceeds. The OBGMA will regularly complete a reevaluation and update of the schedule components based on progress toward maintaining the sustainability goal. It is anticipated that the schedule will be updated on an annual basis.

Routine annual and 5-year reporting of GSP progress will be performed in accordance with SGMA requirements. Annual Reports will be prepared and submitted to the DWR by April 1 of each year. Periodic Reports (5-Yearly or following substantial GSP amendments) will be submitted to the DWR by April 1 at least every 5 years (i.e., 2027, 2032, 2037, and 2042). The contents of Annual and Periodic Reports are described in the following Sections 5.3 and 5.4.

5.3 ANNUAL REPORTING

The annual report will, at a minimum, include the components described as required pursuant to CCR Section 356.2. In addition to being available from DWR, the OBGMA will make annual reports available to the public and stakeholders through the methods described in Chapter 2 (Section 2.1.5, Notice and Communication), primarily through the OBGMA's website, but also through email announcements, newsletters/columns, and/or water bill inserts.

Task Schedule	Dates
	2022: JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC 2023: JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC 2024: JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC 2025: JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC 2026: JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC 2027: JAN
GSP Submitted to DWR	
Groundwater Conditions Monitoring	
Groundwater Extraction Monitoring	
Groundwater Quality Monitoring	
Groundwater Level Monitoring	
Streamflow Monitoring	
GSP Annual Report	
GSP 5-Year Periodic Evaluation	
Refine, Update, and Recalibrate Groundwater Model	
5-Year Report Preparation	
OBGMA Administration and Operations	
Projects and Management Actions	

- GSP Submitted to DWR
- Quarterly Groundwater Extraction Statement Submitted to OBGMA
- Quarterly Groundwater Extraction Recording Period
- Seasonal Groundwater Quality Sampling (Spring and Fall)
- Monthly Groundwater Level Monitoring
- Seasonal Groundwater Level Monitoring (Spring and Fall)
- Monthly Streamflow Monitoring
- Prepare Annual Reports
- Submit Annual Report to DWR
- Preparation of 5-year GSP Evaluation
- Submit 5-year GSP Evaluation to DWR
- OBGMA Administration and Operations
- Projects and Management Actions

FIGURE 5-1

GSP Implementation Schedule

Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin

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5.3.1 General Information

An executive summary will be prepared to summarize the findings of the Annual Report and include a location map similar to Figure 1-1. This section will include a description of significant progress and pertinent findings of the reporting period and key recommendations for going forward.

5.3.2 Description and Graphical Representations of Groundwater Information

Groundwater Elevation Data

Detailed descriptions and graphical representations will be included to demonstrate the following conditions of the OVGB in accordance with the monitoring plan and monitoring network described in Section 3.5. Groundwater elevation data for each RMP will be depicted and summarized using groundwater contour maps similar to those included as Figures 2-22 and 2-23. The contour maps will include delineation of the primary aquifers and groundwater contours for seasonal high and low conditions. Hydrographs depicting current and historical data for each RMP will be included. The written section will include a description and interpretation of the data shown in the figures and a discussion of observed data gaps and recommendations for modifications to the monitoring network, if warranted.

Groundwater Extraction

Groundwater extraction information for the preceding water year will be presented. Data sources will include OBGMA self-reporting production records. Data will be presented in a table that summarizes groundwater extractions by well and identifies the measurement method (direct or estimated) and accuracy of measurements. A map of general location and volume of groundwater extractions will be provided. Groundwater extraction will be documented in conformance with the established OBGMA protocols.

Surface Water Supply

The volume of surface water supplied form Lake Casitas to water users in the OVGB will be documented. The annual report will note developments or studies in regard to surface water supplies. The contribution from natural sources of recharge is presented in Section 2.2.3, Water Budget, and will be quantified as part of the water budget.

Total Water Use

The total water use for the OVGB will be reported in tabular format including water use by type and geographically by well. Sources of data will include OBGMA self-reporting production data,

municipal data and CMWD data and delivery records. Where direct measurement is not possible, indirect methods will be used to estimate water use.

Changes in Groundwater Storage

Estimated changes in storage will be evaluated using data from the representative monitoring points RMPs and potentially data from additionally monitored wells. This information will be depicted on maps to display the change in groundwater storage over a period of time spatially within the OVGB. This section will include a graph of climate, groundwater use, and annual and cumulative change in storage for the period of available record through the reporting period.

5.3.3 Plan Implementation Progress

A description of progress toward implementing the GSP will be included, including maintaining sustainability goals, meeting minimum thresholds and implementation of PMAs since the previous report. Current progress will be compared to the planned schedule using the chart shown in Figure 5-1.

5.4 PERIODIC EVALUATION AND REPORTING

The OBGMA will evaluate its GSP at least every 5 years and whenever the GSP is amended and provide a written assessment to the DWR. The evaluation will include the elements of the annual reports and an assessment of the progress toward the sustainability goal as defined in Section 3.1.3, Sustainability Goal. At a minimum, the Periodic Evaluations will include the elements required pursuant to CCR Section 356.4 as described in Section 5.1. In addition to being available from DWR, the OBGMA will make periodic evaluations available to the public and stakeholders through the methods described in Chapter 1 (Section 1.3.3, Notice and Communication).

5.5 REFERENCES

OBGMA (Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency) 2020. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Cost of Service Analysis and GSP Fee Proposal. OBGMA Board Meeting April 30, 2020.

APPENDIX A

Preparation of Checklist for GSP Submittal

GSP Regulations Section	Water Code Section	Requirement	Description	Section(s) or Page Number(s) in the GSP
Article 3. Technical and Reporting Standards				
352.2		Monitoring Protocols	· Monitoring protocols adopted by the GSA for data collection and management	Section 3.5.5; page 3-42
			· Monitoring protocols that are designed to detect changes in groundwater levels, groundwater quality, inelastic surface subsidence for basins for which subsidence has been identified as a potential problem, and flow and quality of surface water that directly affect groundwater levels or quality or are caused by groundwater extraction in the basin	Section 3.5.5; page 3-42
Article 5. Plan Contents, Subarticle 1. Administrative Information				
354.4		General Information	· Executive Summary	ES-1
			· List of references and technical studies	Section 1.5, Section 2.5, Section 3.6, Section 4.7, Section 5.5
354.6		Agency Information	· GSA mailing address	page 1-5
			· Organization and management structure	Section 1.3.1
			· Contact information of Plan Manager	page 1-5
			· Legal authority of GSA	Section 1.3.2
			· Estimate of implementation costs	Section 5.1
354.8(a)	10727.2(a)(4)	Map(s)	· Area covered by GSP	Section 1.1
			· Adjudicated areas, other agencies within the basin, and areas covered by an Alternative	Section 1.1
			· Jurisdictional boundaries of federal or State land	Section 2.1.1
			· Existing land use designations	Section 2.1.3
			· Density of wells per square mile	Page 2-19
354.8(b)		Description of the Plan Area	· Summary of jurisdictional areas and other features	Section 2.1
354.8(c)	10727.2(g)	Water Resource Monitoring and Management Programs	· Description of water resources monitoring and management programs	Section 2.1.2
354.8(d)			· Description of how the monitoring networks of those plans will be incorporated into the GSP	Section 2.1.2
354.8(e)			· Description of how those plans may limit operational flexibility in the basin	Section 2.1.2

GSP Regulations Section	Water Code Section	Requirement	Description	Section(s) or Page Number(s) in the GSP
			· Description of conjunctive use programs	page 2-34
354.8(f)	10727.2(g)	Land Use Elements or Topic Categories of Applicable General Plans	· Summary of general plans and other land use plans	Section 2.1.3
			· Description of how implementation of the GSP may change water demands or affect achievement of sustainability and how the GSP addresses those effects	Section 3.1.3, Section 4.1
			· Description of how implementation of the GSP may affect the water supply assumptions of relevant land use plans	Section 2.1.3
			· Summary of the process for permitting new or replacement wells in the basin	page 2-31
			· Information regarding the implementation of land use plans outside the basin that could affect the ability of the Agency to achieve sustainable groundwater management	Section 2.1.3
354.8(g)	10727.4	Additional GSP Contents	· Description of Actions related to:	
			· Control of saline water intrusion	Section 2.3.4.3
			· Wellhead protection	Page 2-32
			· Migration of contaminated groundwater	Page 2-32
			· Well abandonment and well destruction program	Page 2-32
			· Replenishment of groundwater extractions	Section 2.4
			· Conjunctive use and underground storage	Page 2-34
			· Well construction policies	Page 2-32
			· Addressing groundwater contamination cleanup, recharge, diversions to storage, conservation, water recycling, conveyance, and extraction projects	Section 2.3.4, Section 4.3
			· Efficient water management practices	Section 2.1.2.3, Section 2.1.2
			· Relationships with State and federal regulatory agencies	Section 2.1.1, Section 2.1.2.4
			· Review of land use plans and efforts to coordinate with land use planning agencies to assess activities that potentially create risks to groundwater quality or quantity	Section 2.1.3

GSP Regulations Section	Water Code Section	Requirement	Description	Section(s) or Page Number(s) in the GSP
			· Impacts on groundwater dependent ecosystems	Section 2.3.4.7, Section 3.3.6, Appendix E
354.1		Notice and Communication	· Description of beneficial uses and users · List of public meetings · GSP comments and responses · Decision-making process · Public engagement · Encouraging active involvement · Informing the public on GSP implementation progress	Section 2.1.4 Appendix C Appendix C Appendix C Appendix C Appendix C Appendix C
Article 5. Plan Contents, Subarticle 2. Basin Setting				
354.14		Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model	· Description of the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model · Two scaled cross-sections · Map(s) of physical characteristics: topographic information, surficial geology, soil characteristics, surface water bodies, source and point of delivery for imported water supplies	Section 2.3 Page 2-81, 2-83, 2-85, 2-69 Figures 2-2, 2-13A, 2-13B, 2-14, 2-15, 2-16, 2-18
354.14(c)(4)	10727.2(a)(5)	Map of Recharge Areas	· Map delineating existing recharge areas that substantially contribute to the replenishment of the basin, potential recharge areas, and discharge areas	Figure 2-18
	10727.2(d)(4)	Recharge Areas	· Description of how recharge areas identified in the plan substantially contribute to the replenishment of the basin	Section 2.3.3
354.16	10727.2(a)(1) 10727.2(a)(2)	Current and Historical Groundwater Conditions	· Groundwater elevation data · Estimate of groundwater storage · Seawater intrusion conditions · Groundwater quality issues · Land subsidence conditions · Identification of interconnected surface water systems · Identification of groundwater-dependent ecosystems	Section 2.3.4.1 Section 2.3.4.2 Section 2.3.4.3 Section 2.3.4.4 Section 2.3.4.5 Section 2.3.4.6 Section 2.3.4.7
354.18	10727.2(a)(3)	Water Budget Information	· Description of inflows, outflows, and change in storage · Quantification of overdraft · Estimate of sustainable yield · Quantification of current, historical, and projected water budgets	Section 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3 Section 2.4.6 Section 2.4.7 Section 2.4.4

GSP Regulations Section	Water Code Section	Requirement	Description	Section(s) or Page Number(s) in the GSP
	10727.2(d)(5)	Surface Water Supply	· Description of surface water supply used or available for use for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use	Section 2.4.8
354.2		Management Areas	· Reason for creation of each management area	N/A
			· Minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for each management area	N/A
			· Level of monitoring and analysis	N/A
			· Explanation of how management of management areas will not cause undesirable results outside the management area	N/A
			· Description of management areas	N/A
Article 5. Plan Contents, Subarticle 3. Sustainable Management Criteria				
354.24		Sustainability Goal	· Description of the sustainability goal	Section 3.1.3
354.26		Undesirable Results	· Description of undesirable results	Section 3.2
			· Cause of groundwater conditions that would lead to undesirable results	Section 3.2
			· Criteria used to define undesirable results for each sustainability indicator	Section 3.2
			· Potential effects of undesirable results on beneficial uses and users of groundwater	Section 3.2
354.28	10727.2(d)(1)	Minimum Thresholds	· Description of each minimum threshold and how they were established for each sustainability indicator	Section 3.3.1 to 3.3.6
	10727.2(d)(2)		· Relationship for each sustainability indicator	Section 3.3.1.2, 3.3.2.2, and 3.3.4.2
			· Description of how selection of the minimum threshold may affect beneficial uses and users of groundwater	Section 3.3.1.3, 3.3.1.4, 3.3.2.3, 3.3.2.4, 3.3.4.3, and 3.3.4.4
			· Standards related to sustainability indicators	Section 3.3.1.5, 3.3.2.5, and 3.3.4.5
			· How each minimum threshold will be quantitatively measured	Section 3.3.1.6, 3.3.2.6, and 3.3.4.6
354.3	10727.2(b)(1)	Measureable Objectives	· Description of establishment of the measureable objectives for each sustainability indicator	Section 3.4.1 to 3.4.6
	10727.2(b)(2)		· Description of how a reasonable margin of safety was established for each measureable objective	Section 3.4.1, 3.4.2, and 3.4.4
	10727.2(d)(1)		· Description of a reasonable path to achieve and maintain the sustainability goal, including a description of interim milestones	Section 3.4.1, 3.4.2, and 3.4.4
	10727.2(d)(2)			

GSP Regulations Section	Water Code Section	Requirement	Description	Section(s) or Page Number(s) in the GSP
Article 5. Plan Contents, Subarticle 4. Monitoring Networks				
354.34	10727.2(d)(1)	Monitoring Networks	· Description of monitoring network	Section 3.5.2
	10727.2(d)(2)		· Description of monitoring network objectives	Section 3.5.1
			· Description of how the monitoring network is designed to: demonstrate groundwater occurrence, flow directions, and hydraulic gradients between principal aquifers and surface water features; estimate the change in annual groundwater in storage; monitor seawater intrusion; determine groundwater quality trends; identify the rate and extent of land subsidence; and calculate depletions of surface water caused by groundwater extractions	Section 3.5.2
	10727.2(e)		· Description of how the monitoring network provides adequate coverage of Sustainability Indicators	Section 3.5.3
	10727.2(f)		· Density of monitoring sites and frequency of measurements required to demonstrate short-term, seasonal, and long-term trends	Section 3.5.3.1
			· Scientific rational (or reason) for site selection	Section 2.1.2.1 and 3.5.2
			· Consistency with data and reporting standards	Section 3.5.4 and 3.5.5
			· Corresponding sustainability indicator, minimum threshold, measureable objective, and interim milestone	Section 3.5.3
			· Location and type of each monitoring site within the basin displayed on a map, and reported in tabular format, including information regarding the monitoring site type, frequency of measurement, and the purposes for which the monitoring site is being used	Pages 259-261 and Figures 3-2 and 3-3
			· Description of technical standards, data collection methods, and other procedures or protocols to ensure comparable data and methodologies	Section 3.5.4 and 3.5.5
354.36		Representative Monitoring	· Description of representative sites	Section 3.5.6

GSP Regulations Section	Water Code Section	Requirement	Description	Section(s) or Page Number(s) in the GSP
			· Demonstration of adequacy of using groundwater elevations as proxy for other sustainability indicators	Section 3.5.6
			· Adequate evidence demonstrating site reflects general conditions in the area	Section 3.5.6
354.38		Assessment and Improvement of Monitoring Network	Review and evaluation of the monitoring network	Section 3.5.7.1
			Identification and description of data gaps	Section 3.5.7.2
			Description of steps to fill data gaps	Section 3.5.7.3
			· Description of monitoring frequency and density of sites	Section 3.5.2.1 and 3.5.7.4
Article 5. Plan Contents, Subarticle 5. Projects and Management Actions				
354.44		Projects and Management Actions	· Description of projects and management actions that will help achieve the basin's sustainability goal	Section 4.2 to Section 4.6
			· Measureable objective that is expected to benefit from each project and management action	Section 4.2 to Section 4.6
			· Circumstances for implementation	Page 4-4 to 4-5, Section 4.2 to Section 4.6
			· Public noticing	Section 4.2 to Section 4.6
			· Permitting and regulatory process	Section 4.2 to Section 4.6
			· Time-table for initiation and completion, and the accrual of expected benefits	Page 4-4 to 4-5, Section 4.2 to Section 4.6
			· Expected benefits and how they will be evaluated	Section 4.2 to Section 4.6
			· How the project or management action will be accomplished. If the projects or management actions rely on water from outside the jurisdiction of the Agency, an explanation of the source and reliability of that water shall be included.	Section 4.2 to Section 4.6
			· Legal authority required	Section 4.2 to Section 4.6
			· Estimated costs and plans to meet those costs	Section 4.2 to Section 4.6
			· Management of groundwater extractions and recharge	Section 4.2.2
354.44(b)(2)	10727.2(d)(3)		· Overdraft mitigation projects and management actions	N/A

GSP Regulations Section	Water Code Section	Requirement	Description	Section(s) or Page Number(s) in the GSP
Article 8. Interagency Agreements				
357.4	10727.6	Coordination Agreements - Shall be submitted to the Department together with the GSPs for the basin and, if approved, shall become part of the GSP for each participating Agency.	Coordination Agreements shall describe the following:	
			· A point of contact	N/A
			· Responsibilities of each Agency	N/A
			· Procedures for the timely exchange of information between Agencies	N/A
			· Procedures for resolving conflicts between Agencies	N/A
			· How the Agencies have used the same data and methodologies to coordinate GSPs	N/A
			· How the GSPs implemented together satisfy the requirements of SGMA	N/A
			· Process for submitting all Plans, Plan amendments, supporting information, all monitoring data and other pertinent information, along with annual reports and periodic evaluations	N/A
			· A coordinated data management system for the basin	N/A
			· Coordination agreements shall identify adjudicated areas within the basin, and any local agencies that have adopted an Alternative that has been accepted by the Department	N/A

Notes: N/A = Not Applicable to the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin

APPENDIX B

GSA Formation Documents

OJAI BASIN
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY

MEMBER AGENCIES
Ojai Water Conservation District
Casitas Municipal Water District
City of Ojai
Golden State Water Company

OJAI BASIN MUTUAL WATER COMPANIES
Senior Canyon MWC
Siete Robles MWC
Hermitage MWC

December 6, 2014

California Department of Water Resources
Attn: Mark Cowin
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

NOTICE OF INTENT TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Gentlemen:

As outlined in Senate Bill 1168, Chapter 4, Section 10723. (c), the Ojai Groundwater Basin Management Agency is deemed to be the exclusive groundwater management agency for the Ojai Groundwater Basin.

On December , 2014 the Board of Directors of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency passed Resolution 2014-4 wherein the Agency has elected to become a "Groundwater Sustainability Management Agency", as defined in Senate Bill 1168.

This Notice of Intent includes all of the Ojai Groundwater Basin as defined in the original enabling legislation, Senate Bill 534, approved on October 8, 1991. The exact boundaries of the management area are defined in Article 2, Section 201. A copy of Section 201 is attached to this Notice of Intent together with a map of the defined area.

Because this Agency has long operated as a Groundwater Management Agency, we had many years of communication with all of the interests in the groundwater. These interests include all of the following:

- Holders of overlying groundwater rights
- Agricultural users
- Domestic well owners
- Municipal water suppliers
- Local land use planning

In Section 10723.2 other entities are called out, but none of those entities are present in the Ojai valley.

428 Bryant Circle, Suite 100, Ojai, CA 93023
P.O. Box 1779, Ojai, CA 93024
(805) 640-1207 FAX: (805) 640-1247
obgma@aol.com www.obgma.com

The membership of the Board of Directors of this Agency consists of one director from each of the following entities:

- Ojai Water Conservation District
- City of Ojai
- Casitas Municipal water District
- Golden State Water Company, (supplier to the City of Ojai)
- One member representing three small water companies

Each of these members is charged with the responsibility of communicating OBGMA activities with the public at large within each of these five constituencies. In addition to these means of communication with all of our interested parties, this Agency maintains a public web site: www.obgma.com.

This Notice of Intent is accompanied with the following additional documents:

- Map of service boundaries
- Copy of the resolution electing to become a sustainability agency
- Copy of by-laws and ordinances adopted in the past by this Agency
- Copy of existing groundwater management plan
- Copy of the most recent published annual report

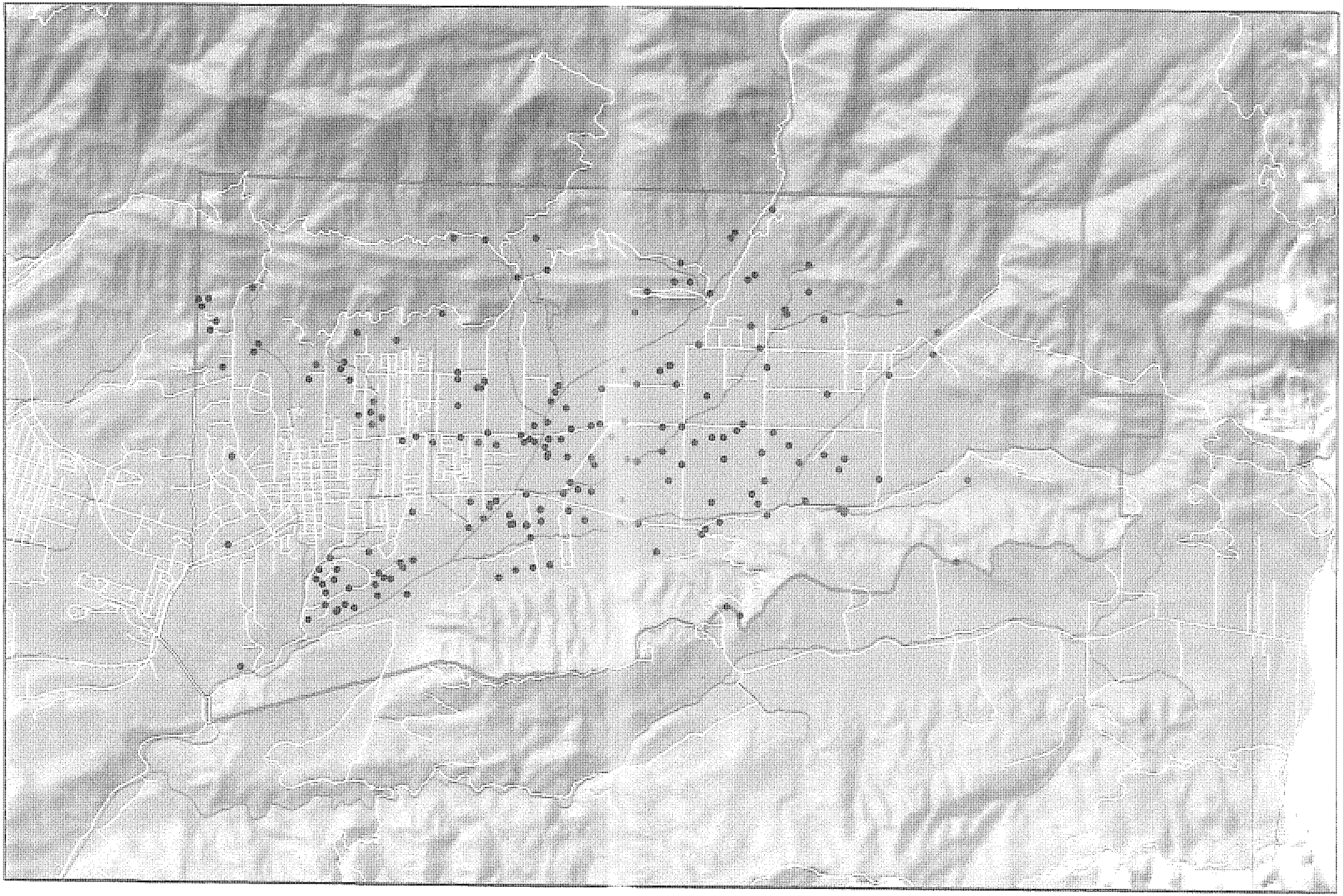
Should any other information be required by DWR, prior to the acceptance of this Agency becoming a "Sustainability Agency", please address your concerns to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Jerry L. Conrow

Jerry L. Conrow, President
Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency

Cc: Bob Pierotti, California Department of Water Resources; Southern Region



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Legend

- Wells
- Rivers & Streams
- OBGMA Boundary
- Ventura River Watershed

DISCLAIMER: The information contained herein was created by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District; Water & Environmental Resources Division for its own use. The VCWPD assumes no liability for damages incurred directly or indirectly as a result of errors, omissions or discrepancies.

Resolution 2014-4

A Resolution of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency requesting authorization from the Department of Water Resources to Become the Groundwater Sustainable Agency for the Ojai Basin as stated in California Water Code Section 10723(c)(3)

Whereas, the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (Agency) was officially established by legislative action (SB534 Hart) in 1991, and:

Whereas, the Agency has the responsibility for the requirements for the review of new well permitting, notification of intent to construct, registration of extraction facilities, metering, reporting of groundwater extractions, and the recordation of wells within the boundaries of the agency, and:

Whereas, the Agency has produced a Groundwater Management Plan (and a recent update) along with comprehensive Annual Reports outlining the status and actions of the Agency in the management of the basin, and:

Whereas, the Agency has adopted resolutions and Ordinances to provide for the management of the basin, and:

Whereas, the Agency has established a website (www.obgma.com) with all pertinent information easily available for the groundwater extractors and the public, and:

Whereas, Governor Brown signed into law the Groundwater Sustainability Act on September 16, 2014, and:

Whereas, Section 1072(c)(3) provides for those agencies created by statute to be deemed the exclusive local agency within their respective statutory boundaries with powers to comply with the new law, and:

And now, therefore, be it resolved:

The Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency, in conformance with California Water Code Section 1072(c)(3), requests that the Department of Water Resources designate the Agency as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Ojai Basin as depicted the map attached to this resolution.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this Dec 4, 2014

ATTEST: _____ _____

Cece VanDerMeer, Secretary Jerry L. Conrow, President

CHAPTER 750

An act to amend Section 1 of, to repeal Sections 2 and 4 of, and to amend and renumber Section 3 of, Chapter 153 of the Statutes of 1974, and to create the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency, relating to water.

[Approved by Governor October 8, 1991. Filed with Secretary of State October 9, 1991.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 534, Hart. Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency.

(1) Under existing law, there are no specific provisions for groundwater management within the Ojai Groundwater Basin.

This bill would enact the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Act which would create the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency to provide for groundwater management within the prescribed boundaries of the agency. The bill would specify the powers and duties of the district and provide for the management and financing of the district.

The bill would require the agency to develop a prescribed plan and to undertake specified studies. The bill would provide that any person who intentionally violates the act or any agency ordinance is guilty of an infraction, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program by creating a new crime, and would subject that person to an administrative fine in an amount not to exceed $500, as prescribed. The bill would subject any person who negligently or intentionally violates the act or any agency ordinance to civil liability in an amount not to exceed $1,000 per day for each day of violation, as prescribed. The bill would impose a state-mandated local program by imposing various duties on local entities.

(2) Existing law requires that the Ojai Water Conservation District be governed by the Water Conservation District Law of 1931.

This bill would require the district to be governed by the Water Conservation Act of 1927.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for specified reasons.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Ojai

Basin Groundwater Management Agency Act.

Article 1. Creation

Sec. 101. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the preservation of the groundwater within the territory of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency, created pursuant to Section 102 for the protection of agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses, is in the public interest and for the common benefit of water users within the agency.

Sec. 102. The Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency is hereby created. The agency shall exercise the express powers granted by this act for purposes of groundwater management within the territory of the agency, together with other powers reasonably implied and necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of the agency.

Article 2. Boundaries

Sec. 201. For the purposes of this act, the boundaries of the agency include that portion of the Ojai Basin watershed which lies within the boundaries of the Casitas Municipal Water District or the Ojai Water Conservation District, but do not include any land within the boundaries of the Ventura River County Water District. The boundaries of the agency are more particularly described as follows:

The point of beginning is located at the intersection of the centerline of Creek Road and the northerly boundary of Camp Comfort; thence, northerly along the centerline of Creek Road to the point of intersection with the centerline of Hermosa Road; thence, westerly and northwesterly along the centerline of Hermosa Road to the point of intersection with the easterly line of Ventura Avenue, also known as State Highway Routes 33 and 150; thence, northerly along that easterly line of Ventura Avenue to the point of intersection with the centerline of Ojai Avenue; thence, northeasterly along the centerline of Ojai Avenue to the point of intersection with the centerline of Del Norte Road; thence, northerly along the centerline of Del Norte Road and the northerly prolongation of the centerline of Del Norte to the north quarter corner of Section 35, Township 5 North, Range 23 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian, that point being also a point in the boundary of the Casitas Municipal Water District; thence along that boundary; thence east along the north line of that Section 35 and along the north line of Section 36 of that Township and Range and Sections 31, 32, 33, and 34 of Township 5 North, Range 22 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian to the northeast corner of that Section 34; thence, south along the east line of that Section 34 and the east line of Section 3, Township 4 North, Range 22 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian to the northwest corner of the south one-half of

the northwest one-quarter of Section 2 of that last mentioned Township and Range; thence, east along the north line of that south one-half of the northwest one-quarter of Section 2 to the northeast corner thereof, south along the east line of that south one-half of the northwest one-quarter of Section 2 to the southeast corner thereof; thence, west along the south line of that south one-half of the northwest one-quarter of Section 2 to the northeast corner of the west one-half of the southwest one-quarter of that Section 2; thence, south along the east line of that west one-half of the southwest one-quarter of Section 2 to the southeast corner thereof to a point in the north line of fractional Section 11, Township 4 North, Range 22 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian; thence, east along that north line to the north quarter corner of that fractional Section 11; thence, in a varying generally southwesterly and westerly direction along the watershed dividing ridge line, as shown on the Ojai Quadrangle of the United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute series of topographic maps, between the Ojai Valley and the Lions Creek Drainage, a distance of approximately four and three-quarter miles, more or less, to the point at which the 1,400-foot contour intersects the range line common to Range 22 West and Range 23 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian; thence, in a straight line in a generally south of west direction a distance of approximately one and one-half miles, more or less, to the point of beginning.

Sec. 202. The boundaries of the agency shall be depicted on a map which shall be adopted by the board and thereafter recorded in the office of the county recorder.

Article 3. Definitions

Sec. 301. Unless otherwise indicated by their context, the terms defined in this article govern the interpretation of this act.

Sec. 302. "Agency" means the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency.

Sec. 303. "Aquifer" means a geologic formation or structure that transmits or stores water in sufficient quantities to supply pumping wells or springs.

Sec. 304. "Available supply" means that quantity of groundwater which can be withdrawn in any given year from the groundwater basin without resulting in, or aggravating, conditions of overdraft, subsidence, or groundwater quality degradation. Available supply of the basin includes the natural water supply, imported water, and other water which has been spread to the basin or has otherwise reached the basin and return flows to the basin attributable to these sources reaching the basin in the course of use.

Sec. 305. "Basin" means the Ojai groundwater basin, as shown in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 12, "Ventura County Investigation," dated October 1953, to the extent included within the boundaries of the district, as defined in Section 201.

Sec. 306. "Board" means the board of directors of the agency.

Sec. 307. "Conjunctive use" means the coordinated operation of groundwater and surface water supplies. Conjunctive use includes increased groundwater use or decreased groundwater replenishment with surface supplies in years when surface supplies are less than normal and, in years of more abundant surface supplies, the increased use of surface water in lieu of groundwater, either to allow groundwater levels to recover or to replenish artificial groundwater supplies. Conjunctive use also includes long-term storage of water in the basin.

Sec. 308. "County" means the County of Ventura.

Sec. 309. "Export" means extracting groundwater from the basin for use on land, or within an area, which does not overlie or is not within the boundaries of the agency. Export does not include use on or after January 1, 1992, within any area served by groundwater from the basin prior to January 1, 1992.

Sec. 310. "Extraction" means the act of obtaining groundwater by pumping or other controlled means.

Sec. 311. "Extraction facility" means any device or method for the extraction of groundwater within the basin.

Sec. 312. "Groundwater" means water beneath the surface of the earth within the zone below the water table in which the soil is completely saturated with water.

Sec. 313. "Groundwater basin" means a geologically and hydrologically defined area containing one or more aquifers which store, transmit, and yield significant quantities of water to wells, or are capable of doing so.

Sec. 314. "Groundwater management activities" means programs, measures, or actions taken to preserve, monitor, protect, and enhance groundwater resources within the territory of the agency.

Sec. 315. "Groundwater rights adjudication" means the determination of substantially all rights in the basin or the area subject to the adjudication.

Sec. 316. "Mutual water company" means a corporation organized for, or engaged in the business of, selling, distributing, supplying, or delivering water to its stockholders and members at cost for irrigation purposes or for domestic use.

Sec. 317. "Notice" or a "noticed hearing" means the notice required by Section 6061 of the Government Code.

Sec. 318. "Operator" means a person who operates a groundwater extraction facility. If the agency is unable to determine who operates a particular extraction facility, then "operator" shall mean the person to whom the extraction facility is assessed by the county assessor or, if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

Sec. 319. "Overdraft" means the condition of the basin where the average annual amount of water extracted exceeds the average

annual supply of water to the basin.

Sec. 320. "Person" includes any state or local governmental agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, individual, group of individuals, or, to the extent authorized by law, any federal agency.

Sec. 321. "Program" means a groundwater management program prepared by the agency pursuant to this act.

Sec. 322. "Recharge" means the natural or artificial replenishment of groundwater storage by percolation or injection of one or more sources of water at the surface.

Sec. 323. "Replenishment" means spreading water over a permeable area for the purpose of allowing it to percolate to groundwater basins or aquifers, or otherwise adding water to groundwater basins or aquifers.

Sec. 324. "Supplemental water" means surface water or groundwater imported from outside the watershed or watersheds of the basin and flood waters that are conserved and saved within the watershed or watersheds which would otherwise have been lost or would not have reached the basin.

Sec. 325. "Temporary surplus" means the amount of water that can be extracted from the basin without permanently adversely affecting the available supply of the basin or the ability of the basin to provide storage space for natural or artificial recharge that would be lost during wet years if it could not be stored in the basin.

Sec. 326. "Water year" means the period from October 1 of one calendar year to September 30, inclusive, of the following calendar year.

Sec. 327. "Well interference" means a substantial water level decline in a short time period in a localized area caused by pumping from extraction facilities.

Article 4. General Provisions

Sec. 401. (a) The board shall consist of five directors and shall be selected in the following manner:

(1) One director shall be a member of, and be appointed by, each of the following entities, and shall be chosen by their respective governing boards or bodies from their members whose districts or divisions, if any, overlie, at least in part, the boundaries of the agency:

(A) The Ojai City Council.

(B) The Board of the Casitas Municipal Water District.

(C) The Board of the Ojai Water Conservation District.

(2) One director shall be a representative of the Southern California Water Company.

(3) One director shall be chosen from the members of the governing boards of the following mutual water companies whose territory at least in part overlies the boundaries of the agency.

(A) The Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company.

(B) The Siete Robles Mutual Water Company.

(C) The Hermitage Mutual Water Company.

The mutual water company director shall be chosen at a public meeting of the mutual water companies represented by the chairperson of its governing board. If the mutual water companies fail to appoint a director within three months, the remaining four directors shall appoint a director from one of the boards of the mutual water companies identified in this paragraph.

(b) The board is the governing body of the agency and shall exercise the powers of the agency.

Sec. 402. (a) No provisions of this act shall be construed to deny any entity from which a board member is or may be selected any rights or powers which they have or may be granted.

(b) The agency shall not involve itself in activities normally and historically undertaken by any entity, such as the construction and operation of dams, spreading grounds, pipelines, flood control facilities, groundwater wells, and water distribution facilities, or the wholesale and retail sale of water, without prior consent of those entities, and shall otherwise limit its activities to monitoring, planning, managing, controlling, preserving, and regulating the extraction and use of groundwater within the boundaries of the agency.

Sec. 403. This act does not abrogate or impair the overlying or appropriative rights of landowners or existing appropriators within the agency, including the right to seek an adjudication of those rights, or abrogate or impair the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission in regulating the activities and assets of the Southern California Water Company.

Sec. 404. (a) The board may adopt ordinances for the purpose of monitoring, regulating, conserving, managing, and controlling the use and extraction of groundwater within the boundaries of the agency. All ordinances shall be adopted, after a noticed public hearing, by a majority vote of the board. Notice of the adoption of all ordinances shall be given. The ordinances of the agency shall become effective on the 31st day after adoption.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the board shall comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 54950) of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Government Code), and may adopt as an urgency measure an interim ordinance. That urgency measure shall require a ⅘ vote of the board for adoption. The interim ordinance shall have no force and effect 45 days after its adoption. After a noticed public hearing, the board may extend the interim ordinance for 10 months and 15 days by a ⅘ vote of the board.

Sec. 405. Any person who intentionally violates this act or any agency ordinance is guilty of an infraction and may be required to pay a fine to the agency not to exceed five hundred dollars ($500). No fine shall be imposed until written notice has been given by registered mail to the alleged violator stating that a hearing will be held by the board not less than 30 days after the date of the notice,

at which time the board will consider the imposition of the fine.

Sec. 406. Any person who negligently or intentionally violates this act or any agency ordinance may also be liable civilly to the agency for a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000) per day for each day of violation, in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed by law. No liability shall be imposed until written notice has been given by registered mail to the alleged violator stating that a hearing will be held by the board not less than 30 days after the date of the notice, at which time the board will consider the imposition of the liability.

Sec. 407. Upon the failure of any person to comply with this act or any agency ordinance, the agency may petition the superior court for a temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction, or other appropriate equitable relief. The right to petition for injunctive relief is in addition to other rights, which may be provided elsewhere in this act or otherwise allowed by law.

Sec. 408. The agency may petition the superior court of the county to recover any sums due the agency or damages incurred by the agency. To preserve and manage the groundwater resources within the agency, the agency may commence, maintain, intervene in, defend in, compromise, and assume the costs and expenses incurred by the agency in, actions and proceedings involving groundwater, including, but not limited to, groundwater rights adjudication.

Sec. 409. The agency may contract for staff and other services and may hire other contractors and consultants.

Sec. 410. The agency may exclude from any of the requirements of this act, or the operation of any ordinance, any operator who extracts less than a minimum amount of groundwater as specified by ordinance adopted by the board.

Article 5. Studies and Investigations

Sec. 501. The agency may collect data and conduct technical and other investigations in order to carry out this act. All hydrological investigations and studies carried out by, or on behalf of, the agency shall be conducted by, or under the supervision of, licensed engineers or other persons qualified in groundwater geology or hydrology.

Sec. 502. (a) The agency shall prepare annually a report on groundwater supplies and conditions in the agency, including groundwater management objectives and a plan of implementation of those objectives, following a determination that groundwater management activities may be necessary.

(b) The agency may prepare, or receive reports on groundwater and supplemental water supplies and conditions in the territory of the agency, including groundwater management and conjunctive use objectives and a plan for implementation of those objectives.

Sec. 503. The agency may recommend and encourage wastewater reuse and other water development projects, if those projects will enhance and contribute to the responsible management of groundwater resources, as part of its annual plan for implementation of groundwater management objectives.

Article 6. Groundwater Management Plans

Sec. 601. In order to maximize the long-term available supply, the agency shall develop, adopt, and implement a plan to protect the basin's groundwater quality and to balance long-term average annual water replenishment and extractions in the basin.

Sec. 602. The agency shall undertake a study to develop the plan required pursuant to Section 601 which includes all of the following components:

(a) A list of groundwater extraction facilities within the boundaries of the agency.

(b) For each extraction facility, an estimate of annual water production, in acre-feet per year, using industry accepted monitoring and testing procedures.

(c) A table and graph depicting water level readings, as of each October 1, from acceptable sources for the period of record.

(d) Provisions and testing procedures for monitoring water quality.

(e) Historical data for rainfall runoff, basin usage and replenishment, and water conservation activities.

(f) A proposed minimum amount of groundwater extraction below which the requirements of this act will not be applied.

Sec. 603. (a) The agency shall undertake a groundwater management study for future extractions from the basin. As a part of this study, the agency shall determine the hydrologic characteristics of the basin, which shall include all of the following information:

(1) Existing groundwater storage capacity.

(2) Existing groundwater storage.

(3) Existing and projected groundwater use.

(4) A review of the boundaries of the basin.

(5) The average annual variation in storage in existing groundwater storage.

(6) Projected annual rainfall, runoff, and recharge rates.

(7) Long-term recoverable storage, including an estimate of nonrecoverable storage.

(8) Potential extractions and storage programs.

Sec. 604. (a) The plan required pursuant to Section 601 may consider any project alternatives designed to enhance the overall balance of long-term average annual basin replenishment and extractions.

(b) The plan shall investigate options of operating the basin to

provide an increased ability to capture, recharge, and maximize reasonable uses by fully utilizing the available groundwater supply. The options may include the conjunctive operation of the basin with Casitas Reservoir. The plan shall recommend alternative methods of managing the basin to achieve the long-term objectives of Section 601.

(c) The plan shall establish a minimum amount of groundwater extraction below which the requirements of this act will not be applied, which amount may be modified from time to time based on the impact on the operation of the agency.

Sec. 605. (a) The studies required in Sections 602 and 603 shall be completed and submitted to the board by January 1, 1993.

(b) The plan required in Section 601 shall be completed and submitted to the board by January 1, 1994.

Article 7. Groundwater Management

Sec. 701. If, after a noticed public hearing and consideration of any relevant investigations, studies, and evidence, including compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code), the board determines that groundwater management activities are necessary in order to improve or protect the quantity or quality of groundwater supplies within the basin, the board may, by ordinance, undertake any of the activities authorized by this article. The requirement in this section for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act does not, and shall not be construed to, limit compliance with that act for other discretionary actions by the board.

Sec. 702. The board may exercise any of the following measures:

(a) Require conservation practices and measures within identified portions of the agency.

(b) Commence and prosecute legal actions to enjoin unreasonable uses or methods of use of water within the agency or outside the agency to the extent those uses or methods of use adversely affect the groundwater supply within the agency.

(c) Conserve and reclaim water within or outside the agency, require conservation practices and measures within the agency, and impose charges upon those within or without the agency benefited by the conservation practices.

Sec. 703. The agency may regulate groundwater replenishment programs and the recapture of supplemental groundwater resulting from those programs within the agency.

Sec. 704. To encourage conjunctive use, the agency may do either or both of the following:

(a) Contract with entities for benefits to areas outside the basin which may result from conservation or conjunctive use practices within the basin and may impose appropriate charges for those

benefits.

(b) Contract with groundwater users within the basin to enhance the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water and compensate groundwater users for the value of those measures.

Sec. 705. To minimize well interference, the agency may do either or both of the following:

(a) Impose spacing requirements or require reasonable mitigation measures relating to the construction of any new extraction facility.

(b) Impose reasonable operating regulations on extraction facilities.

Sec. 706. The agency may control groundwater extractions by regulating, limiting, or suspending extractions from extraction facilities, the construction of new extraction facilities, the enlarging of existing facilities, and the reactivation of abandoned or inactive extraction facilities. Construction of new extraction facilities may be suspended only after consulting with the county water resources department.

Sec. 707. The availability of supplemental water to any operator shall not subject that operator to regulations more restrictive than those imposed on other operators.

Sec. 708. (a) No groundwater shall be exported from within the agency unless the exporter has applied for, and obtained, a permit from the agency which establishes the quantity of water which may be exported and the conditions of the export. Notwithstanding any conditions specified in the permit, exporters shall be subject to this act.

(b) The agency shall not issue any permit to export groundwater from the agency unless the applicant has established that the temporary surplus is in excess of the amount currently required for reasonable and beneficial uses within the agency, and the board determines that the export would not adversely affect the rights of groundwater users within the agency. The agency shall issue permits for export for time periods, and under terms and conditions, it deems appropriate. All permits shall declare that they are subject to the right of the agency to reduce or suspend exports pursuant to this act.

(c) The agency shall, after published notice and a hearing which discloses evidence of overdraft, or any threat of overdraft, reduce or suspend extractions by exporters regardless of whether a permit to export has been granted pursuant to this act.

(d) The right to store and recapture imported or developed water in the groundwater basin shall be subject to prior permit by the agency. The agency shall issue storage and recapture permits under terms and conditions it deems appropriate and may impose charges therefor. Existing recapture facilities are exempt from this section.

Article 8. Registration of Groundwater Extraction Facilities

Sec. 801. The agency may, by ordinance, require extraction facilities to be registered with the agency within 30 days of notice being given to the operator of the extraction facility.

Sec. 802. The agency may require, by ordinance, that the operator of a registered extraction facility provide the agency annually with all of the following information regarding the extraction facility:

(a) The name and address of the operator of the extraction facility.

(b) The name and address of the owner of the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

(c) A description of the equipment associated with the extraction facility.

(d) The location of the water extraction facility.

(e) The purposes of groundwater use.

Sec. 803. No person may extract groundwater by the use of any extraction facility required to be registered unless the extraction facility has been registered with the agency.

Sec. 804. The agency shall require extraction facilities to be equipped with waterflow measuring devices installed and calibrated by the agency or, at the agency's option, by the extraction facility operator. The agency may, by ordinance, exempt specific extraction facilities from the measuring device requirements.

Sec. 805. No person may extract groundwater by the use of any extraction facility required to be equipped with a waterflow measuring device unless the extraction facility is so equipped.

Sec. 806. If an extraction facility is equipped with a waterflow measuring device, the record of extraction, as disclosed by the waterflow measuring device, may at the election of the board be presumed to be accurate, and if so presumed, shall be used as the basis for computing the water extraction of the extraction facility in completing the groundwater extraction statement.

Sec. 807. The agency may require proof of the accuracy of the waterflow measuring device from the operator and may, absent adequate proof of accuracy, order the operator, at the operator's sole cost, to have the waterflow measuring device calibrated in a manner acceptable to the agency. If the agency has probable cause to believe that the extraction of groundwater from any extraction facility is in excess of the amount reported in a groundwater extraction statement filed pursuant to Section 810, or if no statement is filed covering an extraction facility, the agency may investigate the extraction of water from the extraction facility.

Sec. 808. No person may intentionally injure, alter, remove, reset, adjust, manipulate, obstruct, or in any manner interfere or tamper with any waterflow measuring device affixed to any extraction facility so that the waterflow measuring device improperly or

inaccurately measures and records water extraction.

Sec. 809. The board may, by ordinance, establish reasonable methods to be used in computing the amount of water extracted by exempted extraction facilities.

Sec. 810. (a) The agency may, by ordinance, require the operator of each extraction facility to file, in the form specified by the agency, a groundwater extraction statement that contains, but is not limited to, the following information:

(1) Total extraction in acre-feet of water from the extraction facility.

(2) The crop types or other uses and the acreage served by the extraction facility compared to the number of acres owned or leased.

(3) The method of measuring or computing groundwater extraction.

(4) Water conservation activities.

(b) Each groundwater extraction statement shall be verified by a written declaration under penalty of perjury that the information contained in the statement is true and correct.

(c) The operator of an extraction facility which has been permanently abandoned on or after January 1, 1992, shall give written notice of the abandonment to the agency.

Sec. 811. No person who is required to file a groundwater extraction statement may fail to do so.

Sec. 812. No person, with an intent to evade any requirement of this act, may file a false or fraudulent groundwater extraction statement with the agency.

Article 9. Management Charges

Sec. 901. (a) Each year the board may fix a management charge in accordance with benefit-based criteria to be established by the board, upon the City of Ojai, the Casitas Municipal Water District, the Ojai Water Conservation District, and the Southern California Water Company, for the purpose of paying the costs of initiating, carrying on, and completing any of the powers, purposes, and groundwater management activities for which the agency is organized.

(b) In the aggregate, management charges shall be limited to fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) in the first year and twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000) in the second year. None of the entities identified in subdivision (a) shall be required to pay more than one-third of the aggregate allowable charges. Management charges in succeeding years, or contributions in excess of the established limits, shall be voluntary and payable at the discretion of each entity identified in subdivision (a).

Sec. 902. Management charges shall be paid in the manner prescribed by ordinance.

Article 10. Management Charges to Property

Sec. 1001. Each year the agency may fix a management charge for the purpose of paying the costs of initiating, carrying on, and completing any of the powers, projects, and purposes for which the agency is organized.

Sec. 1002. Before levying management charges, the board shall, after notice and hearing, find and determine the portion of the agency to be benefited by management and planning activities, the need for management charges for the purpose of paying the cost of these activities, and the amount of the charges to be levied.

Sec. 1003. Management charges may not exceed seven dollars and fifty cents ($7.50) per acre per year for each acre of land, or five dollars ($5.00) for each parcel of land of less than one acre within the agency.

Sec. 1004. Management charges applicable to the territory served by the City of Ojai's corporate franchise, or any other water purveyor within the agency's boundaries, may be collected by the water purveyor if the agency so requests and the water purveyor agrees to do so, and shall be paid to the agency in lieu of collection through the tax bills. The board may exclude portions of the agency or may establish schedules varying the management charges according to the likelihood that the land will benefit, as determined by the board, from improved groundwater management and planning.

Sec. 1005. The management charge may, at the option of the agency, be collected on the tax bills of the county, by the same persons, and at the same time as, together with and not separately from, county property taxes. In lieu of this election, the agency shall collect management charges at the same time, together with penalties and interest at the same rates, as is prescribed for the collection of county property taxes.

Sec. 1006. The amount of an unpaid management charge, together with any penalty and interest thereon, shall constitute a lien on that land as of the same time and in the same manner as does the tax lien securing county property taxes.

Sec. 1007. The board may fix management charges until January 1, 1995.

Article 11. Groundwater Extraction Charges

Sec. 1101. (a) The agency may, by ordinance, levy groundwater extraction charges on the extraction of groundwater by the use of water extraction facilities within the boundaries of the agency to pay the costs of initiating, carrying on, and completing any of the powers, purposes, and groundwater management activities described in this act, except that the charge shall not exceed the annual costs to the district incurred in carrying out this act and the cost of a reasonable reserve not to exceed 25 percent of the total appropriations in the

agency's budget.

(b) Groundwater extraction charges shall be levied only within a zone or zones of benefit of the district which will benefit from the powers, purposes, and groundwater management activities.

(c) The board may establish zones of benefit within the district. Resolutions of the board shall describe the boundaries of the zones of benefit. The board may amend zones of benefit boundaries by annexing property to or by withdrawing property from a zone, or may divide a zone into two or more zones. Resolutions of the board shall describe the boundaries of the amended or divided zones.

Sec. 1102. (a) Before the levy of groundwater extraction charges, the board of directors shall, after notice and hearing, find and determine the activities required to prepare or implement any groundwater management program for the district and to initiate, carry on, or complete any of the other powers and purposes set forth in this act, and the sum of money necessary for the ensuing water year for those activities.

(b) The board shall determine the need and desirability of levying a groundwater extraction charge for the purpose of paying the costs of initiating, carrying on, and completing any of the powers and purposes set forth in this act. The board shall find that the charge is necessary to finance or otherwise support the groundwater management services provided by the district, except that the charge shall not exceed the annual costs to the district incurred in carrying out this act and the cost of a reasonable reserve not to exceed 25 percent of the total appropriations contained in the agency's budget.

Sec. 1103. The groundwater extraction charge rate shall be uniform for groundwater extraction within the territory of the agency.

Sec. 1104. Groundwater extraction charges shall be calculated on the basis of groundwater extraction statements filed pursuant to Section 810 and the benefit determined pursuant to Section 1101.

Sec. 1105. If any operator of any extraction facility fails to pay the groundwater extraction charge when due, the agency shall charge and collect interest, at the rate of 1½ percent each month, on the delinquent amount of the groundwater extraction charge. In addition, the agency may exercise any of the rights granted pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with Section 75630) of Chapter 3 of Part 9 of Division 21 of the Water Code to collect delinquent groundwater extraction charges.

Sec. 1106. All money collected by the agency pursuant to this article, Article 9 (commencing with Section 901), or Article 10 (commencing with Section 1001), shall be available for expenditure by the agency in carrying out its groundwater management activities.

Sec. 1107. The groundwater extraction charge shall not exceed seven dollars and fifty cents ($7.50) per acre-foot pumped per year.

Article 12. Miscellaneous

Sec. 1201. The Legislature finds and declares that this act, which is applicable only to the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency, is necessary because of the unique and special groundwater management problems in the area included in the agency. It is, therefore, hereby declared that a general law cannot be made applicable to the agency and the enactment of this special law is necessary for the conservation, development, control, and use of that water for the public good and for the protection of life and property therein.

SEC. 2. Section 1 of Chapter 153 of the Statutes of 1974 is amended to read:

Section 1. The Ojai Water Conservation District shall be governed by the Water Conservation Act of 1927 (Chapter 91 of the Statutes of 1927).

SEC. 3. Section 2 of Chapter 153 of the Statutes of 1974 is repealed.

SEC. 4. Section 3 of Chapter 153 of the Statutes of 1974 is amended and renumbered to read:

Sec. 2. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that this act, which is applicable only to the Ojai Water Conservation District, is necessary because of the unique and special water conservation problems in the area included in the district. It is, therefore, hereby declared that a general law cannot be made applicable to the district and the enactment of this special law is necessary for the conservation, development, control, and use of water in the district for the public good and for the protection of life and property therein.

SEC. 5. Section 4 of Chapter 153 of the Statutes of 1974 is repealed.

SEC. 6. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act or the costs which may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, or eliminates a crime or infraction. Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government Code, unless otherwise specified in this act, the provisions of this act shall become operative on the same date that the act takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

O

ORDINANCE NO. 1

AN ORDINANCE OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION, METERING AND REPORTING OF GROUNDWATER EXTRACTIONS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE AGENCY.

WHEREAS, Article 5, §§ 501 and 502 of the Ojai Groundwater Basin Management Agency Act authorizes the Agency to collect technical and other information necessary and appropriate to the compilation of an annual report on groundwater supplies within the basin; and

WHEREAS, information regarding the number, location, and use of wells within the basin and the amount of water extracted from these wells is important to the preparation of an annual report; and

WHEREAS, Article 8, § 802 of the Agency's Authorizing Act provides that the operator of a registered extraction facility shall be required to provide information to the Agency as requested from time to time; and

WHEREAS, Article 8, § 804 of the Agency's Authorizing Act mandates that the Agency, by Ordinance, shall require extraction facilities to be equipped with waterflow measuring devices; and

WHEREAS, the completion of the attached forms by persons who own or operate wells or produce groundwater within the boundaries of the basin, as defined by the Agency's Authorizing Act, will be useful to the Agency and will satisfy the legislative requirements applicable to the metering of wells;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Short Title.

This Ordinance No. 1 shall be known and cited as "the Agency Registration, Extraction and Metering Ordinance."

Section 2. Policy and Purpose.

The Agency is charged with the legal responsibility for managing groundwater within the boundaries of the Agency. Information concerning the extraction, use and distribution of water is necessary to the Agency's fulfillment of its legislative function of managing groundwater resources.

Section 3. Definitions.

All terms, phrases and words shall have the meaning assigned to such terms, phrases and words as commonly understood or as expressly defined in the Agency's Authorizing Act or as defined herein.

a. "Waterflow measuring device" shall mean a meter or other measuring device which is attached to an extraction facility for the purpose of measuring the quantity of water extracted by the facility.

b. "Extraction" shall mean the act of obtaining groundwater by pumping or other controlled means.

c. "Extraction facility" shall mean any device or method for the extraction of groundwater within the basin, including a well.

d. "Basin" shall mean the Ojai Groundwater Basin as shown in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 12, "Ventura County Investigation," dated October 1953, to the extent included within the boundaries of the Agency, as defined in § 201 of the Agency's Authorizing Act.

e. "Operator" shall mean a person who operates a groundwater extraction facility. If the agency is unable to determine who operates a particular extraction facility, then "operator" shall mean the person to whom the extraction facility is assessed by the county assessor or, if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

f. "Person" shall mean any person, state or local governmental agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, individual, group of individuals or, to the extent authorized by law, any federal agency.

Section 4. Extraction Facility Registration Form.

a. The operator of an extraction facility shall register any extraction facility with the Agency by completing a registration form similar to the one attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. The registration form shall be completed and the information requested provided to the Agency by the operator of an existing facility by returning a completed registration form to the Agency by July 1, 1993. New extraction facilities shall be registered by returning the registration form to the Agency within thirty calendar days following the completion of construction.

b. The Agency shall make blank registration forms available to operators and the public generally by direct mail to known operators and by keeping copies at the Agency office located at City Hall, 401 South Ventura Street, Ojai, California 93024.

c. Failure of any operator to receive a direct mailing of a registration form shall not relieve the operator of the obligation to file the form with the Agency as required in Section 4(a).

Section 5. Groundwater Extraction Form.

a. Every operator that extracts groundwater from the basin shall file an annual extraction report containing an estimate of total extractions of groundwater through an extraction facility and additional relevant information as provided on a groundwater extraction form similar to Exhibit B attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, and signed under penalty of perjury by the operator.

b. The operator shall set forth its good faith basis for the estimate of total water extractions as set forth in § 5(a) which shall be included in the completed form transmitted to the Agency.

c. The Agency shall make blank groundwater extraction forms available to operators and the public generally by direct mail to known operators and by keeping copies at the Agency office located at City Hall, 401 South Ventura Street, Ojai, California 93024.

d. Failure of any operator to receive a direct mailing of an extraction statement form shall not relieve the operator of the obligation to file the form with the Agency as required in Section 5(a).

e. The operator's extraction statement shall be presumed accurate upon timely filing of the form with the Agency. For good cause, the Agency may disregard the extraction statement and cause an investigation of the actual amount extracted by any operator in any calendar year. In the event of a discrepancy between the extraction statement filed by the operator and the findings of the Agency, the findings of the Agency shall control.

Section 6. Extraction Facility Metering.

Every operator shall equip each extraction facility with an approved waterflow measuring device and report the accuracy of the measuring device to the Agency in accordance with the following schedule:

a. For every extraction facility for which construction has been completed before June 1, 1993, every operator shall be required to equip each extraction facility with a waterflow measuring device by December 31, 1993.

b. For every extraction facility for which construction has been completed before June 1, 1993, every operator for each extraction facility shall be required to cause a test of the accuracy of the measuring device to be completed and the results of the test to be reported to the Agency by June 1, 1994. The test shall be undertaken in accordance with recognized industry standards.. Thereafter, every operator shall cause a test of the waterflow measuring device to be conducted and the test results reported to the Agency within the fifth calendar year immediately following the year in which the initial test was performed and reported.

c. For new extraction facilities for which construction is completed after June 1, 1993, every operator shall be required to equip each new extraction facility with a waterflow measuring device within 60 calendar days following the completion of well construction.

d. For new extraction facilities for which construction is completed after June 1, 1993, every operator shall be required to cause a test of the accuracy of the measuring device to be completed and the results of the test to be reported to the Agency within 90 calendar days following the completion of well construction. The test shall be undertaken in accordance with recognized industry standards. Thereafter, every operator shall cause a test of the waterflow measuring device to be conducted and the results of the test reported to the Agency within the fifth calendar year immediately following the year in which the initial test was performed and reported.

Section 7. Termination Date.

This Ordinance will remain in full force and effect until repealed by action of the Board of Directors for the Agency.

Section 8. Violation.

a. Any person who intentionally violates this Ordinance is guilty of an infraction and may be required to pay a fine not to exceed $500.

b. Any person who intentionally or negligently violates this Ordinance may be liable to the Agency civilly for a sum not to exceed $1,000 per day.

Section 9. Enforcement.

The Agency may take any actions authorized by law, to enforce the terms and provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 10. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Board of Directors hereby declares and determines that it would have passed this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be determined to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 11. Effective Date.

This Ordinance was adopted on April 29, 1993, to be effective thirty-one (31) calendar days after its passage. Before the expiration of fifteen (15) calendar days after its passage, this Ordinance shall be published once, with the names of the members of the Board of Directors for the Agency voting for it and against it, in a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Ventura, State of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Agency, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: Roger Essick, Conner Everts, Robert N. McKinney, Charles Noren, Scott S. Slater
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

ATTEST:

Roger Essick
President

Harry Bodell,
Acting Secretary
3284S

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52.8

ORDINANCE NO. 1
AN ORDINANCE OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION, METERING AND REPORTING OF GROUDWATER EXTRACTIONS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE AGENCY.

WHEREAS, Article 5, §§501 and 502 of the Ojai Groundwater Basin Management Agency Act authorizes the Agency to collect technical and other information necessary and appropriate to the compilation of an annual report on groundwater supplies within the basin; and

WHEREAS, information regarding the number, location, and use of wells within the basin and the amount of water extracted from these wells is important to the preparation of an annual report; and

WHEREAS, Article 8, § 802 of the Agency's Authorizing Act mandates that the Agency, by Ordinance, shall require extraction facilities to be equipped with waterflow measuring devices; and

WHEREAS, Article 8, §804 of the Agency's Authorizing Act mandates that the agency, by Ordinance, shall require extraction facilities to be equipped with waterflow measuring devices; and

WHEREAS, the completion of the attached forms by persons who own or operate wells or produce groundwater within the boundaries of the basin, as defined by the Agency's Authorizing Act, will be useful to the Agency and will satisfy the legislative requirements applicable to the metering of wells;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Ordinance No. 1-93 shall be known and cited as "the Agency Registration, extraction and Metering Ordinance."

Section 2. POLICY AND PURPOSE.

The Agency is charged with the legal responsibility for managing groundwater within the boundaries of the Agency. Information concerning the extraction, use and distribution of water is necessary to the Agency's fulfillment of its legislative function of managing groundwater resources.

Section 3. DEFINITIONS.

All terms, phrases and words shall have the meaning assigned to such terms, phrases and words as commonly understood or as expressly defined in the Agency's Authorizing Act or as defined herein.

a. "Waterflow measuring device" shall mean a meter or other measuring device which is attached to an extraction facility for the purpose of measuring the quantity of water extracted by the facility.

b. "Extraction" shall mean the act of obtaining groundwater by pumping or other controlled means.

c. "Extraction facility" shall mean any device or method for the extraction of groundwater within the basin, including a well.

d. "Basin" shall mean the Ojai Groundwater Basin as shown in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 12, "Ventura County Investigation," dated October 1953, to the extent included within the boundaries of the Agency, as defined in § 201 of the Agency's Authorizing Act.

e. "Operator" shall mean a person who operates a groundwater extraction facility. If the agency is unable to determine who operates a particular extraction facility then "operator" shall mean the person to whom the extraction facility is assessed by the county assessor or, if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

f. "Person" shall mean any person, state or local governmental agency, private corporation firms, partnership, individual, group of individuals or, to the extent authorized by law, any federal agency.

Section 4. EXTRACTION FACILITY REGISTRATION FORM.

a. The operator of an extraction facility shall register any extraction facility with the agency by completing a registration form similar to the one attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. The registration form shall be completed and the information requested provided to the Agency by the operator of an existing facility by returning a completed registration form to the Agency by July 1, 1993. New extraction facilities shall be registered by returning the registration form to the Agency within thirty calendar days following the completion of construction.

b. The Agency shall make blank registration forms available to operators and the public generally by direct mail to known operators and by keeping copies at the Agency office located at City Hall, 401 South Ventura Street, Ojai, California 93023.

c. Failure of any operator to receive a direct mailing of a registration form shall not relieve the operator of the obligation to file the form with the Agency as required in Section 4(a).

Section 5. GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FORM.

a. Every operator that extracts groundwater from the basin shall file an annual extraction report containing an estimate of total extractions of groundwater through an extraction facility and additional relevant information as provided on a groundwater extraction form similar to Exhibit B attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, and signed under penalty of perjury by the operator.

b. The operator shall set forth its good faith basis for the estimate of total water extractions as set forth in § 5(a) which shall be included in the completed form transmitted to the Agency.

c. The Agency shall make blank groundwater extraction forms available to operators and the public generally by direct mail to known operators and by keeping copies at the Agency office located at City Hall, 401 South Ventura Street, Ojai, California 93023.

d. Failure of any operator to receive a direct mailing of an extraction statement form shall not relieve the operator of the obligation to file the form with the Agency as required in Section 5(a).

e. The operator's extraction statement shall be presumed accurate upon timely filing of the form with the Agency. For good cause, the Agency may disregard the extraction statement and cause an investigation of the actual amount extracted by any operator in any calendar year. In the event of a discrepancy between the extraction statement filed by the operator and the findings of the Agency, the findings of the Agency shall control.

Section 6. EXTRACTION FACILITY METERING.

Every operator shall equip each extraction facility with an approved waterflow measuring device and report the accuracy of the measuring device to the Agency in accordance with the following schedule:

a. For every extraction facility for which construction has been completed before June 1, 1993, every operator shall be required to equip each extraction facility with a waterflow measuring device by December 31, 1993.

b. For every extraction facility for which construction has been completed before June 1, 1993, every operator for each extraction facility shall be required to cause a test of the accuracy of the measuring device to be completed and the results of the test to be reported to the Agency by June 1, 1994. The test shall be undertaken in accorandance with recognized industry standards. Thereafter, every operator shall cause a test of the waterflow measuring device to be conducted and the test results reported to the Agency within the fifth calendar year immediately following the year in which the inital test was performed and reported.

c. For new extraction facilities for which construction is completed after June 1, 1993, every operator shall be required to equip each new extraction facility with a waterflow measuring device within 60 calendar days following the completion of well construction.

d. For new extraction facilities for which construction has been completed before June 1, 1993, every operator shall be required to cause a test of the accuracy of the measuring device to be completed and the results of the test to be reported to the Agency within 90 calendar days following the completion of well construction. The test shall be undertaken in accordance with recognized industry standards. Thereafter, every operator shall cause a test of the waterflow measuring device to be conducted and the results of the test reported to the Agency within the fifth calendar year immediately following the year in which the initial test was performed and reported.

Section 7. TERMINATION DATE.

This Ordinance will remain in full force and effect until repealed by action of the Board of Directors for the Agency.

Section 8. Violation.

a. Any person who intentionally violates this Ordinance is guilty of an infraction and may be required to pay a fine not to exceed $500.

b. Any person who intentionally or negligently violates this Ordinance may be liable to the Agency civilly for a sum not to exceed $1,000 per day.

Section 9. ENFORCEMENT.

The Agency may take any actions authorized by law, to enforce the terms and provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 10. SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Board of Directors hereby declares and determines that it would have passed this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be determined to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance was adopted April 29, 1993, to be effective thirty-one (31) calendar days after its passage. Before the expiration of fifteen (15) calendar days after its passage, this Ordinance shall be published once, with the names of the members of the Board of Directors for the Agency voting for it and against it, in a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Ventura, State of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Agency, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: - Roger Essick, Conner Everts, Robert N. McKinney, Charles Noren, Scott S. Slater.
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:
ATTEST:
/s/Roger Essick
President
Harry Bodell,
Acting Secretary

Published Ojai Valley News
May 7, 1993
5-10-3

ORDINANCE NO. 2

AN ORDINANCE OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY REQUIRING NOTIFICATION OF AN INTENT TO CONSTRUCT AN EXTRACTION FACILITY.

WHEREAS, Article 8, § 802 of the Agency's Authorizing Act provides that the operator of a registered extraction facility shall be required to provide information to the Agency as requested from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has adopted an ordinance requiring the registration of all wells within the boundaries of the Agency; and

WHEREAS, Article 7, of the Agency's Authorizing Act provides the Agency with the authority to impose reasonable conditions and regulations on the use of extraction facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Agency must be adequately informed about the existence of new extraction facilities within the Agency to carry out its groundwater management responsibilities, and

WHEREAS, the County of Ventura presently permits the construction and operation of extraction facilities as a ministerial matter; and

WHEREAS, the Agency desires to avoid the burden of unnecessary permitting in its regulation of extraction facilities; and

WHEREAS, an Ordinance is required to carry out this legislative purpose;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Short Title.

This Ordinance No. 2 shall be known and cited as "the Extraction Facility Notification Ordinance."

Section 2. Policy and Purpose.

The Agency is charged with the legal responsibility for managing groundwater within the boundaries of the Agency. Information concerning the extraction, use and distribution of water is necessary to the Agency's fulfillment of its legislative function of managing groundwater resources.

Section 3. Definitions.

All terms, phrases and words shall have the meaning assigned to such terms, phrases and words as commonly understood or as expressly defined in the Agency's Authorizing Act or as defined herein.

a. "Basin" shall mean the Ojai Groundwater Basin as shown in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 12, "Ventura County Investigation," dated October 1953, to the extent included within the boundaries of the Agency, as defined in § 201 of the Agency's Authorizing Act.

b. "County" means the County of Ventura.

c. "Construction" means the building of an extraction facility such as the act of drilling a well

d. "Extraction" shall mean the act of obtaining groundwater by pumping or other controlled means.

e. "Extraction facility" shall mean any device or method for the extraction of groundwater within the basin, including a well.

f. "Operator" shall mean a person who operates a groundwater extraction facility. If the agency is unable to determine who operates a particular extraction facility, then "operator" shall mean the person to whom the extraction facility is assessed by the county assessor or, if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

g. "Person" shall mean any person, state or local governmental agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, individual, group of individuals or, to the extent authorized by law, any federal agency.

Section 4. Extraction Facility Permit.

a. No operator shall construct an extraction facility within the boundaries of the Agency without first having provided a copy of a County well permit to the Agency.

b. An operator shall be entitled to construct an extraction facility within the Agency as a matter of right upon demonstrating compliance with all County requirements for the

construction and operation of a water well and providing a copy of the County well permit to the Agency.

c. The presentation of an approved County well permit, in a form and manner customarily issued by the County, to the Agency at the Agency office located at City Hall, 401 South Ventura Street, Ojai, California 93023 shall be deemed compliance with County requirements for the purposes of this Ordinance.

d. An operator may begin construction of the extraction facility 3 calendar days following the Agency's receipt of a County well permit from the operator.

Section 5. Termination Date.

This Ordinance will remain in full force and effect until repealed by action of the Board of Directors for the Agency.

Section 6. Violation.

a. Any person who intentionally violates this Ordinance is guilty of an infraction and may be required to pay a fine not to exceed $500.

b. Any person who intentionally or negligently violates this Ordinance may be liable to the Agency civilly for a sum not to exceed $1,000 per day.

Section 7. Enforcement.

The Agency may take any actions authorized by law, to enforce the terms and provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 8. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Board of Directors hereby declares and determines that it would have passed this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be determined to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 9. Exemption.

Any extraction facility in existence on the date this Ordinance shall become effective shall be exempt from the requirements of this Ordinance. However, in the event a modification of an existing extraction facility is undertaken by any operator and that operator is required under applicable County Ordinances to obtain a new County well permit, the operator shall also be obligated to provide a copy of the County well permit to the Agency in accordance with the terms of this Ordinance.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This Ordinance was adopted on December 16, 1993, to be effective thirty-one (31) calendar days after its passage. Before the expiration of fifteen (15) calendar days after its passage, this Ordinance shall be published once, with the names of the members of the Board of Directors for the Agency voting for it and against it, in a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Ventura, State of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Agency, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: Roger Essick, Conner Everts, Robert N. McKinney, Scott S. Slater
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Charles Noren

ATTEST:

Roger Essick
President

Harry Bodell
Administrative Staff Assistant

3738S

ORDINANCE NO. 2
AN ORDINANCE OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY REQUIRING NOTIFICATION OF AN INTENT TO CONTSTRUCT AN EXTRACTION FACILITY.

WHEREAS, Article 8, § 802 of the Agency's Authorizing Act provides that the operator of a registered extraction facility shall be required to provide information to the Agency as requested from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the agency has adopted an ordinance requiring the registration of all wells within the boundaries of the Agency; and

WHEREAS, Article 7, of the Agency's Authorizing Act provides the Agency with the authority to impose reasonable conditions and regulations on the use of extraction facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Agency must be adequately informed about the existence of new extraction facilities within the Agency to carry out its groundwater management responsibilities, and

WHEREAS, the County of Ventura presently permits the construction and operation of extraction facilities as a ministerial matter and

WHEREAS, the Agency desires to avoid the burden of unnecessary permitting in its regulation of extraction facilities; and

WHEREAS, an Ordinance is required to carry out this legislative purpose;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Short Title.

This Ordinance No. 3 shall be known and cited as "the Extraction Facility Notification Ordinance."

Section 2. Policy and Purpose.

The Agency is charged with the legal responsibility for managing groundwater within the boundries of the Agency. Information concerning the extraction, use and distribution of water is necessary to the Agency's fulfillment of its legislative function of managing groundwater resources.

Section 3. Definitions.

All terms, phrases and words shall have the meaning assigned to such terms, phrases and words as commonly understood or as expressly defined in the Agency's Authorizing Act or as defined herein.

a. "Basin" shall mean the Ojai Groundwater Basin as shown in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 12, "Ventura County Investigation," dated October 1953, to the extent included within the boundaries of the Agency, as defined in § 201 of the agency's Authorizing Act.

B. "County" means the County of Ventura.

c. "Construction" means the building of an extraction facility such as the act of drilling a well

d. "Extraction" shall mean the act of obtaining groundwater by pumping or other controlled means.

e. "Extraction facility" shall mean any device or method for the extraction of groundwater within the basin, including a well.

f. "Operator" shall mean a person who operates a groundwater extraction facility. If the agency is unable to determine who operates a particular extraction facility, then "Operator" shall mean the person to whom the extraction facility is assessed by the county assessor or, if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

g. "Person" shall mean any person, state or local government agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, individual, group of individuals or, to the extent authorized by law, any federal agency.

Section 4. Extraction Facility Permit.

A. No operator shall construct an extraction facility within the boundaries of the agency without first having provided a copy of a County well permit to the Agency.

b. An operator shall be entitled to construct an extraction facility within the Agency as a matter of right upon demonstrating compliance with all County requirements for the construction and operation of a water well and providing a copy of the County well permit to the Agency

c. The presentation of an approved County well permit, in a form and manner customarily issued by the County, to the Agency at the Agency office located at City Hall, 401 South Ventura Street, Ojai, California 93023 shall be deemed compliance with County requirements for the purposes of this Ordinance.

d. An operator may begin construction of the extraction facility 3 calendar days following the Agency's receipt of a County well permit from the operator.

Section 5. Termination Date.

This Ordinance will remain in full force and effect until repealed by action of the Board of Directors for the Agency.

Section 6. Violation.

a. Any person who intentionally violates this Ordinance is guilty of an infraction and may be required to pay a fine not to exceed $500.

b. Any person who intentionally or negligently violates this Ordinance may be liable to the Agency civilly for a sum not to exceed $1,000 per day.

Section 7. Enforcement.

The Agency may take any actions authorized by law, to enforce the terms and provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 8. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Board of Directors hereby declares and determines that it would have passed this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations, irrespective of the fac that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be determined to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 9. EXEMPTION.

Any extraction facility in existence on the date this Ordinance shall become effective shall be exempt from the requirements of this Ordinance. However, in the event a modification of an existing extraction facility is undertaken by any operator and that operator is required under applicable County Ordinances to obtain a new County well permit, the operator shall also be obligated to provide a copy of the County well permit to the Agency in accordance with the terms o this Ordinance.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This Ordinance was adopted on December 16, 1993, to be effective thirty-one (31) calendar days after its passage. Before the expiration of fifteen (15) calendar days after its passage, this Ordinance shall be pubished once, with the names of the members of the Board of Directors for the Agency voting for it and against it, in a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Ventura, State of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Agency, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: Roger Essick, Conner Everts, Robert N. McKinney, Scott S. Slater

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Charles Noren

ATTEST:

/s/Roger Essick

President

/s/Harry Bodell

Administrative Staff Assistant

3738S

Published Ojai Valley News December 31, 1993

12-34-3

ORDINANCE NO. 3

AN ORDINANCE OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY EXEMPTING CERTAIN WELLS FROM THE METERING REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED UNDER AGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 1-93.

WHEREAS, Article 5, §§ 501 and 502 of the Ojai Groundwater Basin Management Agency Act authorizes the Agency to collect technical and other information necessary and appropriate to the compilation of an annual report on groundwater supplies within the basin; and

WHEREAS, information regarding the number, location, and use of wells within the basin and the amount of water extracted from these wells is important to the preparation of an annual report; and

WHEREAS, Article 8, § 802 of the Agency's Authorizing Act provides that the operator of a registered extraction facility shall be required to provide information to the Agency as requested from time to time; and

WHEREAS, Article 8, § 804 of the Agency's Authorizing Act mandates that the Agency, by Ordinance, shall require extraction facilities to be equipped with waterflow measuring devices; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has adopted an Ordinance requiring the registration, and metering of extraction facilities; and

WHEREAS, Article 4, section 410 of the Agency's Authorizing Act allows the Agency to exempt the owners of extraction facilities from some or all of the provisions of its ordinances;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Title.

This Ordinance No. 3 shall be known as the "Metering Exemption Ordinance."

Section 2. Purpose and Intent.

The purpose and intent of this ordinance is to provide a procedure for the operator of an extraction facility to obtain an exemption to the Agency's requirement that all extraction facilities be metered.

Section 3. Definitions.

As used in this ordinance, all terms shall have the meaning given to them in the Agency's Authorizing Act or Agency Ordinance No. ___.

Section 4. Exemption From Agency Ordinance No. ___ Requiring Extraction Facility Metering.

A --- HYDROLOGIC SOURCE EXEMPTION

1. The Agency may exempt operators from metering specific extraction facilities based upon the source of the water extracted by the extraction facility. Where the operator can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that an extraction facility within the boundaries of the Agency is (1) extracting water through a facility which draws water from a HYDROLOGIC source other than the Basin and (2) that no other operator within the Basin will be injured by the use of the extraction facility proposed for exemption, they shall be entitled to an exemption from the metering requirements specified in Ordinance 93-1.

2. The burden of proving that the water being extracted is not within the boundaries of the Agency or is not otherwise groundwater which is subject to the jurisdiction of the Agency is upon the operator.

3. Factors the Board deems relevant in granting the requested exemption include the following:

(a) The location of the extraction facility.

(b) The size of the extraction facility.

(c) The source of the water.

(d) The watershed boundaries.

(e) The drainage area.

(f) Where the water is applied.

(g) The public interest.

B --- THE SMALL USER EXEMPTION

1. The Agency shall exempt operators from metering specific extraction facilities where the operator can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that an extraction facility is powered by a motor of three (3) or less horsepower and the sum total of water extracted by the operator from all extraction facilities for use on any single legal parcel is less than one and one half (1.5) acre-feet per year.

2. The burden of proving that the extraction facility meets the requirements of paragraph 1 is upon the operator.

3. This exemption shall expire by its terms without further action of the Agency on January 1, 1996.

C —— PROCEDURE

1. Upon receipt of a written request for an exemption which is filed by an operator at the Agency office located at City Hall, 401 South Ventura Street, Ojai, California 93023, the Agency Board shall set and conduct a public hearing to consider evidence and hear testimony on whether the operator has met the burden required for the exemption.

2. The hearing shall be held within sixty days of the date the Agency receives the written request for exemption.

3. The issuance of an exemption in any one case shall not entitle the operator to future exemptions. Nor shall an exemption from the metering requirement exempt the operator from any other Agency ordinance, resolution or legal requirement including, but not limited to, well registration and reporting of groundwater extractions.

Section 5. Cost Reimbursement.

All costs incurred by the Agency in reviewing an application for an exemption from the Extraction Facility Permit Ordinance shall be borne entirely by the operator including, but not limited to publication, administration, environmental review, engineering, geologic, hydrogeologic, and legal fees. Any exemption granted by the Agency pursuant to this Ordinance shall not become effective until the operator has tendered payment in full to the Agency.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This Ordinance was adopted on February 24, 1994, to be effective thirty-one (31) calendar days after its passage. Before the expiration of fifteen (15) calendar days after its passage, this Ordinance shall be published once, with the names of the members of the Board of Directors for the Agency voting for it and against it, in a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Ventura, State of California.

ORDINANCE NO. 3
AN ORDINANCE OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY EXEMPTING CERTAIN WELLS FROM THE METERING REQUIREMENT ESTABLISHED UNDER AGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 1-93.

WHEREAS, Article 5, §§ 501 and 502 of the Ojai Groundwater Basin Management Agency act authorizes the agency to collect technical and other information necessary and appropriate to the compilation of an annual report on groundwater supplies within the basin; and

WHEREAS, information regarding the number, location, and use of wells within the basin and the amount of water extracted from these wells is important to the preparation of an annual report; and

WHEREAS, Article 8, § 802 of the Agency's Authorizing Act provides that the operator of a registered extraction facility shall be required to provide information to the Agency as requested from time to time; and

WHEREAS, Article 8, § 804 of the Agency's Authorizing Act mandates that the Agency, by Ordinance, shall require extraction facilities to be equipped with waterflow measuring devices; and

WHEREAS, the agency has adopted an Ordinance requiring the registration, and metering of extraction facilities; and

WHEREAS, Article 4, Section 410 of the Agency's Authorizing act allows the Agency to exempt the owners of extraction facilities from some or all of the provisions of its ordinances;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Title.

This Ordinance No.3 shall be known as the "Metering Exemption Ordinance."

Section 2. Purpose and Intent.

The purpose and intent of this ordinance is to provide a procedure for the operator of an extraction facility to obtain an exemption to the Agency's requirement tht all extraction facilities be metered.

Section 3. Definitions.

As used in this ordinane, all terms shall have the meaning given to them in the Agency's Authorizing Act or Agency Ordinance No. SB534.

Section 4. Exemption From Agency Ordinance No. 1 Requiring Extraction Facility Metering.

A HYDROLOGIC SOURCE EXEMPTION

1. The Agency may exempt operators from metering specific extraction facilities based upon the source of the water extracted by the extraction facility. Where the operator can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that an extraction facility within the boundaries of the agency is (1) extracting water through a facility which draws water from a HYDROLOGIC source other than the Basin and (2) that no other operator within the Basin will be injured by the use of the extraction facility proposed for exemption, they shall be entitled to an exemption from the metering requirements specified in Ordinance 93-1.

2. The burden of proving that the water being extracted is not within the boundaries of the Agency or is not otherwise groundwater which is subject to the jurisdiciton of the agency is upon the operator.

3. Factors the Board deems relevant in granting the requested exemption include the following:

(a) The location of the extraction facility.

(b) The size of the extraciton facility.

(c) The source of the water.

(d) The watershed boundaries.

(e) The drainage area.

(f) Where the water is applied.

(g) The public interest.

B THE SMALL USER EXEMPTION

1. The Agency shall exempt operators from metering specific extraction facilities where the operator can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that an extraction facility is powered by a motor of three (3) or less horsepower and the sum total of water extracted by the operator from all extraction facilities for use on any single legal parcel is less than one and one half (1.5) acre-feet per year.

2. The burden of proving that the extraction facility meets the requirements of paragraph 1 is upon the operator.

3. This exemption shall expire by its terms without further action of the Agency on January 1, 1996.

C PROCEDURE

1. Upon receipt of a written request for an exemption which is filed by an operator at the Agency Board shall set and conduct a public hearing to consider evidence and hear testimony on whether the operator has met the burden required for the exemption.

2. The hearing shall be held within sixty days of the date the Agency receives the written request for exemption.

3. The issuance of an exemption in any one case shall not entitle the operator to future exemptions. Nor shall an exemption from the metering requirement exempt the operator from any other Agency ordinance, resolution or legal requirement including, but not limited to, well registration and reporting of groundwater extractions.

Section 5. Cost Reimbursement.

All costs incurred by the agency in reviewing an application for an exemption from the Extraction Facility Permit Ordinance shall be borne entirely by the operator including, but not limited to publication, administration, environmental review, engineering, geologic, hydrogeologic, and legal fees. Any exemption granted by the Agency pursuant to this Ordinance shall not become effective until the operator has tendered payment in full to the Agency.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This Ordinance was adopted on February 24, 1994, to be effective thirty-one (31) calendar days after its passage. Before the expiration of fifteen (15) calendar days after its passage, this Ordinance shall be published once, with the names of the members of the Board of Directors for the Agency voting for it and against it, in a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Ventura, State of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the board of Directors of the Agency, State California; by the following vote:

AYES: Essick, Noren, McKinnon & Slater
NOES: Everts
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None
ATTEST
/s/Conner Everts
President
/s/Harry Bodell
Secretary

3743S
Published Ojai Valley News
March 9, 1994
3-21-4

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency will hold a public workshop to consider the contents of a proposed Groundwater Management Plan.

This workshop has been set for public participation on Monday, March 14, 1994 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai, California.

Interested persons may at that time participate with the Agency in the development of the proposed Management Plan.

Seating will be limited to 30-40. Additional information and reservations may be obtained by calling 640-8157.

Date: Feburary 28, 1994
Harry Bodell
Staff Assistant

Published Ojai Valley News
March 4, 9 & 11, 1994
3-11-4

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Agency, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Conner Everts
President

ATTEST:

Harry Bodell, Secretary

3743S

ORDINANCE NO. 4

AN ORDINANCE OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY LEVYING GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION CHARGES.

WHEREAS, Article 1, section 101 of the Ojai Groundwater Basin Management Agency Act declares that the preservation of the groundwater within the territory of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency for the protection of agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses, is in the public interest and for the common benefit of the water users within the Agency; and

WHEREAS, Article 10, sections 1001-1007 of the Ojai Groundwater Basin Management Agency Act authorizes the Agency to fix a management charge for the purpose of paying for the costs of initiating, carrying on and completing any of the powers, projects and purposes for which the Agency is organized. However, the Agency may not impose the management charge after January 1, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the Agency must raise sufficient funds to pay for the cost of initiating, carrying on, and completing the powers, purposes, and groundwater management activities described in its authorizing Act; and

WHEREAS, Article 11, section 1101 of the Ojai Groundwater Basin Management Agency Act authorizes the Agency to levy groundwater extraction charges on the extraction of groundwater by the users of groundwater extraction facilities within the boundaries of the agency; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has adopted Ordinance No. 1, which requires the registration of groundwater extraction facilities and reporting of groundwater extractions within the boundaries of the Agency; and

WHEREAS, Ordinances 1 and 4, taken together, enable the Agency to determine water extractions accurately and to assess and collect charges and fees equitably, so that the Agency may meet its mission of preserving the quantity and quality of the groundwater in the Ojai Basin.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Short Title.

This Ordinance No. 4 shall be known and cited as "the Groundwater Extraction Charge Ordinance."

Section 2. Policy and Purpose.

The Agency is charged with the legal responsibility of managing the groundwater resource within the boundaries of the Agency. The Agency's mission is to preserve the quality and quantity of groundwater in the Ojai Basin in order to protect and maintain the long-term water supply for the common benefit of the water users in the basin. The Agency enacts this Groundwater Extraction Charge Ordinance as legal authority to require that every groundwater extraction facility contribute an equitable portion of the costs of running the Agency.

Section 3. Definitions.

All terms, phrases and words shall have the meaning assigned to such terms, phrases and words as commonly understood or as expressly defined in the Agency's Authorizing Act or as defined herein.

a. **"Agency"** shall mean the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency.

b. **"Basin"** shall mean the Ojai Groundwater Basin as shown in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 12, "Ventura County Investigation," dated October 1953, to the extent included within the boundaries of the Agency, as defined in § 201 of the Agency's Authorizing Act.

c. **"Board"** shall mean the Board of Directors of the Agency.

d. **"County"** shall mean the County of Ventura.

e. **"Dwelling unit"** shall mean a structure suitable for residential household occupancy.

f. **"Extraction"** shall mean the act of obtaining groundwater from the Basin by pumping or other controlled means.

g. **"Extraction facility"** shall mean any device or method for the extraction of groundwater from the Basin, including a well.

h. **"Groundwater"** shall mean the water beneath the surface of the earth within the zone below the water table in which the soil is completely saturated with water, whether or not flowing through known and definite channels.

i. **"Operator"** shall mean a person who operates a groundwater extraction facility. If the Agency is unable to determine who operates a particular extraction facility, then "operator" shall mean the person to whom the extraction facility is assessed by the county assessor or, if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

j. **"Public water system"** shall mean a water system which, as defined in Section 4010.1 of the California Health and Safety Code, (i) serves 15 or more connections and provides water for residential use or (ii) regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year.

k. **"Person"** shall mean any person, state or local governmental agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, individual, group of individuals or, to the extent authorized by law, any federal agency.

l. **"Waterflow measuring device"** shall mean a meter or other measuring device which is attached to an extraction facility for the purpose of measuring the quantity of water extracted by the facility.

Section 4. Estimated Semi-Annual Water Demand.

a. The following estimates of semi-annual water demand shall be presumed accurate for those extraction facilities not equipped with a waterflow measuring device.

(1) Groundwater extraction facilities not equipped with waterflow measuring devices. The Table of Average Semi-Annual Water Demand set forth below shall be used to estimate the amount of water extracted by groundwater extraction facilities not equipped with a waterflow measuring device.

TABLE OF AVERAGE SEMI-ANNUAL WATER DEMAND

Water Use	Average Semi-Annual Water Demand
Residential	0.3 acre-foot/per dwelling unit
Subtropical orchard (Citrus/avocado/kiwi)	1.7 acre-foot/cultivated acre
Greenhouse operation	2.0 acre-foot/cultivated acre
Golf course and other turf	2.0 acre-foot/cultivated acre
All other agriculture	1.7 acre-foot/cultivated acre

b. If an extraction facility that is not equipped with a waterflow measuring device provides water to more than one type of use, total semi-annual groundwater extraction by the facility shall be estimated as the sum of all such uses on the basis of the indices established in the Table of Average Semi-Annual Water Demand. Water demand shall be presumed to be evenly divided between the payment periods prescribed in this Ordinance.

c. A groundwater extraction facility operator may appeal the Agency presumption of semi-annual water demand, as determined under paragraph a. of this Section, to the Board. Such appeal may challenge the presumed demand for a specific period of time or it may request authorization of a perennial method of estimating demand which would eliminate the need for reference to the Table of Average Semi-Annual Water Demand. Such appeal shall state fully the grounds of the appeal and all facts relied upon in the appeal, including, but not limited to, flow meter records; electrical power consumption records; logs of hours of operation, operating pressure, and depth of water; the result of any pump or efficiency test made; measurements of pump output; and any other data pertinent to quantifying groundwater production. The Board shall make a written finding of fact either granting or denying the appeal.

Section 5. Frequency of Payment and Computing Groundwater Extraction Charges.

a. Beginning with Semi-Annual Period 2 of 1995, each operator shall complete and file a Groundwater Extraction Statement and make payment of the appropriate groundwater extraction charge to the Agency. The frequency of reporting and making payment, and the method of computing the charge shall be as follows.

b. All operators shall pay the groundwater extraction charge semi-annually. If the extraction facility is equipped with a waterflow measuring device, the operator shall calculate and pay its extraction charge on the basis of its measured extractions. If the extraction facility is not equipped with a waterflow measuring device, the operator shall calculate and pay its extraction charge on the basis of the estimated semi-annual water demand set forth in Section 4 of this Ordinance. Semi-annual payments are due as set forth in Section 6 of this Ordinance and shall accompany the "Groundwater Extraction Statement" required pursuant to Section 7 of this Ordinance.

c. The amount of payment due shall be determined by multiplying the total water extraction for the applicable payment period by the effective per-acre-foot charge as set forth in Section 8 of this Ordinance.

Section 6. Payment and Reporting Due Dates.

a. Payment of the semi-annual extraction charge is due to the Agency as set forth in this Section. Payment is to accompany the filing of a Groundwater Extraction Statemen. required pursuant to Section 7 of this Ordinance.

b. The semi-annual assessment periods and payment due dates are as follows:

SEMI-ANNUAL PAYMENT DATES

Semi-Annual Period	Assessment Dates	Payment Due Date
1	January 1 - June 30	July 31
2	July 1- December 31	January 31

c. Payment not received by the Agency within the time specified for the applicable payment cycle shall be deemed delinquent and subject the operator to penalties as set forth in Section 8 of this Ordinance.

d. The operator's Groundwater Extraction Statement and payment of calculated fees shall be presumed accurate upon timely receipt by the Agency. For good cause, the Agency may disregard the Groundwater Extraction Statement and payment of fees and cause an investigation of the actual amount extracted by any operator for any payment period. In the event of a discrepancy between the Groundwater Extraction Statement and payment provided the Agency and the findings of the Agency, the findings of the Agency shall control.

Section 7. Groundwater Extraction Statement: Reporting Extractions

a. The Groundwater Extraction Form filing requirements of Ordinance 1, Section 5, are hereby superseded by this Ordinance. The Groundwater Extraction Statement forms and filing requirements are as set forth in this Ordinance.

b. Every operator that extracts groundwater from the basin shall file a completed "Groundwater Extraction Statement," in conjunction with the payment of the required extraction charge, with the same periodicity as required for payment of the extraction charge as set forth in Section 5 of this Ordinance. The completed and filed Groundwater Extraction Statement shall be on a form substantially similar to Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. Each completed and filed Groundwater Extraction Statement shall be signed under penalty of perjury by the operator of the respective extraction facility.

c. The Agency shall make Groundwater Extraction Statement forms available to operators and the public generally by direct mail to known operators and by keeping copies available for the public at the Agency office located at City Hall, 401 South Ventura Street, Ojai, California 93024.

d. Failure of any operator to receive a direct mailing of a Groundwater Extraction Statement form shall not relieve the operator of the obligation to file a completed Groundwater Extraction Statement and timely pay to the Agency the applicable groundwater extraction charge as required by this Ordinance.

Section 8. **Extraction Charge**

a. The groundwater extraction charge for Semi-Annual Period 2 of 1995 and Period 1 of 1996 shall be six dollars ($6.00) per acre-foot. The groundwater extraction charge shall thereafter be set annually by Board Resolution.

b. Detailed recording and management of all groundwater extraction charge funds shall be required. Deposits, investments and expenditures shall be handled in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Section 9. **Penalties.**

a. Any groundwater production facility operator delinquent in payment of the groundwater extraction charge shall be subject to an assessment of extraction charges based on metered use or estimated use set forth in Section 4 of this Ordinance, whichever is greater; plus a ten (10) percent penalty; plus interest. Interest on all delinquent payments shall be charged at a rate of one and one-half percent (1.5%) per month.

b. Any operator or person who intentionally violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be guilty of an infraction and may be required to pay a fine to the Agency not to exceed five hundred dollars ($500).

c. Any operator or person who negligently or intentionally violates any provision of this Ordinance may also be civilly liable to the Agency for a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000) per day for each day of such violation, in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed by law.

d. Upon the failure of any operator or person to comply with any provision of this Ordinance, the Agency may petition the Superior Court for a temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction, or such other equitable relief as may be appropriate. The right to petition for injunctive relief is an additional right to those rights which may be provided elsewhere in this Ordinance or otherwise allowed by law.

e. The Agency may petition the Superior Court of the county to recover any sums due it under the provisions of this Ordinance.

f. A groundwater extraction facility operator subject to a penalty under Section 9 of this Ordinance may promptly appeal the penalty to the Board. Such appeal shall state fully the grounds of the appeal and all facts relied upon in the appeal, including, but not limited to, the facts causing the imposition of the penalty, any extenuating circumstances, the monetary amount owed to the Agency including penalties, and any other facts pertinent to the delinquency or violation. The Board shall make a written finding of fact either granting or denying the appeal.

g. The penalty provisions set forth in Section 9 of this Ordinance shall be reviewed annually by the Agency Board and, if deemed necessary, adjusted by Board Resolution.

Section 10. Termination Date.

This Ordinance will remain in full force and effect until repealed by action of the Board of Directors for the Agency.

Section 11. Application.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be read in conjunction with and complement all other Agency Ordinances and Resolutions and shall apply to all persons residing within the boundaries of the Agency.

Section 12. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Board of Directors hereby declares and determines that it would have passed this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be determined to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 13. Effective Date.

This Ordinance was adopted on APRIL 27, 1995, to be effective thirty-one (31) calendar days after its passage. Before the expiration of fifteen (15) calendar days after its passage, this Ordinance shall be published once, with the names of the members of the Board of Directors for the Agency voting for it and against it, in a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Ventura, State of California.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Agency, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: Jerry Conrow, Conner Everts, Charles Noren, Scott S. Slater
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Robert N. McKinney

ATTEST:

Conner Everts, President

Harry Bodell, Secretary

ORDINANCE NO. 4.1

AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 4 OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY, WAIVING GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION CHARGES FOR CERTAIN SMALL USERS

WHEREAS, the Agency has adopted Ordinance No. 1, which requires the registration of groundwater extraction facilities and reporting of groundwater extractions within the boundaries of the Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has adopted Ordinance No. 4, which requires all groundwater users within the boundaries of the Agency to pay a groundwater extraction charge based upon their water usage; and

WHEREAS, Ordinances 1 and 4, taken together, enable the Agency to determine water extractions accurately and to assess and collect charges and fees equitably, so that the Agency may meet its mission of preserving the quantity and quality of the groundwater in the Ojai Basin; and

WHEREAS, Article 4, section 410 of the Agency's authorizing act allows the Agency to exempt the owners of extraction facilities from some or all of the provisions of its ordinances;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Amendment of Ordinance No. 4**

Section 5 of Agency Ordinance No. 4, the "Groundwater Extraction Charge Ordinance," is hereby amended to provide as follows:

> **Section 5.** **Frequency of Payment and Computing Groundwater Extraction Charges.**
>
> a. Beginning with Semi-Annual Period 2 of 1995, each operator shall complete and file a Groundwater Extraction Statement and make payment of the appropriate groundwater extraction charge to the Agency. The frequency of reporting and making payment, and the method of computing the charge shall be as follows.
>
> b. All operators shall pay the groundwater extraction charge semi-annually. If the extraction facility is equipped with a waterflow measuring device, the operator shall calculate and pay its extraction charge on the basis of its measured extractions. If the extraction facility is not equipped with a waterflow

measuring device, the operator shall calculate and pay its extraction charge on the basis of the estimated semi-annual water demand set forth in Section 4 of this Ordinance. Semi-annual payments are due as set forth in Section 6 of this Ordinance and shall accompany the "Groundwater Extraction Statement" required pursuant to Section 7 of this Ordinance.

c. The amount of payment due shall be determined by multiplying the total water extraction for the applicable payment period by the effective per-acre-foot charge as set forth in Section 8 of this Ordinance.

d. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection c above, the payment of the semi-annual extraction charge is waived and set at $0.00 (zero dollars) for those extraction facilities whose semi-annual groundwater use is less than or equal to 1.0 (one) acre foot. The small user waiver set forth in this subsection shall be reviewed annually by the Agency Board and, if deemed necessary, adjusted by Board Resolution.

Section 2. Termination Date.

This Ordinance will remain in full force and effect until repealed by action of the Board of Directors for the Agency.

Section 3. Application.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be read in conjunction with and complement all other Agency Ordinances and Resolutions and shall apply to all persons residing within the boundaries of the Agency.

Section 4. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Board of Directors hereby declares and determines that it would have passed this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be determined to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Ordinance was adopted on July 27, 1995, to be effective thirty-one (31) calendar days after its passage. Before the expiration of fifteen (15) calendar days after its passage, this Ordinance shall be published once, with the names of the members of the Board of Directors for the Agency voting for it and against it, in a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Ventura, State of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Agency, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: CONROW, EVERTS, MCKINNEY, NOREN, SLATER
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

ATTEST:

Conner Everts
President

Harry Bodell, Secretary

July 27, 1998

OVN07155
ORDINANCE NO. 4.1
AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 4 OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY, WAIVING GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION CHARGES FOR CERTAIN SMALL USERS

WHEREAS, the Agency has adopted Ordinance no.. 1, which requires the registration of groundwater extraction facilities and reporting of groundwater extraction's within the boundaries of the Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has adopted Ordinance No. 4, which requires all groundwater users within the boundaries of the Agency to pay a groundwater extraction charge based upon their water usage and

WHEREAS, Ordinances 1 and 4, taken together, enable the Agency to determine water extraction's accurately and to assess an collect charges and fees equitably, so that the Agency may meet its mission of preserving the quantity and quality of the groundwater in the Ojai Basin; and

WHEREAS, Article 4, section 410 of the Agency's authorizing act allows the Agency to exempt the owners of extraction facilities from some or all of the provisions of its ordinances;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendment of Ordinance No. 4

Section 5 of Agency Ordinance No. 4, the "Groundwater Extraction Charge Ordinance," is hereby amended to provide as follows:

Section 5. Frequency of Payment and Computing Groundwater Extraction charges.

a. Beginning with Semi-Annual Period 2 of 1995, each operator shall complete and file a Groundwater Extraction' Statement and make payment of the appropriate groundwater extraction charge to the Agency. The frequency of reporting and making payment, and the method of computing the charge shall be as follows.

b. All operators shall pay the groundwater extraction charge semi-annually. If the extraction facility is equipped with a waterflow measuring device, the operator shall calculate and pay its extraction charge on the basis of its measured extraction's. If the extraction facility is not equipped with a waterflow measuring device, the operator shall calculate and pay its extraction charge on the basis of the estimated semi-annual water demand set forth in section 4 of this Ordinance. Semi-annual payments are due as set forth in Section 6 of this Ordinance and shall accompany the "Groundwater Extraction Statement" required pursuant to section 7 of this Ordinance.

c. The amount of payment due shall be determined by multiplying the total water extraction for the applicable payment period by the effective per-acre-foot charge as set for in Section 8 of this Ordinance.

d. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection c above, the payment of the Semi-annual extraction charge is waived and set at $0.00 (zero dollars) for those extraction facilities whose semi-annula groundwater use is less than or equal to 1.0 (one) acre foot. Thermal user waiver set forth in this subsection shall be reviewed annually by the Agency Board and, if deemed necessary, adjusted by Board Resolution.

Section 2. Termination Date. this Ordinance will remain in full force and effect until repealed by action of the Board of Directors of the Agency.

Section 3. Application. The provisions of the ordinance shall be read in conjunction with and complement all other agency Ordinances and Resolutions and shall apply to all persons residing within the boundaries of the Agency.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Ordinance The Board of Directors hereby declares and determines that it would have passed this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be determined to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 5. Effective Date This Ordinance was adopted on June 29, 1995, to be effective thirty-one (31) calendar days after its passage. before the expiration of fifteen (15) calendar days after its passage, this Ordinance shall be published once, with the names of the members of the Board of Directors for the Agency voting for it and against it, in a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Ventura, State of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Agency, State of California, by the following vote

AYES: Jerry Cornrow, Conner Everts, Robert N. McKinney, Charles Noren, Scott S. Slater

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Attest: Conner Everts, President

Harry Bodell, Secretary

Published Ojai Valley News July 12, 1995

OVN07265
CITY OF OJAI
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency will hold a public hearing to consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 4.1, an amendment to Ordinance 4; Waving Groundwater Extraction Charges for Certain Small Users, on Thursday, July 27, 1995, at 7 p.m. in the Ojai City Hall.

Interested persons may at that time appear before the Agency Board as an advocate or opponent to the proposed amendment, copies of which are on file at the Ojai City Hall reception desk.

Date: July 17, 1995

/s/Harry Bodell, Secretary
Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
P.O. Box 1570, Ojai, CA 93024

Published Ojai Valley News July 19, 21 & 26,1995

ORDINANCE No. 5

AN ORDINANCE OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY REQUIRING A PERMIT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF GROUNDWATER RECHARGE, REPLENISHMENT, STORAGE AND RECAPTURE PROJECTS IN THE BASIN

WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 703 of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Act authorizes the agency to regulate groundwater replenishment programs and the recapture of supplemental groundwater resulting from those programs; and

WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 708(d) of the Agency Act mandates that the right to store and recapture imported or developed water shall be subject to prior permit by the agency and further states that the Agency shall issue storage and recapture permits under terms and conditions it deems appropriate and may impose charges therefore; and

WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 101 of the Agency Act declares that the preservation of the Ojai basin groundwater for the protection of agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses is in the public interest and for the common benefit of water users within the agency; and

WHEREAS, It is the expressed mission of the OBGMA to preserve the quantity and quality of groundwater in the Ojai Basin in order to protect and maintain the long-term water supply for the common benefit of the water users in the basin; and

WHEREAS, The groundwater in the Ojai Basin is a resource of common benefit to all groundwater extractors in the basin. Under existing circumstances and to the limited present knowledge of the Agency, the water supply and demand is largely in balance; however due to the increasing demands on the very limited water supply in the Ventura River Watershed, and the likelihood of extended drought periods in the future the natural recharge of the Ojai Basin may not be sufficient to meet the needs of well operators who extract water from the basin without the implementation of stringent conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, Projects to augment water storage in the Ojai basin through recharge from diverted surface water or imported water provide a potential method of augmenting the natural replenishment of the basin can potentially increase the water in storage in the basin available to well operators during drought periods; and water stored in the Ojai basin by such projects can potentially be recaptured to the common benefit of the well operators in the basin; now therefore

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Short Title.**

This Ordinance No. 5 shall be known and cited as "the Groundwater Recharge Permit Ordinance."

Section 2. **Policy and Purpose.**

The Agency is charged with the legal responsibility for managing groundwater within the boundaries of the Agency, with the protection of that groundwater in the public interest and for the common benefit of water users within the agency, and with the regulation of replenishment programs in the basin. The Agency enacts this Groundwater Recharge Ordinance as legal authority to require that every recharge, replenishment, storage and recapture project proposed to be undertaken in the basin obtain a permit from the Agency prior to construction or operation; and to set forth, in accordance with the Agency Act, terms and conditions for the development, construction and operation of such projects required for the approval of such a permit by the Board of Directors of the Agency.

Section 3. **Definitions.**

Agency
Aquifer
Available supply
Basin
Board
County
Extraction
Extraction facility
Groundwater
Groundwater management activities
Operator
Overdraft
Permitee
Person
Program
Recharge
Replenishment
Supplemental water
Temporary Surplus
Water Year

Section 4. **Groundwater Replenishment and Recharge Permit**

No person shall construct and/or operate a groundwater replenishment and recharge project in the Ojai Basin without first obtaining a Groundwater Replenishment and Recharge Permit (Recharge Permit) from the Agency.

An application for a Groundwater Permit shall be filed with the Agency at least 180 days prior to the requested date of approval.

Approval of a permit shall require compliance with the following terms and conditions:

The design and proposed operation of the project must be certified by a licensed hydrogeologist and a licensed engineer with experience in groundwater recharge project design. The OBGMA may require a review of the project design by an independent hydrogeologist and engineer.

All recharged water must accrue to the basin to the common benefit of all groundwater users in the basin.

Rights to the source of water for recharge must be obtained and held by a public agency authorized by law to obtain such rights.

An economic analysis shall be prepared by the project proponent demonstrating a positive cost benefit for well operators in the basin.

All appropriate permits must be obtained by the project proponent, as well as compliance with CEQA.

The designated operator for the Project shall be responsible for the construction and operation of the Project including all necessary safety precautions including the financial responsibility for accidents or property damage. That responsibility shall also include timely repair, rehabilitation, and restoration to functioning condition if the project is damaged by storm waters or other natural forces, or if damaged beyond restorable usability stabilization of the site into pre project condition.

Section 5. **Termination Date**

This Ordinance will remain in full force and effect until repealed by action of the Board of the Agency.

Section 6. **Violation**

a. Any person who intentionally violates this Ordinance is guilty of an infraction and may be required to pay a fine not to exceed $500.

b. Any person who intentionally or negligently violates this Ordinance may be liable to the Agency civilly for a sum not to exceed $1000 per day.

Section 7. **Enforcement.**

The Agency may take any actions authorized by law to enforce the terms and provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 8. **Severability.**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulation is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Board hereby declares and determines that it would have passed this Ordinance and its implementing rules and regulation irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsection, sentences, clauses or phrases may be determined to be unconstitutional or invalid.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Agency, State of California October 17, 2007.

ATTEST:

Jerry Conrow, President

Cece VanDerMeer, Secretary

AN ORDINANCE OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY ESTABLISHING POLICY FOR CONTRACTING FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES

ORDINANCE No. 6

Whereas, The Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (Agency) has been established by legislation *(Stats.1991, c. 750(S.B. 534).)*; and,

Whereas, the enabling law, known as the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Act ("Authorizing Act"), provides in Section 131-404(a) that the Board of Directors of the Agency may adopt ordinances for the purpose of monitoring, regulating, conserving, managing, and controlling the use and extraction of groundwater within the boundaries of the agency; and,

Whereas, the Authorizing Act provides in Section 131-409 that the Agency may contract for staff and other services and may hire other contractors and consultants; and

Whereas, the Authorizing Act provides in Section 131-501 the authority of the Agency to collect data and conduct technical and other investigations, and further provides that all hydrological investigations carried by, or on behalf of, the Agency shall be conducted by, or under the supervision of, licensed engineers or other persons qualified in groundwater geology or hydrology; and

Whereas, the Agency desires to establish a standardized policy governing service contracts between the Agency and Professional Consultants as defined in Section 3 herein.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Title.**

Ordinance No. 6 shall be known as the "Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Professional Consulting Service Contracting Policy."

Section 2. **Purpose and Intent.**

To provide the Agency with a standardized policy governing service contracts with Professional Consultants as defined in Section 3 herein.

Section 3. **Definitions.**

All terms, phrases and words shall have the meaning assigned to such terms, phrases and words as commonly understood or as expressly defined in the Agency's Authorizing Act or as defined herein.

a. "**Basin**" shall mean the Ojai Groundwater Basin as shown in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 12, "Ventura County Investigation," dated October 1953, to the extent included within the boundaries of the Agency, as defined in Section 201 of the Agency's Authorizing Act.

b. "**Agency**" shall mean the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency.

c. "**Person**" shall mean any person, state, or local governmental agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, individual, group of individuals or, to the extent authorized by law, and federal agency.

d. "**Professional Consultant**" shall refer to those professional consultants providing services related to hydrological, geological, and hydrogeological investigations, reports or any other professional services and activities for which the Agency has responsibility and authority under its Authorizing Act.

e. "**Local Agency Head**" shall mean the Board of Directors or the General Manager, as designee, which shall be governed by all provisions set forth in Government Code Sections 4525-4529.5 pertaining to the Local Agency Head, as set forth therein.

Section 4. **Establishment of a Policy on Contracting for Professional Consulting Services.**

a. The Agency shall only contract with a Professional Consultant when one or more of the following situations occur.

i. Specialized skill, experience, or abilities are required which are not possessed by Agency staff members available for assignment to the required work.

ii. Specialized equipment and/or facilities are needed for the required work, which specialized equipment and/or facilities are not possessed and/or operated by the Agency, but are possessed and/or operated by a Professional Consultant.

iii. There is insufficient Agency staff available to accommodate the staffing needs of the required work.

b. All contracts entered into between the Agency and a Professional Consultant shall be consistent with Government Code Sections 4525-4529.5 as those sections pertain to the Local Agency Head.

c. The Agency shall generally issue Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposals prior to contracting with a Professional Consultant.

d. The Agency may, at its option, contract with a Professional Consultant as a sole source contract under the following conditions and/or criteria:

i. Consulting professional shall have a statement of qualifications on file with the Agency prior to the selection of any consulting firm.

ii. The Professional Consultant chosen for a sole source contract with the Agency shall demonstrate sufficient prior knowledge of the Agency, the tasks involved, and the desired results for the benefit of the Agency and the groundwater basin.

e. The Board of Directors or the General Manager, as designee, shall be designated by the Board of Directors as the Local Agency Head for the purposes of this ordinance.

f. Any contract by and between the Agency and a Professional Consultant shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Termination Date.

This Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect until repealed by action of the Board of Directors of the Agency.

Section 6. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Board of Directors hereby declares and determines that it would have passed this ordinance and its rules and regulations, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance and its implementing rules and regulations may be determined to be unconstitutional or invalid.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Agency, State of California by the following vote on August 28, 2008:

AYES: 4
NOES: Ø
ABSTAIN: Ø
ABSENT: Ø

ATTEST: Jerry Z. Conrow
Jerry Conrow, President

Cece VanDerMeer, Secretary

AN ORDINANCE OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY SUPERCEDING ORDINANCES 1, 2, and 3, SPECIFYING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CONSTRUCT AND THE REGISTRATION OF EXTRACTION FACILITIES, METERING AND REPORTING OF GROUNDWATER EXTRACTIONS, AND THE RECORDATION OF WELLS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE AGENCY

OBGMA ORDINANCE NUMBER 7

Whereas, Article 5 of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Act authorizes the Agency to collect information necessary for the management of the groundwater resources of the Ojai Basin; and to collect information and data necessary for the compilation of an annual report on groundwater supplies; and

Whereas, Article 8 of the Act provides that Extraction Facilities in the Ojai Basin be registered with the Agency, and further provides that the Operator of a registered Extraction Facility may be required to provide information to the Agency; and

Whereas, information regarding the number, location, and use of groundwater Extraction Facilities within the basin, and the amount of water extracted from these facilities, is necessary for groundwater management, planning, and reporting by the Agency; and

Whereas, the Agency must be adequately informed about the existence and nature of new Extraction Facilities within the boundaries of the Agency in order to carry out its groundwater management responsibilities; and

Whereas, the County of Ventura Public Works Department and the City of Ojai issue permits for construction and operation of groundwater Extraction Facilities within the Agency boundaries, and the Agency desires to avoid unnecessary permitting in its regulation of groundwater Extraction Facilities; and

Whereas, Article 7, of the Act provides the Agency with the authority to impose reasonable conditions and regulations on the use of groundwater Extraction Facilities; and

Whereas, Article 8 of the Act provides that the Agency, by Ordinance, shall require groundwater Extraction Facilities to be equipped with Waterflow Measuring Devices; and allows the Agency to exempt specific groundwater Extraction Facilities from this requirement; and

Whereas, The State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights has designated the Agency as the official groundwater extraction recordation Agency for the State within the Agency boundaries with specific authorities;

Now therefore be it ordained by the Board of Directors of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) as follows:

Section 1 Title

Ordinance Number 7 shall be known as the "Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Registering, Reporting, Metering, and Well Recordation Ordinance."

Section 2 Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Ordinance is:

1. To approve and implement updated Agency policies requiring the Operators of Extraction Facilities to provide information to the Agency.
2. To approve and implement updated Agency policies for requiring notification of intent to construct an Extraction Facility within the boundaries of the Agency, for registering Extraction Facilities, and for semi-annual extraction reporting.
3. To approve and implement an updated Agency policy for metering Extraction Facilities.
4. To establish by Ordinance and implement new requirements for the Groundwater Recordation Program transferred to the Agency by the State Water Resources Control Board in June 2008.

Section 3 Definitions

All terms, phrases and words shall have the meaning assigned to such terms, phrases and words as commonly understood or as expressly defined in the Agency's Authorizing Act or as defined herein.

"Act" shall mean the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Act.

"Agency" shall mean the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency.

"Basin" shall mean the Ojai Groundwater Basin as shown in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 12, "Ventura County Investigation," dated October 1953, to the extent included within the boundaries of the Agency, as defined in Section 201 of the Agency's Authorizing Act.

"Board" shall mean the Board of Directors of the Agency.

"City" shall mean the City of Ojai.

"County" means the County of Ventura.
"Construction" means the building of a groundwater Extraction Facility such as the act of drilling a well.
"Extraction" shall mean the act of obtaining groundwater by pumping or other controlled means.
"Extraction Facility" shall mean any device or method for the extraction of groundwater within the basin, including a well.
"Operator" shall mean a person who owns and operates a groundwater Extraction Facility. If the Agency is unable to determine who operates a particular Extraction Facility, the "Operator" shall mean the person to whom the Extraction Facility is assessed, if assessed by the County Assessor or, if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the Extraction Facility is located.
"Person" shall mean any person, state, or local governmental Agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, individual, group of individuals or, to the extent authorized by law, any federal Agency.
"Waterflow Measuring Device" shall mean a meter or other measuring device, meeting the standards set by the American Water Works Association (AWWA), which is attached to an Extraction Facility for the purpose of measuring the quantity of water extracted by the facility.

Section 4 Extraction Facility Permit Notification

1. No Operator shall construct an Extraction Facility within the boundaries of the Agency without first having provided a copy of a County, and, where required, City, well construction permit to the Agency.

2. The presentation of an approved County and, where required, City, well construction permit, in a form and manner customarily issued by the County or City, to the Agency at the Agency office shall be deemed compliance with County and City requirements for the purposes of this Ordinance.

3. An Operator may begin construction of the Extraction Facility three (3) calendar days following the Agency's receipt of a County and, where required, City, well construction permit from the Operator.

Section 5 Extraction Facility Registration

1. An Operator shall be permitted to operate an Extraction Facility within the Agency boundaries in accordance with the provisions of law and this ordinance upon demonstrating compliance with County and/or City requirements for the construction and operation of a water well, providing a completed copy of the County and/or City well permit including well test data and well drillers log to the Agency, and registering the Extraction Facility in accordance with section 5.2 of this ordinance.

2. Operators of Extraction Facilities shall register all Extraction Facilities with the Agency by completing and returning an OBGMA **Registration Form** to the Agency. New Extraction Facilities shall be registered by returning the Registration Form to the Agency within thirty (30) calendar days following completion of construction and prior to any groundwater extraction.

3. The Agency shall make Registration Forms available to Operators and the public generally at the Agency office, and downloadable on the Agency website at www.obgma.com.

4. Failure of the Operator to receive a direct mailing of a Registration Form shall not relieve the Operator of the obligation to file the form with the Agency as required in Section 4.2

5. The Agency shall prepare and maintain an Extraction Facility data sheet for each registered Extraction Facility within the Agency boundaries

Section 6 Groundwater Extraction Reports

1. Every Operator extracting groundwater from the basin shall file a semi-annual extraction report in January and July of each calendar year accurately stating the amount of water extracted during the prior six month period, providing all additional relevant information requested on the OBGMA **Groundwater Extraction Form**, signed under penalty of perjury by the Operator.

2. The Agency shall make Groundwater Extraction Forms available in June and December by direct mail to known Operators. Blank copies of the form will be available at the Agency office.

3. Failure of the Operator to receive a direct mailing of a Groundwater Extraction Form shall not relieve the Operator of the obligation to file the form with the Agency as required in Section 6.1.

4. The Operator's extraction statement on the form shall be presumed accurate upon timely filing of the form with the Agency. For good cause, the Agency may disregard the extraction statement and cause an investigation of the actual amount extracted by the Operator in any semi-annual period. In the event of a discrepancy between the statement filed by the Operator and the findings of the Agency, the findings of the Agency shall prevail.

Section 7 Extraction Facility Metering

1. Except as otherwise specified by Sections 7.2 and 7.3 of this ordinance, every Operator shall equip each Extraction Facility with a Waterflow Measuring Device as defined in Section 3 of this ordinance, and shall report installation of the measuring device to the Agency.

2. Operators of existing permitted Extraction Facilities otherwise in compliance with all ordinances and requirements of the Agency but not equipped with a Waterflow Measuring Device as of the date of adoption of this ordinance are exempt from the requirement in Section 7.1 for a period of three years from that date.

3. All Waterflow Measuring Devices shall be tested for accuracy at a frequency interval determined by the OBGMA Board to meet specific measurement standards. Calibration methods and procedures approved by the Board of Directors shall be detailed in an adopted Resolution of the Board.

4. Operators of Extraction Facilities not equipped with a Waterflow Measuring Device under the exemption in Section 7.2 shall provide an accurate record of the amount of water extracted during each semi-annual period on the OBGMA Groundwater Extraction Form as follows:
    a. Irrigated property shall use the following crop factor applied for each acre irrigated:
        i. Citrus and Avocado – 1.7 acre feet
        ii. Landscaping, turf, golf course – 2 acre feet
    b. Domestic use:
        i. For each dwelling unit - .3 acre feet

5. Operators of Extraction Facilities extracting one acre foot or less in any semi-annual period shall report and pay for a minimum of one acre foot for that period.

6. Any person who alters, removes, resets, adjusts, manipulates, obstructs or in any manner interferes or tampers with any Waterflow Measuring Device affixed to any groundwater extraction facility in accordance with this ordinance, resulting in said device to improperly or inaccurately measure and record groundwater extractions, is guilty of an intentional violation of this Ordinance, and will be subject to any and all penalties as described in Section 10.

7. All costs incurred with Waterflow Measuring Device testing or calibration shall be the personal obligation of the well operator. Non-compliance with any provision of the meter calibration requirements will subject the operator to financial penalties as described in Section 10.

Section 8 Groundwater Recordation

1. Operators of groundwater Extraction Facilities within the Agency's area of jurisdiction will record groundwater extractions with the Agency in accordance with California Water Code Sections 5001 - 5009 and delegated authority from the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights. The records for all groundwater extractions will be maintained at the Agency office.

2. Extraction Facilities with extractions properly recorded prior to April 23, 2008, when the Agency assumed authority for recordation shall retain their original recordation numbers. For all facilities recorded after that date, the Agency shall assign recordation numbers within the range of numbers, **G563001L004** through **G563999L004.**

3. In accordance with California Water Code Section 5001 all Extraction Facilities within the Agency jurisdiction extracting 25 acre feet of groundwater or more per year shall be recorded. Wells extracting less than 25 acre feet per year may be recorded.

4. To record an Extraction Facility an operator shall fill out a **First Notice of Groundwater Extraction Form** provided by the Agency

and return the form to the Agency office. The operator shall be responsible for keeping the information provided on the first notice form current by informing the Agency within the next semi-annual period of any changes in the information on file in the Agency office. There is no charge for the filing of the first notice form.

5. The Agency shall charge a fee of Ten dollars ($10) per semi-annual reporting period for the recordation of groundwater extraction. This fee shall be paid in conjunction with the semi-annual groundwater extraction charge as reported on the OBGMA Groundwater Extraction Form sent by the Agency by direct mail to Operators. The amount of this fee may be reviewed and amended annually when the Board sets its annual charges and fees.

6. The groundwater recordation records may be made available to other governmental agencies pursuant to Section 5009 of the California Water Code.

Section 9 **Termination Date**

This Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect until repealed or superseded by action of the Board of Directors of the Agency.

Section 10 **Violation**

In accordance with provisions 405 and 406 of the Act:

1. Any person who intentionally violates this Ordinance is guilty of an infraction and may be required to pay a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars ($500).

2. Any person who negligently or intentionally violates this Ordinance may also be liable civilly to the Agency for a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000) per day for each violation, in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed by law.

Section 11 **Enforcement**

The Agency may take any actions authorized by law, to enforce the terms and provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 12 Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance and its provisions is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Board of Directors hereby declares and determines that it would have passed this Ordinance and its rules and regulations, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance may be determined to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Attachments:

Registration Form
Semi-Annual Groundwater Extraction Form
First Notice of Groundwater Extraction Form

AN ORDINANCE OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY SUPERCEDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 7 SPECIFYING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW WELL PERMITTING, NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CONSTRUCT, REGISTRATION OF EXTRACTION FACILITIES, METERING, REPORTING OF GROUNDWATER EXTRACTIONS, AND THE RECORDATION OF WELLS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE AGENCY

OBGMA ORDINANCE NUMBER 8

Whereas, Article 5 of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Act authorizes the Agency to collect information necessary for the management of the groundwater resources of the Ojai Basin; and to collect information and data necessary for the compilation of an annual report on groundwater supplies; and

Whereas, Article 8 of the Act provides that Extraction Facilities in the Ojai Basin be registered with the Agency, and further provides that the Operator of a registered Extraction Facility may be required to provide information to the Agency; and

Whereas, information regarding the number, location, and use of groundwater Extraction Facilities within the basin, and the amount of water extracted from these facilities, is necessary for groundwater management, planning, and reporting by the Agency; and

Whereas, the Agency must be adequately informed about the existence and nature of new Extraction Facilities within the boundaries of the Agency in order to carry out its groundwater management responsibilities; and

Whereas, Article 7, of the Act provides the Agency with the authority to impose reasonable conditions and regulations on the use of groundwater Extraction Facilities; and

Whereas, Article 8 of the Act provides that the Agency, by Ordinance, shall require groundwater Extraction Facilities to be equipped with Waterflow Measuring Devices; and allows the Agency to exempt specific groundwater Extraction Facilities from this requirement; and

Whereas, The State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights has designated the Agency as the official groundwater extraction recordation Agency for the State within the Agency boundaries with specific authorities;

Now therefore be it ordained by the Board of Directors of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) as follows:

Section 1 **Title**

Ordinance Number 8 shall be known as the "Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Permitting, Registering, Reporting, Metering, and Well Recordation Ordinance."

Section 2 **Purpose and Intent**

The purpose of this Ordinance is:

1. To approve and implement updated Agency policies requiring the Operators of Extraction Facilities to provide information to the Agency.
2. To approve and implement updated Agency policies requiring permitting and notification of intent to construct an Extraction Facility within the boundaries of the Agency, for registering Extraction Facilities, and for semi-annual extraction reporting.
3. To approve and implement an updated Agency policy for metering Extraction Facilities.
4. To establish by Ordinance and implement new requirements for the Groundwater Recordation Program transferred to the Agency by the State Water Resources Control Board in June 2008.

Section 3 Definitions

All terms, phrases and words shall have the meaning assigned to such terms, phrases and words as commonly understood or as expressly defined in the Agency's Authorizing Act or as defined herein.

"Act" shall mean the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Act.

"Agency" shall mean the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency.

"Basin" shall mean the Ojai Groundwater Basin as shown in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 12, "Ventura County Investigation," dated October 1953, to the extent included within the boundaries of the Agency, as defined in Section 201 of the Agency's Authorizing Act.

"Board" shall mean the Board of Directors of the Agency.

"City" shall mean the City of Ojai.

"County" means the County of Ventura.

"Construction" means the building of a groundwater Extraction Facility such as the act of drilling a well.

"Extraction" shall mean the act of obtaining groundwater by pumping or other controlled means.

"Extraction Facility" shall mean any device or method for the extraction of groundwater within the basin, including a well.

"Operator" shall mean a person who owns and operates a groundwater Extraction Facility. If the Agency is unable to determine who operates a particular Extraction Facility, the "Operator" shall mean the person to whom the Extraction Facility is assessed, if assessed by the County Assessor or, if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the Extraction Facility is located.

"Person" shall mean any person, state, or local governmental Agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, individual, group of individuals or, to the extent authorized by law, any federal Agency.

"Waterflow Measuring Device" shall mean a meter or other measuring device, meeting the standards set by the American Water Works Association (AWWA), which is attached to an Extraction Facility for the purpose of measuring the quantity of water extracted by the facility.

Section 4 **Extraction Facility Permitting and Registration**

1. All groundwater extraction facilities within the boundaries of the Agency shall be registered with the Agency. All new extraction facilities constructed within the Agency Boundary shall obtain a no-fee permit from the Agency prior to the issuance of a Well Permit by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District and or the City of Ojai. No extraction facility may be operated or otherwise utilized so as to extract groundwater within the boundaries of the Agency unless the facility is registered with the Agency as required. The operator of an extraction facility shall register his extraction facility and provide in full, the information required to complete the form provided by the Agency that includes the following:

a. Name and address of the operator(s)
b. Name and address of the owner(s) of the land upon which the extraction facility is located.
c. A description of the equipment associated with the extraction facility.
d. Location, parcel number and state well number of the extraction facility.
e. Well Driller's log and well test data if available.

2. Operators of extraction Facilities shall register all Extraction Facilities with the Agency by completing and returning an OBGMA Registration Form to the Agency. New Extraction Facilities shall be registered by returning the Registration Form to the Agency within thirty (30) calendar days following completion of construction and prior to any groundwater extraction.

3. The Agency shall make Registration Forms available to Operators and the public generally at the Agency office located 428 Bryant Circle, Ojai, CA 93023 or P.O. box 1779, Ojai, CA 93024, or downloadable on the Agency website at www.obgma.com.

4. Failure of the Operator to receive a direct mailing of a Registration Form shall not relieve the Operator of the obligation to file the form with the Agency as required in Section 4.2.

5. The Agency shall prepare and maintain an Extraction Facility data sheet for each registered Extraction Facility within the Agency boundaries.

Section 5 Groundwater Extraction Reports

1. Every Operator extracting groundwater from the basin shall file a semi-annual extraction report in January and July of each calendar year accurately stating the amount of water extracted during the prior six month period, providing all additional relevant information requested on the OBGMA **Groundwater Extraction Form**, signed under penalty of perjury by the Operator.

2. The Agency shall make Groundwater Extraction Forms available in June and December by direct mail to known Operators. Blank copies of the form will be available at the Agency office.

3. Failure of the Operator to receive a direct mailing of a Groundwater Extraction Form shall not relieve the Operator of the obligation to file the form with the Agency as required in Section 5.1.

4. The Operator's extraction statement on the form shall be presumed accurate upon timely filing of the form with the Agency. For good cause, the Agency may disregard the extraction statement and cause an investigation of the actual amount extracted by the Operator in any semi-annual period. In the event of a discrepancy between the statement filed by the Operator and the findings of the Agency, the findings of the Agency shall prevail.

Section 6 Extraction Facility Metering

1. Except as otherwise specified by Section 6.2 of this ordinance, every Operator shall equip each Extraction Facility with a Waterflow Measuring Device, and shall report installation of the measuring device to the Agency.

2. Operators of existing permitted Extraction Facilities otherwise in compliance with all ordinances and requirements of the Agency but not equipped with a Waterflow Measuring Device as of the date of adoption of this ordinance are exempt from the requirement in Section 6.1 until April 23, 2011.

3. Operators of Extraction Facilities not equipped with a Waterflow Measuring Device under the exemption in Section 6.2 shall provide an accurate record of the amount of water

extracted during each semi-annual period on the OBGMA Groundwater Extraction Form as follows:

a. Irrigated property shall use the following crop factor applied for each acre irrigated:
   i. Citrus and Avocado – 1.7 acre feet
   ii. Landscaping, turf, golf course – 2 acre feet
b. Domestic use:
   i. For each dwelling unit - .3 acre feet

4. Operators of Extraction Facilities extracting one acre foot or less in any semi-annual period shall report and pay for a minimum of one acre foot for that period.

5. All Waterflow Measuring Devices shall be tested for accuracy at a frequency interval determined by the Board to meet specific measurement standards. Calibration methods and procedures approved by the Board of Directors shall be detailed in an adopted Resolution of the Board.

6. All costs incurred with Waterflow Measuring Device testing or calibration shall be the personal obligation of the well operator. Non-compliance with any provision of the meter calibration requirements will subject the operator to financial penalties and/or liens as described in Section 9.

Section 7 Groundwater Recordation

1. Operators of groundwater Extraction Facilities within the Agency's area of jurisdiction will record groundwater extractions with the Agency in accordance with California Water Code Sections 5001 - 5009 and delegated authority from the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights. The records for all groundwater extractions will be maintained at the Agency office.

2. Extraction Facilities with extractions properly recorded prior to April 23, 2008, when the Agency assumed authority for recordation shall retain their original recordation numbers. For all facilities recorded after that date, the Agency shall assign recordation numbers within the range of numbers, **G563001L004** through **G563999L004.**

3. In accordance with California Water Code Section 5001 all Extraction Facilities within the Agency jurisdiction extracting 25

acre feet of groundwater or more per year shall be recorded. Wells extracting less than 25 acre feet per year may be recorded.

4. To record an Extraction Facility an operator shall fill out a **First Notice of Groundwater Extraction Form** provided by the Agency and return the form to the Agency office. The operator shall be responsible for keeping the information provided on the first notice form current by informing the Agency within the next semi-annual period of any changes in the information on file in the Agency office. There is no charge for the filing of the first notice form.

5. The Agency shall charge a fee of Ten dollars ($10) per semi-annual reporting period for the recordation of groundwater extraction. This fee shall be paid in conjunction with the semi-annual groundwater extraction charge as reported on the OBGMA Groundwater Extraction Form sent by the Agency by direct mail to Operators. The amount of this fee may be reviewed and amended annually when the Board sets its annual charges and fees.

6. The groundwater recordation records may be made available to other governmental agencies pursuant to Section 5009 of the California Water Code.

This Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect until repealed or superseded by action of the Board of Directors of the Agency.

Section 9 **Violation**

In accordance with provisions 405 and 406 of the Act:

1. Any person who intentionally violates this Ordinance is guilty of an infraction and may be required to pay a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars ($500).

2. Any person who negligently or intentionally violates this Ordinance may also be liable civilly to the Agency for a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000) per day for each violation, in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed by law.

Section 10 Enforcement

The Agency may take any actions authorized by law, to enforce the terms and provisions of this Ordinance.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance and its provisions is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Board of Directors hereby declares and determines that it would have passed this Ordinance and its rules and regulations, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance may be determined to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Registration Form
Semi-Annual Groundwater Extraction Form
First Notice of Groundwater Extraction Form

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Agency, State of California April 29, 2010.

ATTEST: Jerry Z. Conrow

Jerry Conrow, President

Cece VanDerMeer, Secretary

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency

Management Plan 2007 Update

Prepared by: Daniel B. Stephens & Associates

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
A Special District of Ventura County

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Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
Groundwater Management Plan Update

1. Background

Two critical facts underline the importance of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) and this management plan update.

- Chronic drought is a climatic reality. Over the last 100 years there have been several serious droughts, and climate change may likely bring an increase in the number and intensity of years with below average rainfall. Local precipitation, the only source of water in the Ventura River watershed, is predicted by several models to decrease in annual averages. Extended periods of drought are likely.

- The Ventura River watershed is depended on by numerous competing interests. Most water allocated to the various water purveyors in the watershed is accounted for; it has been predicted that, in a long- term drought, Lake Casitas could go dry. Existing wells already in the Ojai Basin are producing groundwater at a rate that is considered to be at or near the safe yield of the basin, and it is predicted (with historical precedence) that in a long-term drought a significant number of the existing wells will go dry. Stakeholders in the Ojai Basin cannot depend on any economically reasonable new source of water.

The OBGMA is responsible for managing the Ojai groundwater basin and, working with the well operators in the basin, for conserving that groundwater. The intent of this plan update is to avoid (where possible) and minimize the adverse economic and social impacts facing our valuable but limited water supply.

1.1 Mission Statement

The Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency's mission is to preserve the quantity and quality of groundwater in the Ojai Basin so that the long-term water supply is protected and maintained for the common benefit of the water users in the basin.

The mission of the OBGMA is derived from its enabling legislation, the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Act, which became law in 1991. The Act was approved as a response to the needs and concerns of local water agencies, water users, and well owners of the Ojai Basin. OBGMA was established in the fifth year of a drought, amidst concerns for potential Ojai Basin overdraft. The mission is in keeping with the history of the Ojai Basin and the circumstances existing when the OBGMA was formed. Since that time, although there have been some good water years and the Ojai Basin has continued to provide sufficient water for its well owners, competition for scarce water resources in Southern California and Ventura County is ever expanding, water resource planning is intensifying, and the importance of OBGMA's mission is even greater today.

Based upon the studies conducted by and for OBGMA, and due to a relatively wet period over the past 15 years, the water and demand in the Ojai Basin is largely in balance and capable of meeting the annual demands of overlying landowners and in-basin water users under present conditions. However, after a series of dry years, water in some wells drop to the point where an alternative water source must be used. In part, that is why water users presently import some 3,750 (1981 to 2005 average) acre-feet of Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas) water into the Ojai Basin annually, mostly for irrigation. If Casitas water was not available or not used during a series of dry years, considering the present understanding of the hydrology of the basin and the existing water uses, some shallower and peripheral wells would probably not produce water. As a result, pumping lift costs to pump groundwater would be excessive, some wells would produce excessive amounts of sand, water quality of pumped groundwater would likely be compromised, and other detrimental effects of a reduced amount of groundwater storage in the Ojai Basin could occur.

Therefore, the focus of the OBGMA's efforts is on protecting and preserving the Ojai Basin groundwater resource for in-basin use and guarding against harmful export of water from the basin.

1.2 Current Fiscal Situation

The OBGMA is funded by extraction charges levied on pumpers in the Ojai Basin. The present legislative ceiling on extraction charges of $7.50 per acre-foot limits the capacity of OBGMA to

meet its obligations and goals. The OBGMA is attempting to amend the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Act in the 2007 legislative session to increase the extraction charge ceiling, but any actual extraction charge change must be voted upon by the board, which consists of representatives of the stakeholders. Further fiscal details are presented in Section 3.5.

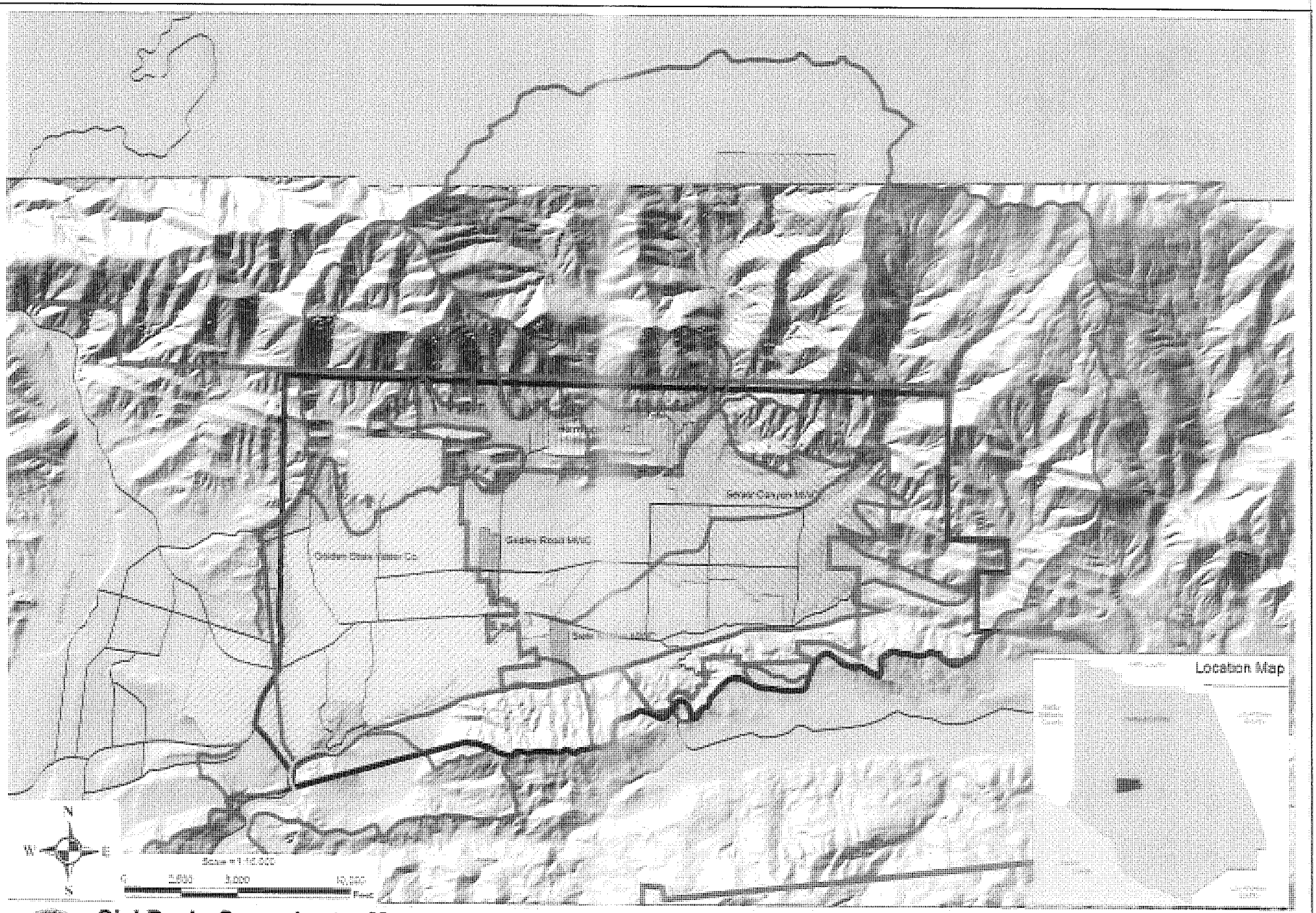
With adequate funding OBGMA will meet its responsibilities as required by law, will be able to carry out its mission to protect Ojai Basin groundwater in the interests of its water users, and will be able to achieve the goals of this management plan update.

2. General Approach

The OBGMA is required by law to have a Groundwater Management Plan (Plan) to guide its operations. The initial Plan was prepared and published in 1995. This 2007 update provides additional information and has been developed based on studies done for the OBGMA by its hydrogeologists and engineering contractors, input from well owners and water users, and recommendations made by the OBGMA's advisory committee and the State of California Department of Water Resources. Figure 1 provides a map of the OBGMA area of purview and service areas of other local agencies.

Since the Plan publication in 1995, numerous studies and projects have been conducted in the Ojai Basin within the jurisdiction of the OBGMA and have led to a better understanding of basin hydrogeology, water demands, and hydrologic fluctuations that affect the stakeholders. Continually improved understanding provides an additional level of detail to the goals and objectives of the Plan update. As understanding of the Ojai Basin improves over the years, updates to the Plan will be incorporated. It is anticipated that the Plan will be updated every five years.

This Plan update describes five broad goals. Each goal includes a number of action elements. Tables for each goal indicate when various action elements were completed or are planned for completion. While the five broad goals will provide the structure to the OBGMA's management efforts for several years, the OBGMA anticipates that the detailed action elements will evolve as the OBGMA's efforts continue to progress. Elements approved with this Plan update will be



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Legend

- San Antonio Watershed
- Cities
- Ojai Water Conservation District
- Casitas MWD
- OBGMA Boundary
- Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin

Figure 1: OBGMA Agency Location Map

implemented in the form of rules, regulations, or ordinances. Prior to implementation, additional criteria to guide these actions will be developed in a public process by the OBGMA Board of Directors (OBGMA board) and added to this management plan update. Some elements as noted herein require more study and public review before specific implementation actions are approved. Additions will be made to this Plan update as actions to implement these elements are reviewed by the water users and well owners in the basin and approved by the OBGMA board. Amendments to the approved Plan update will be made only after full review, consideration of any advisory recommendation, and formal approval by the OBGMA board.

3. Groundwater Management Plan--Detailed Action Plan

3.1 Goal 1. Understanding the Basin

OBGMA must have a comprehensive understanding of the hydrology of the basin under its jurisdiction in order to carry out its mission. This understanding will continue to evolve as additional goal elements are implemented. Table 1 describes selected Goal 1 elements that have been completed, are scheduled, or are planned.

3.1.1 Monitoring

OBGMA has at its disposal several studies of the basin hydrology, including conceptual models. These models must be tested and updated regularly under a continuing monitoring program to serve as a basis for informed decision making. Monitoring will also be conducted to identify changing conditions and implement management programs when needed. Monitoring will include:

- Surface water entering the basin
- Recharge of the basin from rainfall
- Streamflow seepage
- Evapotranspiration
- Discharge from the basin as surface flow from San Antonio Creek and subsurface flow
- Extractions from the basin via public and private wells

Table 1. Selected Completed, Scheduled, and Planned Future Elements
Goal 1, Understanding the Basin

Element	Description	Completion Date (Actual or Anticipated)
Completed Element		
Basin studies	Study of basin water records developed by county technicians to monitor basin water quantity and quality, well permits, stream flows, and precipitation	1996
Monitoring	Conducted ongoing meetings and monitoring with county hydrologists	2000
Jim Capito, basin study	Located wells of record, obtained GPS coordinates of each, plotted surface altitudes of wells, determined conditions of abandoned wells, performed hazard screening, recorded well data sheets, provided QA/QC of county well records with OBGMA records	September 2001 to Spring 2002
Database creation	Established database	2004
Kear, 2005, Masters Thesis	Hydrogeology of the Ojai Groundwater Basin: Storativity and Confinement, Ventura County, California	December 2005
Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.	Hydrologic assessment, San Antonio Creek Sub-watershed, Ventura County, California	June 2006
Extraction reporting	Reporting of basin groundwater extractions	Twice annually
Scheduled Element		
Extraction reporting	Reporting of basin groundwater extractions	Twice annually
Basin studies	Depth discrete monitoring well construction and monitoring	2007-2010
Basin studies	Monitoring San Antonio Creek flow into basin	2007-2010
Monitoring	Key wells for water quality	Annually
Monitoring	Key wells for groundwater levels	Every other month
Future Element		
Extraction reporting	Reporting of basin groundwater extractions	Twice annually
Monitoring	Conversion of inactive production wells into depth-discrete monitoring wells	2008
Groundwater model	Generation of a MODFLOW type of groundwater model for the basin	2009
Basin studies	Evaluate and augment recharge along creek channels	2008
Basin studies	Geophysical survey of the basin to identify aquifer and bedrock morphology	2010

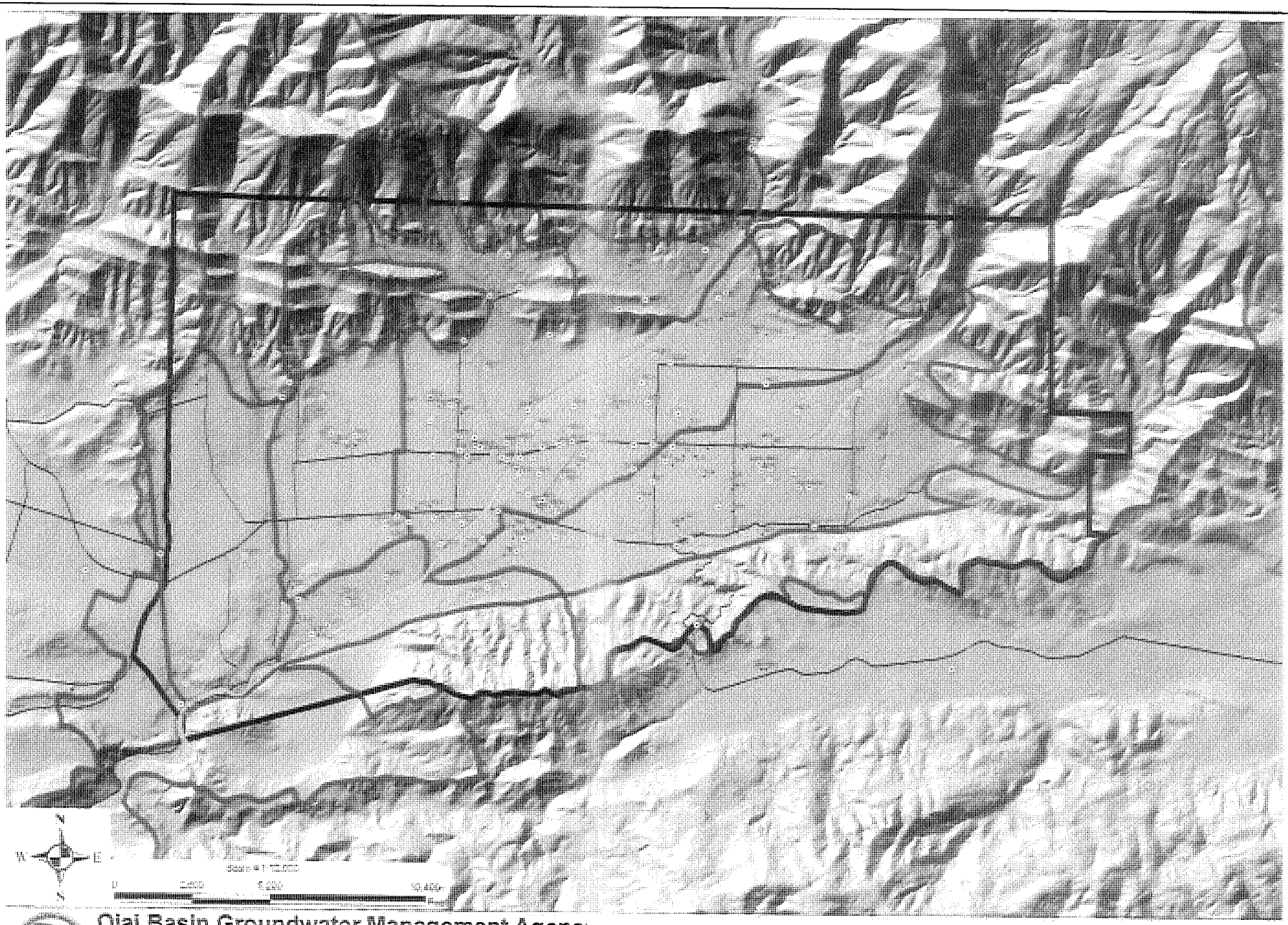
Monitoring results will be shared annually by the OBGMA with owners, water users, and the public.

3.1.2 Data Collection

Previous studies identified significant gaps in the current monitoring activities in the Ojai Basin. Specific areas identified for increased data collection are basin water level, water quality monitoring in stratified aquifers known to be present in the basin based on aquifer testing, and geophysical log correlations. In cooperation with the OBGMA, the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) may measure key wells routinely for water levels and water quality. OBGMA will obtain permission from the well owners prior to conducting monitoring not already being conducted by Ventura County. This data will be analyzed and reported annually by OBGMA to stakeholders via annual reports, the website, or other publications. Additional data collection actions, including surface water discharged from San Antonio Creek and surface water inflow into the basin, have been assessed and will be considered in greater detail in the future. This data will be analyzed and reported annually by the OBGMA. All results from each well measurement are to be shared with the respective well owner either through direct communication and/or provision of any OBGMA publication that contains such data.

3.1.3 Well Registration

The OBGMA adopted Ordinance No. 1, April 29, 1993 which required all wells in the basin be registered with the OBGMA. There are currently 145 registered wells in the Ojai basin, of which 125 are reported to be active and the remaining 20 are inactive. Approximately 60 additional wells are reported to have been destroyed, bringing the total number of historically known wells in the basin to over 200. OBGMA will continue seeking to have all wells in the basin registered under a formal agreement with Ventura County to ensure that their well records are made available to the OBGMA and that any new well permits are registered with the OBGMA. Such an agreement ensures that well permits in the OBGMA area of jurisdiction will not be issued by Ventura County without proof that the applicant has properly notified OBGMA and been advised of the requirements for well operators in the Ojai basin. Figure 2 presents a map of active wells and Figure 3 depicts wells that are registered as inactive and destroyed. The OBGMA is also planning to obtain delegated authority from the State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights Division to handle groundwater production recordation within OBGMA area of jurisdiction.



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Legend

- San Antonio Watershed
- OBGMA Boundary
- Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin
- Active Wells

Figure 2: Active Well Location Map

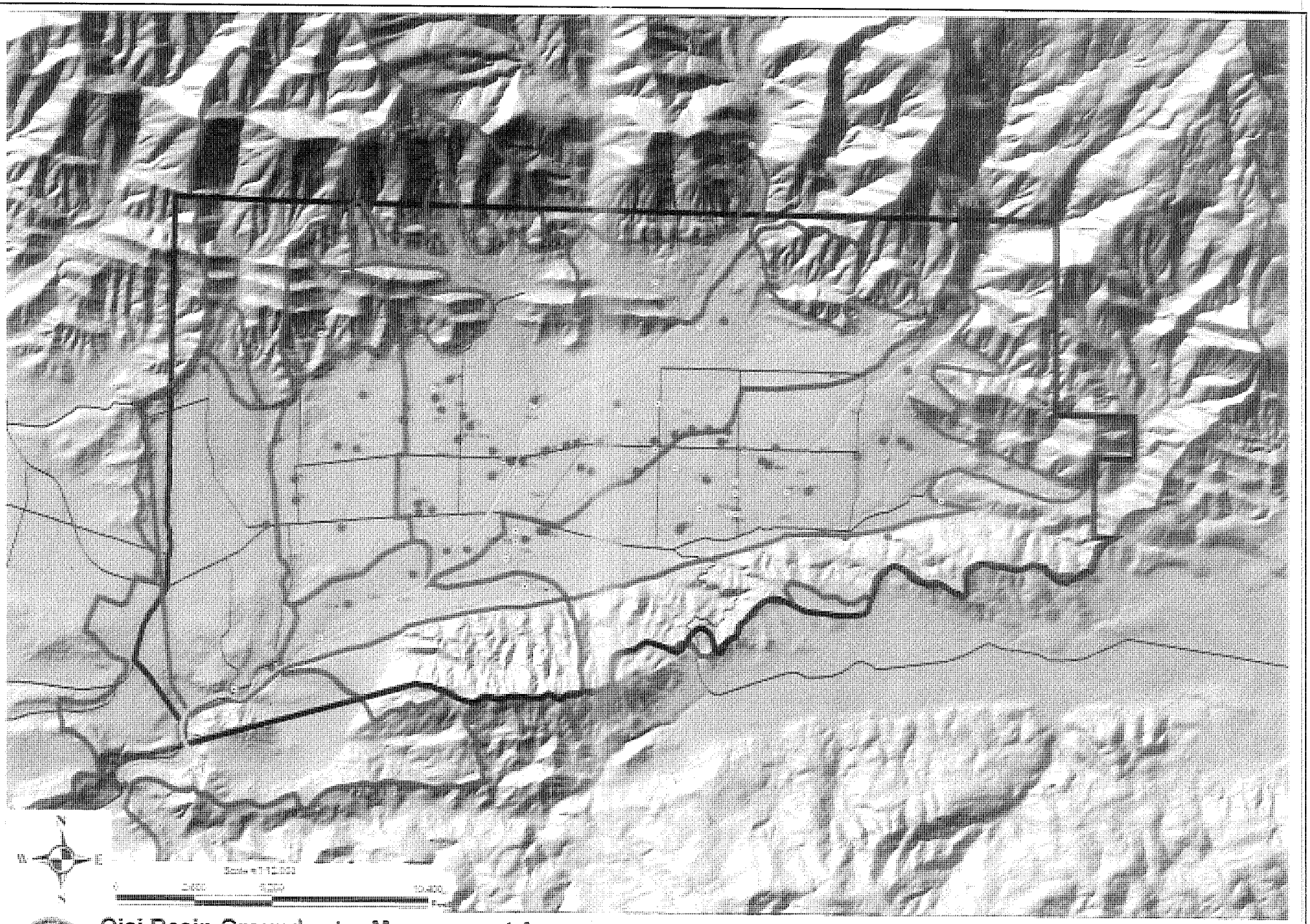


Figure 3: Inactive and Destroyed Well Location Map

3.1.4 Extraction Measurement

The OBGMA is mandated by its enabling Act to monitor groundwater extractions. Key parameters that allow the OBGMA to manage basin balance, prevent overdraft, and evaluate the amount of groundwater in storage include the amount of water extracted from the basin, precipitation, recharge data, and water level monitoring. OBGMA is also committed to implementing an effective, reliable method of monitoring well extractions. Currently, well owners are required to report, as precisely as possible, using meters or a variety of methods such as electrical power usage or crop factor, their annual water extractions. OBGMA will consider requiring metering of new wells and metering of all wells within a 3-year time frame. OBGMA will conduct an internal audit of its groundwater extraction reports to determine whether those reports accurately reflect actual extractions. In addition, OBGMA will institute steps, including assisting well operators with accurate reporting, to ensure the most efficient and effective ways to determine the actual withdrawals of water from the basin semi-annually.

3.2 Goal 2. Controlling Exports: Protecting and Managing the Basin

In order to preserve the groundwater in the Ojai Basin OBGMA will take direct management actions based on factual knowledge of the basin and the needs and concerns of water users and well owners in the basin. Table 2 describes selected Goal 2 elements that have been completed, are scheduled, or are planned.

3.2.1 Exports of Water from the Basin

OBGMA's enabling legislation mandates that no groundwater shall be exported from the basin except under permit issued by the OBGMA in full compliance with the policy and intent of the law. The law mandates the preservation of the groundwater for the common benefit of water users within the basin. Based on present hydrologic facts and circumstances, the OBGMA finds that there is no surplus water available for export. Under natural conditions, when surplus water is present in the basin, water flows under artesian pressure from wells and from exposed aquifers into San Antonio Creek along gaining reaches of the stream. Because this surplus has value to downstream stakeholders, and the surplus conditions are ephemeral (occurring only during years of heavy rainfall such as 1993, 1995, 1998, and 2005) and can change rapidly to conditions of deficiency, it is likely that surplus conditions will not exist in the foreseeable future.

Table 2. Selected Completed, Scheduled, and Planned Future Elements
Goal 2, Controlling Exports: Protecting and Managing the Basin

Element	Description	Completion Date (Actual or Anticipated)
Completed Element		
Export controls	Reviewed Matilija Dam removal issues, attended stakeholder meetings and EIR certification	2005
Database creation	Established database	2004
Scheduled Element		
Establish triggers	Establish basin triggers such as the relationship between groundwater levels and drought conditions to generate and adopt a water conservation plan	2008
Managing the basin	Update Groundwater Management Plan	2012 (every five years)
Future Element		
Maintain thresholds	Quantify relationship between basin storage and outflow into San Antonio Creek	2009

Nevertheless, OBGMA will review the existence of surplus from time to time, as dictated by the receipt and review of its annual report or as new, reliable information becomes available. OBGMA will establish the conditions and criteria under which it would contemplate granting a permit for export, should a surplus be determined to exist. These conditions and criteria will include at least the following:

- The applicant for a permit will bear the full financial, regulatory, and legal burden of demonstrating that a surplus of water exists, which, if exported, would not cause harm to any existing groundwater user in the basin, now or in the future.

- The export permit will be suspended in the event of a declared water shortage, basin storage threshold level, or other pre-established condition.

- All export permits will contain conditions and criteria that will otherwise protect the in-basin users to the fullest extent allowable under the law.

3.2.2 *Establishment of Thresholds and Triggers*

Water levels in the basin fluctuate considerably in response to pumping and recharge from seasonal rainfall. The Ojai Basin is considered largely in balance. Review of precipitation, accumulative departure curves, and water level responses over time indicate that the basin has the hydrologic characteristics of quick discharge and quick recharge when precipitation occurs. Also, based on aquifer testing, there is a significant amount of overlap of cones of depression created in the potentiometric surface by pumping wells. These features must be considered when establishing action levels of groundwater elevations or streamflow.

Groundwater use between 1981 and 2005 averaged approximately 5,170 acre-feet, of which some 1,820 acre-feet was pumped by Golden State Water Company for municipal and domestic supply (35 percent). In addition, three mutual water companies and approximately 100 active private wells supply both agricultural and domestic water in the basin. There is a great variation in location and depth of the wells in the basin, and their relative access to groundwater at low points in the hydrologic cycle. There is also variation in water quality in different parts of the basin. Taking into account the needs of the water users in the basin, overlying landowners and well operators, and the existing conjunctive relationship between the groundwater used in the basin and the Casitas water imported into the basin, OBGMA will establish basin storage thresholds which will trigger special action by the OBGMA to ensure protection of groundwater supplies in the basin.

OBGMA will develop triggers and the conservation measures that must be implemented at those points, and will also develop the procedures and pass the ordinances needed to put the conservation measures into effect. This will be done with full communication with, involvement, and understanding of the basin well operators.

3.3 *Goal 3. Encouraging Supporting Activities*

With its limited resources, OBGMA must strive to achieve its goals in cooperation with and through the supporting activities of other agencies, and through the encouragement of supportive actions by water users. Table 3 describes selected Goal 3 elements that have been completed, are scheduled, or are planned.

Table 3. Selected Completed, Scheduled, and Planned Future Elements Goal 3, Encouraging Supporting Activities

Element	Description	Completion Date (Actual or Anticipated)
Completed Element		
Well inventories	Worked with well owners to increase number of Ventura County key wells in Ojai	1994
Joint meetings	Casitas, Ojai Water Conservation District (OWCD), and Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency explore interests in common	1995
Meetings	Participated with and followed progress of Ventura countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program	1996
Integrated regional watershed management planning (IRWMP) efforts	Participated in IRWMP, pursuit of Proposition 50 water bond funding	2006
Scheduled Element		
San Antonio Creek Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation Project	Rehabilitate abandoned spreading grounds in cooperation with OWCD, Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD)	2007-2010
Ventura River watershed planning	Study Ventura River watershed in cooperation with VCWPD	2007-2010
Future Element		
Grant funding pursuit	As available and targeted to basin issues	Annually

3.3.1 Data Collection and Storage

Ventura County already routinely collects information on water levels and quality from wells in the basin. In cooperation with OBGMA, this effort is planned to continue to meet the monitoring needs of the basin.

3.3.2 Water Conservation

OBGMA encourages water conservation practices by both agricultural users and urban users. Market forces, as well as good management practices, are moving most agricultural users in the basin toward implementation of water conservation measures. Likewise, Golden State Water Company, the largest municipal supplier in the basin, has initiated a conservation plan approved by the Public Utilities Commission and supported by the City of Ojai. OBGMA will encourage the development, publication, and sharing of information with these users that will encourage

the optimum use of water resources in the basin. Further, OBGMA will seek the assistance of various local, state, federal and private organizations to provide water conservation services and education programs for in-basin water users, including the pursuit of grant funds as available. OBGMA will encourage in-basin water users to incorporate conservation practices and will consider development of a conservation plan in anticipation of drought conditions. Water meters on all wells will be needed to effectively measure sharing of conservation efforts.

3.3.3 Abandoned Wells

Ventura County has a program to address abandoned wells as part of the water well ordinance. OBGMA encourages implementing a program in the Ojai Basin to identify all abandoned wells, to determine if they pose any hazard to the quantity or quality of groundwater in the basin, to identify the actions needed, and to help obtain the resources to rectify any problems. OBGMA supports evaluation of abandoned or idle wells to determine whether they can be converted to monitoring wells, rehabilitated, or properly destroyed in accordance with Ventura County standards. OBGMA will also seek to obtain grant funds to assist well owners in proper destruction of abandoned wells, or in conversion to monitoring wells if appropriate.

3.3.4 Artificial Recharge

The Ojai Water Conservation District (OWCD) was involved in importing water from Matilija Reservoir via gravity flow pipeline and a program of enhanced percolation of streamflow on San Antonio Creek until 1985. This involved the diversion of surface flows into a series of percolation basins and was highly successful. The program was discontinued after the emergency construction of a debris basin on San Antonio Creek by Ventura County using FEMA funds, following a major fire in the watershed. The result of that construction was the destruction of most of the percolation basins, which were never restored.

The artificial recharge of the basin from San Antonio Creek by the Ojai Water Conservation District is endorsed by the OBGMA. To rehabilitate these spreading grounds, the OBGMA supports the San Antonio Creek Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation Project (SASGRP), one of the key projects of the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) suite of applications. Under its enabling legislation, OBGMA must regulate any groundwater storage, recapture, and/or replenishment project in the Ojai Basin, and, accordingly, will be processing a permit for the SACSGRP. Other partners in the SASGRP endeavor include the OWCD, the VCWPD,

Casitas Municipal Water District, and Golden State Water Company. This project will strive to augment basin storage by restoring the percolation basins and diversion and intake structures that were destroyed by the emergency construction. This was a key goal element on the OBGMA 1995 Plan.

The SASGRP may offset some of the losses associated with the proposed Matilija Dam decommissioning, known as the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project (MDERP). The MDERP proposes to replace the water supply loss resulting from the dam's removal prior to its obsolescence date. The SASGRP, if successful, can only partially mitigate the loss of water supply resulting from the MDERP. Other measures should be evaluated and implemented to more completely mitigate the removal of the Matilija Dam and the elimination of its storage volume.

3.3.5 Watershed Management

OBGMA will work with other stakeholders in the Ventura River Watershed to effectively understand and manage the drainage area that includes Ojai. Such a project is also included in the suite of tasks applied for by the WCVC, under the Ventura River Watershed Protection Plan. OBGMA supports this endeavor and the understanding of the basin will be enhanced with additional monitoring wells in the basin provided under the project.

3.4 Goal 4. Effective Communication

The effectiveness of OBGMA will depend upon its ability, within its limited means, to meet the needs of the water users and well owners of the basin. This will depend on effective, two-way communication between OBGMA and the users it serves. Table 4 describes selected Goal 4 elements that have been completed, are scheduled, or are planned.

3.4.1 Advisory Committee

Ad hoc advisory committees with representatives of the well owners and water users in the basin have been periodically created by the OBGMA board and have been a means of developing a dialogue between users and OBGMA. The advisory committees are used by OBGMA board as a nucleus of interested and affected users to consider and develop the details of actions proposed under this groundwater management plan update.

Table 4. Selected Completed, Scheduled, and Planned Future Elements
Goal 4, Effective Communication

Element	Description	Completion Date (Actual or Anticipated)
Completed Element		
Public workshops	Two workshops to hear and record well owner concerns	1994
Advisory committee	Explored basin issues	1994
Public workshop	Sponsored "Well Maintenance and Rehabilitation" Seminar	1998
Outreach	Displayed "Pollution Prevention House" on Ojai Day and at local elementary schools	1999
Website	To inform stakeholders of Agency operations and Basin issues	2007
Scheduled Element		
Maintain and update website	To inform stakeholders of Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency operations and basin issues	Ongoing
Future Element		
Awareness campaign	Increase public awareness of water issues in the basin through workshops, forums, newsletters, etc.	2008 and ongoing

3.4.2 Annual Report

OBGMA will prepare an annual report as required by law that it will self-publish at minimum expense. Technical contractors will only be used if required to perform technical analysis of data collected during the year.

3.4.3 Information Sharing

Information learned about the basin and water use in the basin will be shared by OBGMA with all well owners directly and with water users in the basin through the general news media and the publications of local water purveyors. Actions or items of special interest will be shared with well owners by direct mail newsletters, which will also include notice of OBGMA meetings and agendas. OBGMA board members will be available to meet with basin water users to address issues of concern and the ongoing management activities of OBGMA. OBGMA has established a website through which information is shared freely with the public. OBGMA's web address is www.obgma.com.

3.5 Goal 5. Efficient Administration

The resources available to OBGMA to carry out its mission and serve the water users of the basin are limited. Therefore, cost containment measures are essential. These measures will be developed and made part of this Plan update. Table 5 describes selected Goal 5 elements that have been completed, are scheduled, or are planned.

Table 5. Selected Completed, Scheduled, and Planned Future Elements Goal 1, Efficient Administration

Element	Description	Completion Date (Actual or Anticipated)
Completed Element		
Finance committee	Formed finance committee of board members and well owners, prepare fiscal budget	1994 (annually thereafter)
User fees	Established a system to fund Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) based on well user fees	1995
Revenue evaluation	Evaluated expenses and revenue, to reach goal of operating on revenue from extraction fees only, grants of $3,500 from Casitas, Southern California Water Co. and the City of Ojai were encumbered as seed monies for OBGMA advancement.	1996
Scheduled Element		
Funding increase	Increase extraction charge ceiling to a reasonable amount through legislation.	2007
Administration	Hire a professional, qualified manager, on a part-time basis, to efficiently and effectively provide staff support for the agency.	2008
Future Element		
Donations	Solicitations of donations from stakeholders and other benefactors	Ongoing

3.5.1 Funding

OBGMA is funded by extraction charges levied on pumpers in the Ojai Basin. The present legislative ceiling on extraction charges is $7.50 per acre-foot. In a typical year with 5,000 acre-feet extracted, the OBGMA budget is roughly $37,500 per year. OBGMA operates from a one-room office, with one part-time office assistant who also acts in the capacity of secretary and treasurer. These expenses, along with regular audits and required insurance, consume the

majority of the funding. OBGMA should have one professional, technically qualified staff person as a manager at least part time. OBGMA should also participate in funding projects that are within its purview (such as the proposed SACSGRP, operation and maintenance, matching funds for grants, hiring consultants). OBGMA is seeking legislation in the 2007 session to amend its enabling Act to increase the extraction charge ceiling to $25. Any change in actual extraction charge will be voted upon by the OBGMA board, which consists of representatives of the stakeholders. The OBGMA board has estimated that an actual extraction charge of $15 per acre-foot would provide the funding needed to carry out their basic responsibilities and that an additional charge of $4 per acre-foot would be need to pay the OBGMA share of the operation and maintenance of the proposed SACSGRP.

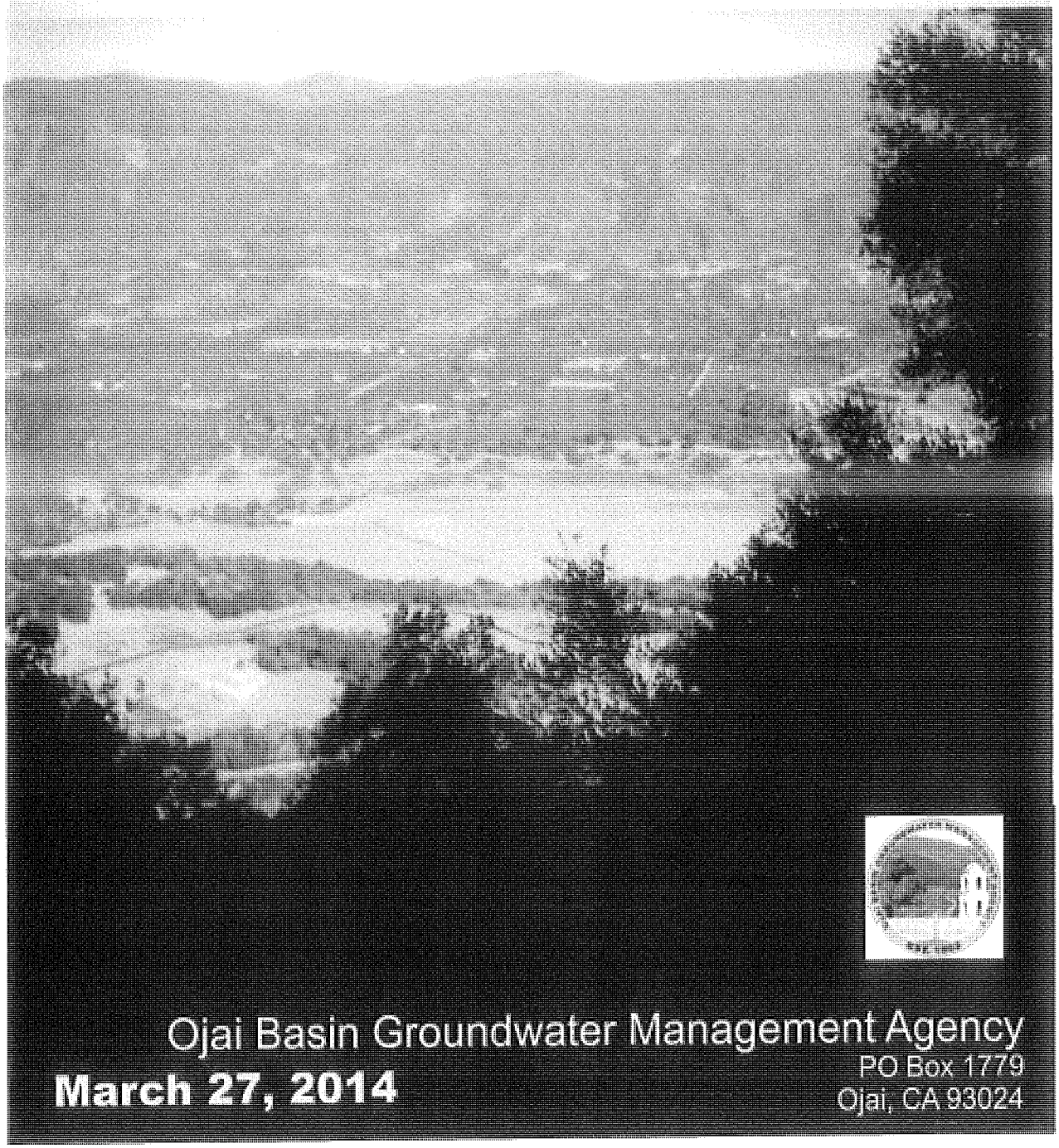
With adequate funding, OBGMA will meet its responsibilities as required by law, will be able to carry out its mission to protect Ojai Basin groundwater in the interests of the water users in the basin, and will be able to achieve the goals of this management plan update.

3.5.2 Minimum Requirements

The OBGMA's enabling legislation requires the Plan to establish a minimum amount of extraction below which the requirements of the Act will not be applied. The OBGMA will establish these criteria.

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency

2011 & 2012 Annual Report



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March 27, 2014

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1.0 Introduction

The Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) issues this Annual Report representing the calendar years 2011 and 2012. Similar to many previous years, the annual report comprises two years of reporting as compilation of data on extractions and activities has been completed. As the OBGMA has streamlined its efforts, and importantly, enacted measures to ensure more accurate extraction reporting, future years' Annual Reports are anticipated to be issued mid-calendar year for the preceding year.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency to preserve the quantity and quality of groundwater in the Ojai Basin in order to protect and maintain the long-term water supply for the common benefit of the water users in the Basin.

The mission of the OBGMA is derived from its enabling legislation, the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Act, which became law in 1991. The act was approved as a response to the needs and concerns of local water agencies, water users, and well owners of the Ojai Basin. The Agency was established in the fifth year of a drought, amidst concerns for potential Basin overdraft.

The mission is in keeping with the history of the Basin and the circumstances existing when the Agency was formed. Since that time, although there have been some good water years and the Ojai Basin has continued to provide sufficient water for its well owners, competition for scarce water resources in Southern California and Ventura County is ever expanding, water resource planning is intensifying, and the importance of the OBGMA mission is even greater today.

Background

Based upon the studies conducted by and for the Agency, and due to a relatively wet period over the past 15 years, the water supplies and demands in the basin are largely in balance and capable of meeting the annual demands of overlying landowners and in-basin water users under present conditions. However, after a series of dry years, water levels in some wells in the basin decline to the point where an alternative water source must be used. In part, that is why water users presently import some 3,682 (1985 to 2012 average) acre feet of Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas) water into the basin annually, mostly for irrigation.

If Casitas water was not available or not used in a series of dry years, considering the present understanding of the hydrology of the basin and the existing water uses, some shallower and peripheral wells would probably not produce water, pumping lift costs to pump groundwater would be excessive, some wells would produce excessive amounts of sand, water quality of pumped groundwater would likely be compromised, and other detrimental effects of a reduced amount of storage in the Basin.

Through the agency's efforts, many stakeholders better understand these conditions, and the importance of conjunctive use in action: using groundwater when available and relying on Casitas water when basin storage is minimized. This practice has a somewhat self-regulating effect on the basin, as the charges for purveyor water encourage conservation and good stewardship of the groundwater resource.

Therefore, the focus of the Agency's efforts is on protecting and preserving the basin groundwater resource for in-basin use; and guarding against export of water from the basin.

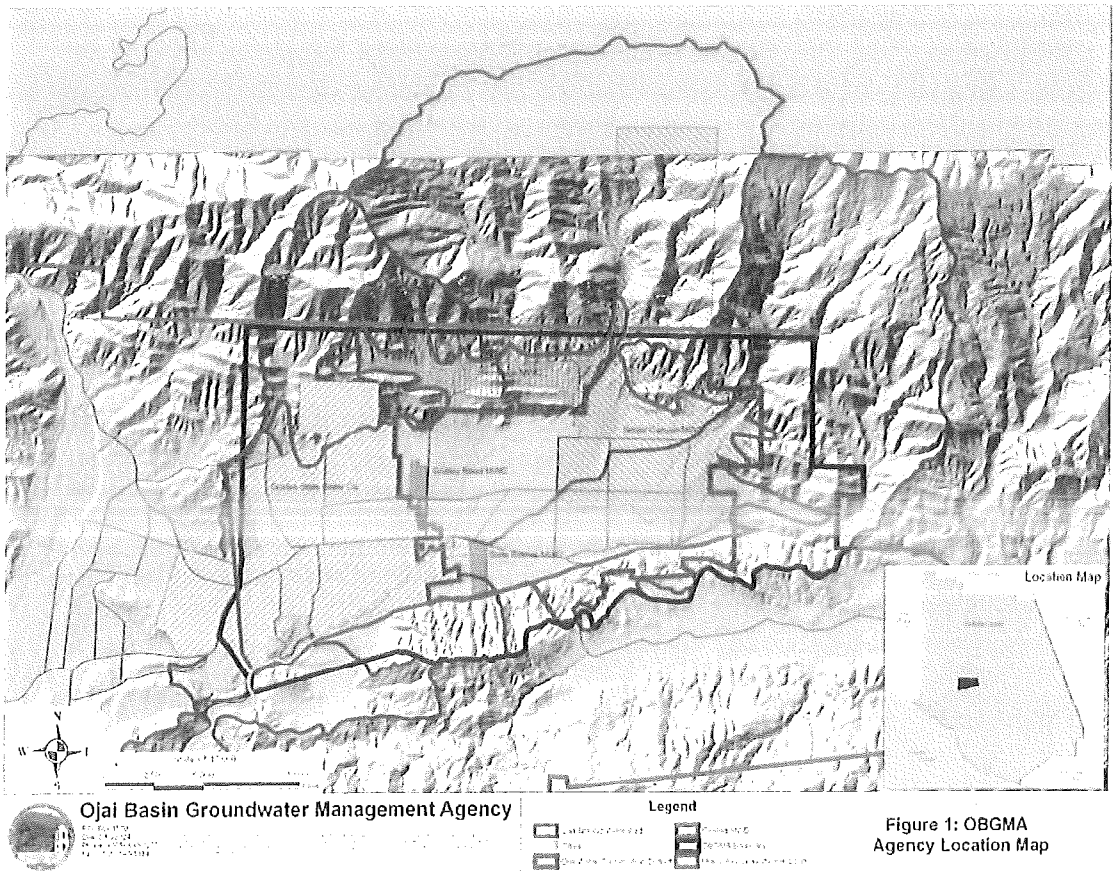


Figure 1 - OBGMA Agency Location Map

Two critical facts underline the importance of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) and this Annual Report, which represents a summary of the basin conditions, the OBGMA activities and efforts to manage the basin in keeping with its Management Plan and enabling legislature .

> **Chronic drought is a climatic reality**. Over the last 100 years there were several serious droughts, and climate change may likely bring an increase in the number and intensity of years with below average rainfall. Local precipitation,

the only source of water in the Ventura River watershed, is predicted by several models to decrease in annual averages. Extended periods of drought are likely.

The Ventura River watershed is used by numerous interests. Most water available to the various water purveyors in the watershed is accounted for; it has been predicted that, in a long- term drought, the Lake Casitas could go dry. Existing wells already in the Ojai Basin are producing groundwater at a rate that is considered to be at or slightly below the safe yield of the basin, and it is predicted (with historical precedence) that in a long term drought a significant number of the existing wells will go dry. Stakeholders in the Ojai Basin can not expect an economically reasonable new source of water.

The OBGMA has been given the responsibility for managing the Ojai groundwater basin and, working with its constituents, the well operators in the basin, for conserving that groundwater. The intent of this plan is to avoid, where possible, and strive to minimize, the adverse economic and social impacts facing our valuable but limited water supply.

Board of Directors

The OBGMA Board consists of five members and their alternates. The five seats comprise representatives of each of the following entities:

- Ojai Water Conservation District
- City of Ojai
- Golden State Water Company
- Casitas Municipal Water District
- Mutual water companies

Regular attendance at each of the Board meetings is required to form a quorum and attend to board activities. During 2011 and 2012, the Board was comprised of the following personnel, with alternates occasionally representing and attending:

- Jerry Conrow, President (OWCD)
- Roger Essick (Mutual water companies)
- Russ Baggerly (CMWD)
- Ken Petersen (GSWC)
- Betsy Clapp (City of Ojai)

Summary of years' accomplishments

Over Calendar Years 2011 and 2012, OBGMA accomplished many activities in keeping with its enabling legislation and management planning, including:

- Held monthly board meetings with public participation to carry out the objectives of its enabling legislature and groundwater monitoring plan
- Supported recordation of water extractions for individual well owners
- Documented groundwater extraction from reported pumping
- Monitored water levels in the basin both automatically via a network of data loggers and manually

- Coordinated with County and private entities to monitor basin conditions
- Permitted the construction of four water wells in 2011 and four in 2012
- Successfully completed a groundwater model of the basin
- Supported the ongoing design and permitting of the San Antonio Spreading Grounds rehabilitation project (SACSGRP)
- Participated in outreach programs including presentations to the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRAC)
- Drafted detailed plans for basin inflow and outflow monitoring and applied to the State for Local Groundwater Assistance Funding to implement the planned monitoring
- Compiled geologic and hydrogeologic data to further the understanding of the basin
- Participated in watershed, county, and state-wide meetings, conferences, and discussions to further the Agency's participation and exposure to affect policy
- Assisted individual stakeholders to understand their roles, rights, and responsibilities as overlying landowners of the groundwater basin.
- Developed, maintained and updated the website (www.obgma.com) to inform the public regarding the OBGMA activities and basin conditions.

2.0 Duties And Responsibilities

The OBGMA is required by law to have a Groundwater Management Plan (Plan) to guide its operations. The initial Plan was prepared and published in 1995. The 2007 Update provided additional information to the original Plan and has been developed based on studies done for the Agency by its hydrogeologists, engineering contractors, input from well owners and water users, recommendations made by the Agency's advisory committee and by the State of California Department of Water Resources. Figure 1 presents a map of the OBGMA area of purview and service areas of other local agencies.

In the ensuing years between the original Plan publication and the 2007 update, numerous studies and projects have been undertaken in the Basin within the purview of the OBGMA and have led to a better understanding of Basin hydrogeology, demands, and hydrologic fluctuations which affect the stakeholders. Continually improved understanding provides an additional level of detail to the goals and objectives of the Plan; as the understanding of the Basin improves over the years, updates to the Plan will be incorporated. It is anticipated that the Plan will be updated every five years.

The Plan consists of five broad goals. Each goal includes a number of action elements, and as described herein there are tables under each goal which demonstrate when various action elements were completed or are planned for completion. While the five broad goals will provide the structure to the Agency's management efforts for several years, the Agency anticipates that the detailed action elements will evolve as the Agency's efforts continue to progress. Approved plan elements will be implemented in the form of rules,

regulations or ordinances. Prior to implementation, additional criteria to guide these actions will be developed in a public process by the Board and added to this management plan. Some elements as noted herein require more study and public review before specific implementation actions are approved. Additions will be made to this Plan as actions to implement these elements are reviewed by the water users and well owners in the basin and approved by the Agency Board of Directors (Board). Revisions or updates to the approved Plan will be made only after full review, consideration of any advisory recommendation and formal approval by the Board.

The five goals are described in detail in the 2007 Groundwater Management Plan Update available at www.OBGMA.com, and are:

1) Understanding the Basin
2) Controlling Exports; protecting and managing the Basin
3) Encouraging Supporting Activities
4) Effective Communication
5) Efficient Administration

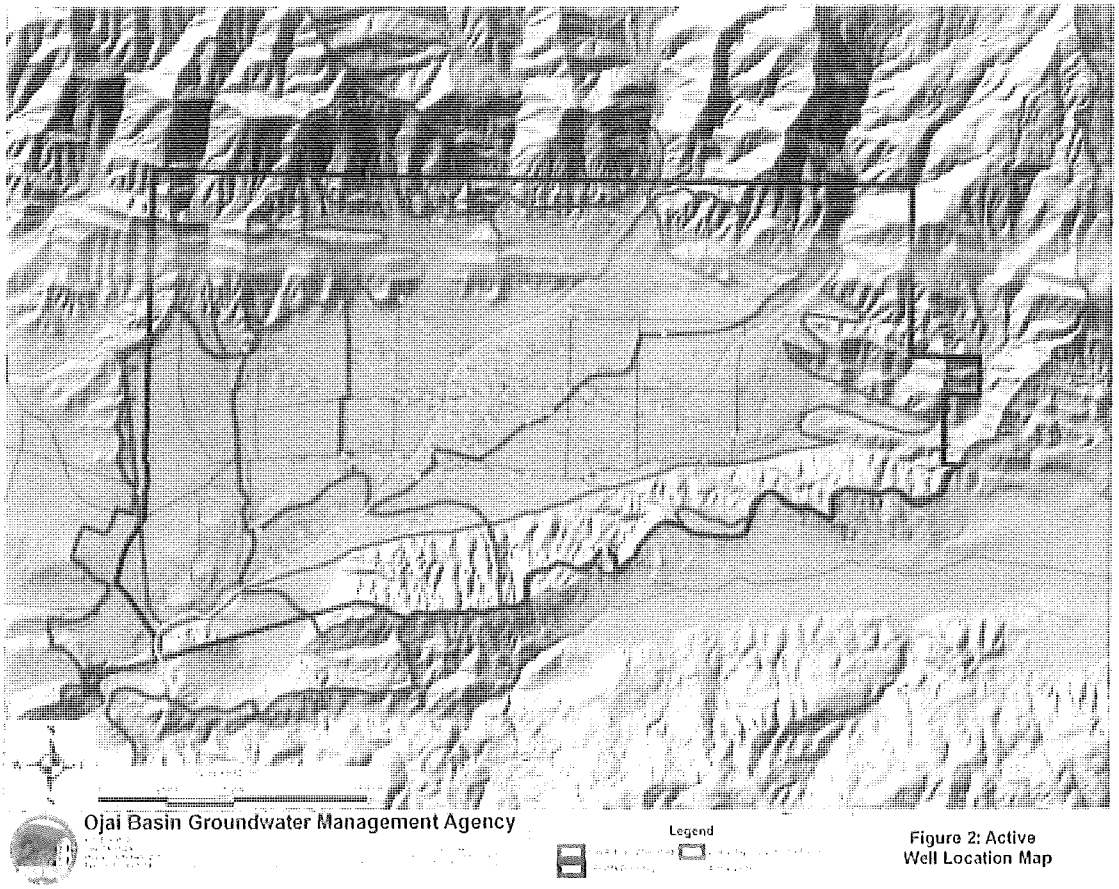


Figure 2- Active Well Location Map

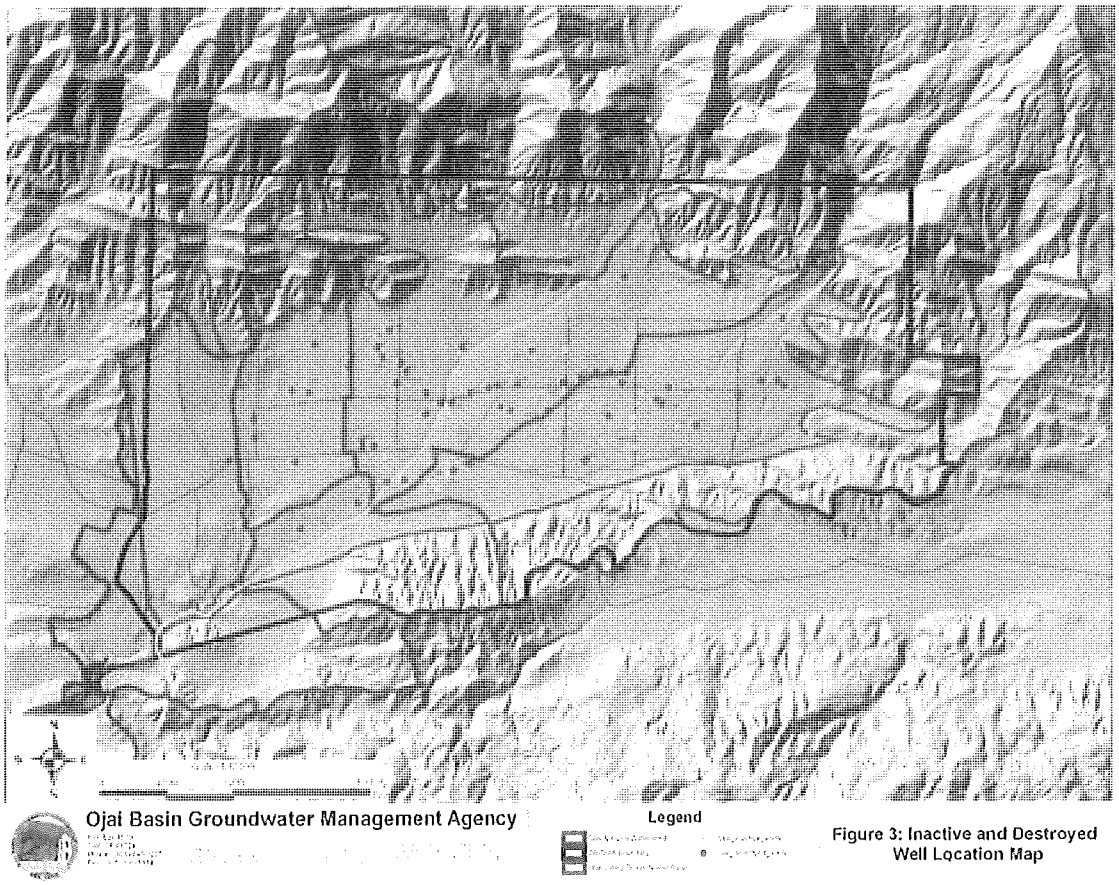


Figure 3- Inactive and destroyed Well Location Map

Ordinances

Many of these goals are met by enacting ordinances and resolutions. During the 2011 and 2012 Calendar Years, no new ordinances were adopted

Resolutions

During the 2011 and 2012 Calendar Years, the following Resolution was adopted and implemented:

Resolution 2011-1 (draft) and 2, adopted, signed, and approved June 30. 2011 approved an extraction charge of $15.00 per Acre Foot.

Projects

Two Major Projects were implemented with the OBGMA serving as major stakeholder.

The Groundwater Model

Importantly, the OBGMA completed the "Groundwater Model Development, Ojai Basin, Ventura County, California," in final form on November 15, 2011. This significant modeling effort was funded through the DWR Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA) Program and represented a leap in the technical understanding of the Basin and the capabilities of the OBGMA to model various scenarios related to natural and artificial recharge, groundwater extraction, and new well construction. Ongoing model updates, conducted at the discretion of the Board, allow the OBGMA to consider the effects of various scenarios including drought, recharge, additional well construction and groundwater extraction.

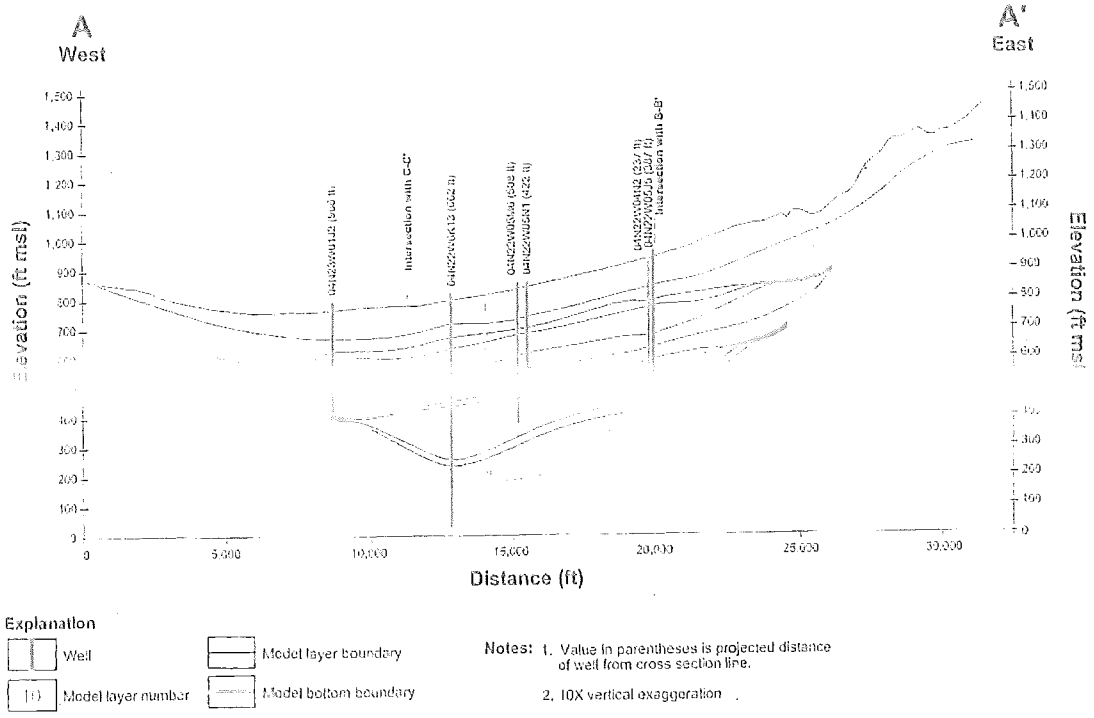
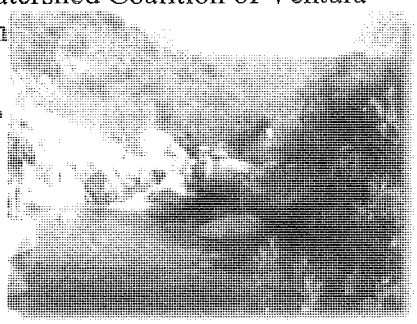


Figure 4 - West to east cross section showing 11 model layers

The SACSGRP

The San Antonio Creek Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation Project (SACSGRP) is intended to increase groundwater storage and recharge in the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin by rebuilding an abandoned diversion works, rehabilitating existing relic infiltration basins, and constructing passive percolation recharge wells adjacent to San Antonio Creek. The project site is located on an 11.4 acre parcel of land owned by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District adjacent to San Antonio Creek, within the

unincorporated portion of Ventura County, approximately 0.9 miles northeast of the City of Ojai, California. The proposed project received $1,315,000 in grant funding from the State Water Resources Control Board through the Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant, which was awarded to the Watershed Coalition of Ventura County. A stakeholder group composed of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency, the Ojai Water Conservation District, the Golden State Water Company, the Casitas Municipal Water District and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District was formed in January 2008 to collaborate on the implementation and maintenance of the proposed project. The primary purpose of the project is to capture 25 cubic feet per second (cfs) of surface flow (when available) from San Antonio Creek to recharge the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin and help augment the Ojai Valley's water supply.



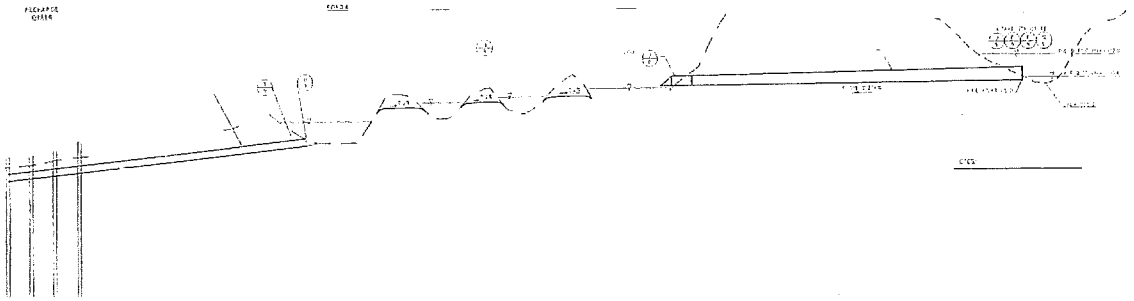


Figure 5 -Hydraulic profile for SACSGRP
from diversions through intake to recharge wells

The Ojai Groundwater Basin Inflow/Outflow Study
OBGMA Completed an application to the 2012 DWR LGA grant solicitation to implement the proposed project entitled "Ojai Groundwater Basin Inflow/Outflow Study," which has been abbreviated to the acronym of "IOS." As the name implies, the IOS strives to quantify the inflowing surface water that recharges the basin, the outflowing surface water that discharges from the basin, and quantify the surface water flowing through the central portion of the basin at the point of compliance for the SACSGRP.

Although the project was not initially funded through the highly competitive LGA process, the workplan presented in the application can serve for the OBGMA's implementation in a self-funded means or future grant applications.

The application components are found at:

http://www.water.ca.gov/lgagrant/docs/applications/Ojai%20Basin%20Groundwater%20Management%20Agency%20%28201209870016%29/

Inventory and Status of Wells

During 2011, 125 wells were actively reporting groundwater extraction from the Ojai Basin. During 2012, this number decreased by one, as a net decrease in well inventory was realized; four new wells were constructed each year, two wells were destroyed in 2012 and one was destroyed in 2011.

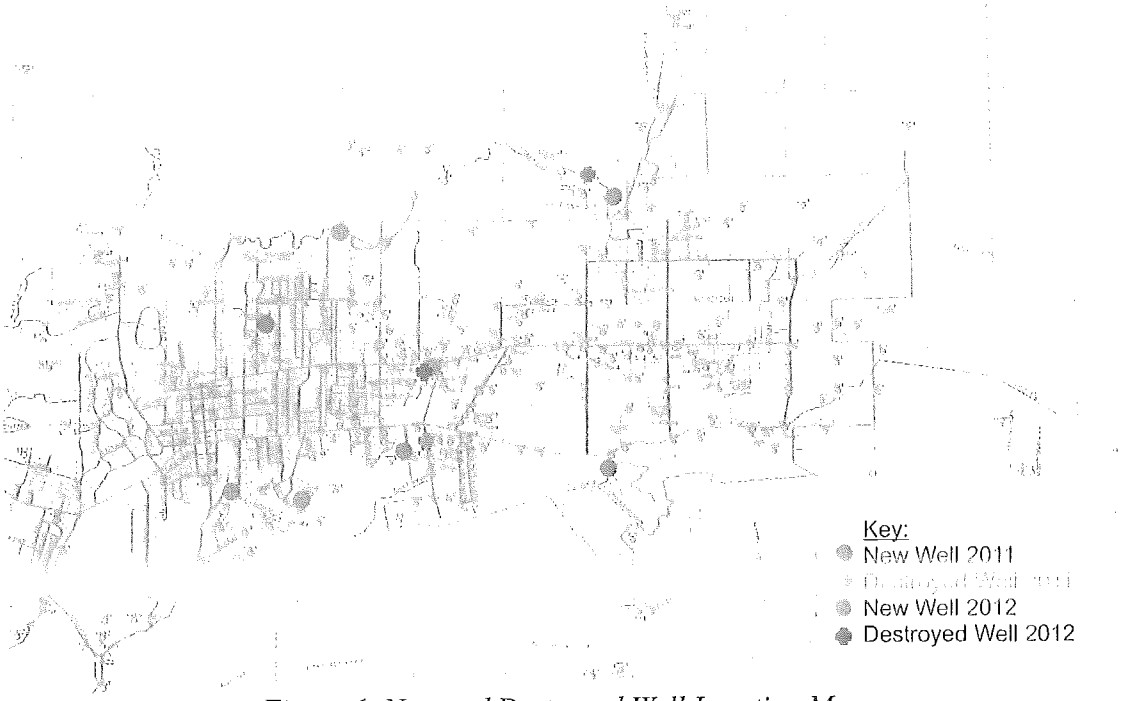


Figure 6- New and Destroyed Well Location Map

3.0 Precipitation

In the Ventura River Watershed, no significant water is imported for human uses including agricultural, irrigation, or municipal supplies. Virtually all water tributary to the Ojai Groundwater Basin derives from the hydrologic cycle as precipitation within the mountainous area surrounding the Ojai Basin and, to a lesser degree, precipitation on the valley floor itself.

An excellent proxy for recharge is precipitation as measured at the Ojai Fire Station. Long-term (1931-2012) average annual rainfall at that location is 21.21 inches; higher in the watershed, the average annual precipitation is nearly 36 inches.

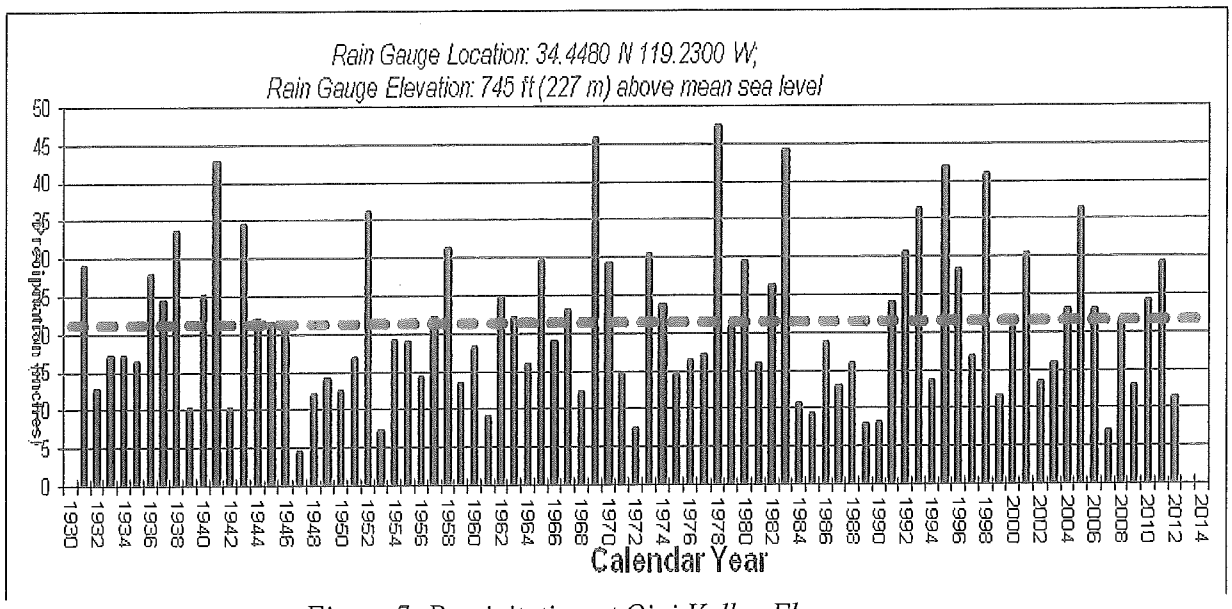


Figure 7- Precipitation at Ojai Valley Floor

In addition to the bar chart presented above, the accumulative departure from average annual precipitation is an indicator of drought periods versus periods of "normal" or "wet" periods. As the curve declines to the right, a period of drought is realized. Locally, it appears that a drought period began after the end of the 2010-2011 water year.

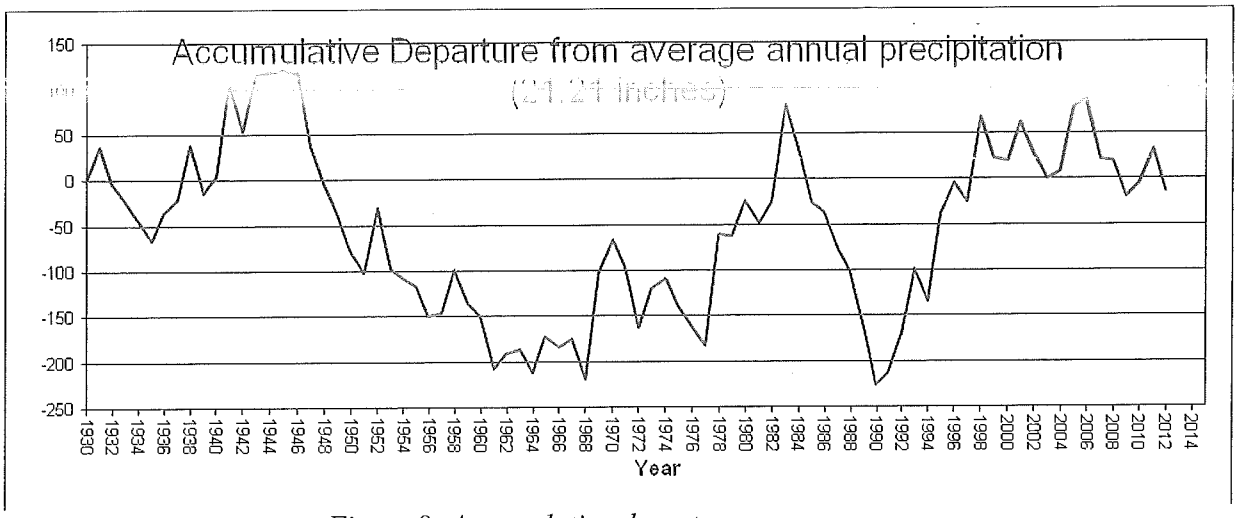


Figure 8- Accumulative departure curve

Based on the amount of precipitation measured within the watershed, and modeled recharge estimates, the OBGMA estimates that during water year ending 2011, 29.27 inches of rain fell on the valley floor and upwards of 10,000 acre-feet of water recharged to the basin. Similarly, during water year ending September 30, 2012, 11.35 inches of rain fell on the valley floor and about 2,000 acre feet of recharge was added to the basin storage.

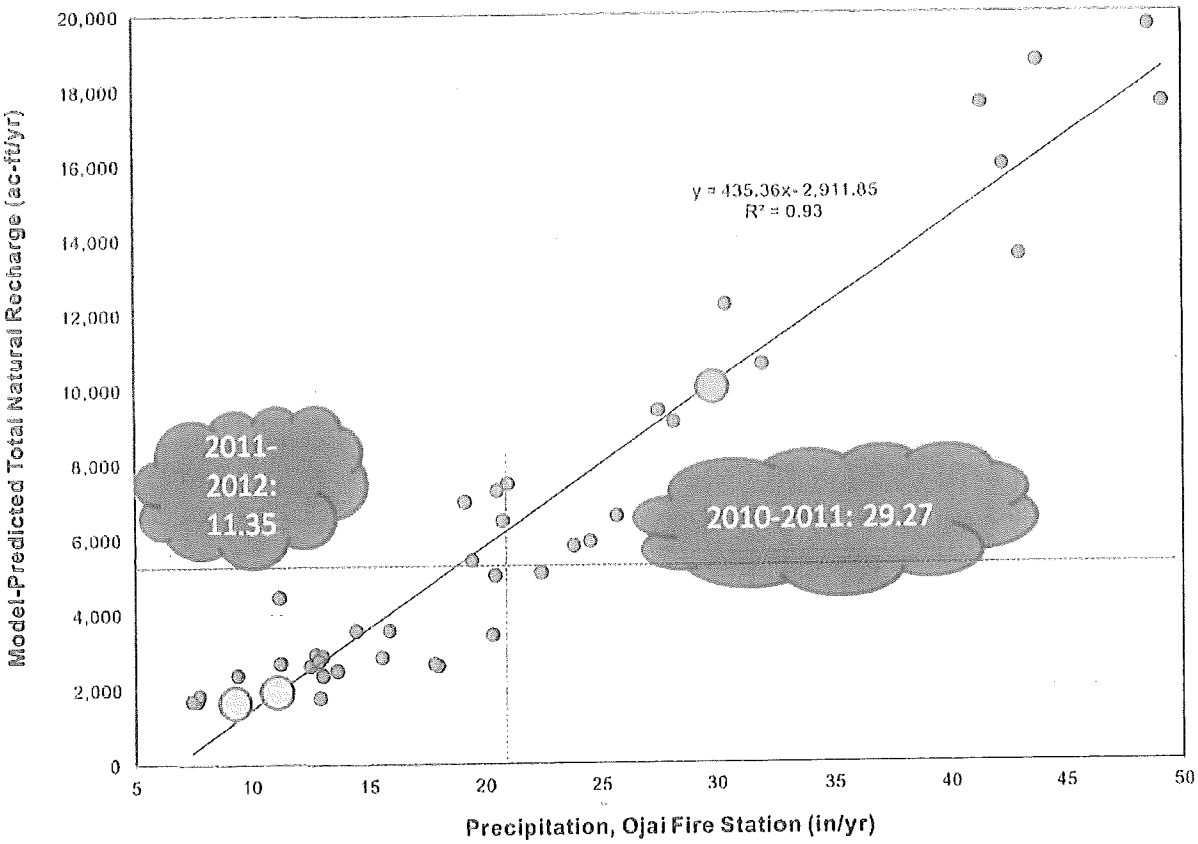


Figure 9- Relationship between precipitation and recharge

4.0 Groundwater Levels

Modeled and observed phenomena indicate that any precipitation less than 11 inches on the valley floor is taken up by evapotranspiration and soil storage, among other factors, and that significant recharge is limited to primarily subsurface flow during these drier years. The OBGMA's monitoring of the basal alluvial aquifer near the SACGRP Project indicate a favorable component of "recharge without rainfall" as discharges from adjacent bedrock aquifers contribute spring flow and subterranean contributions to the alluvial aquifers.

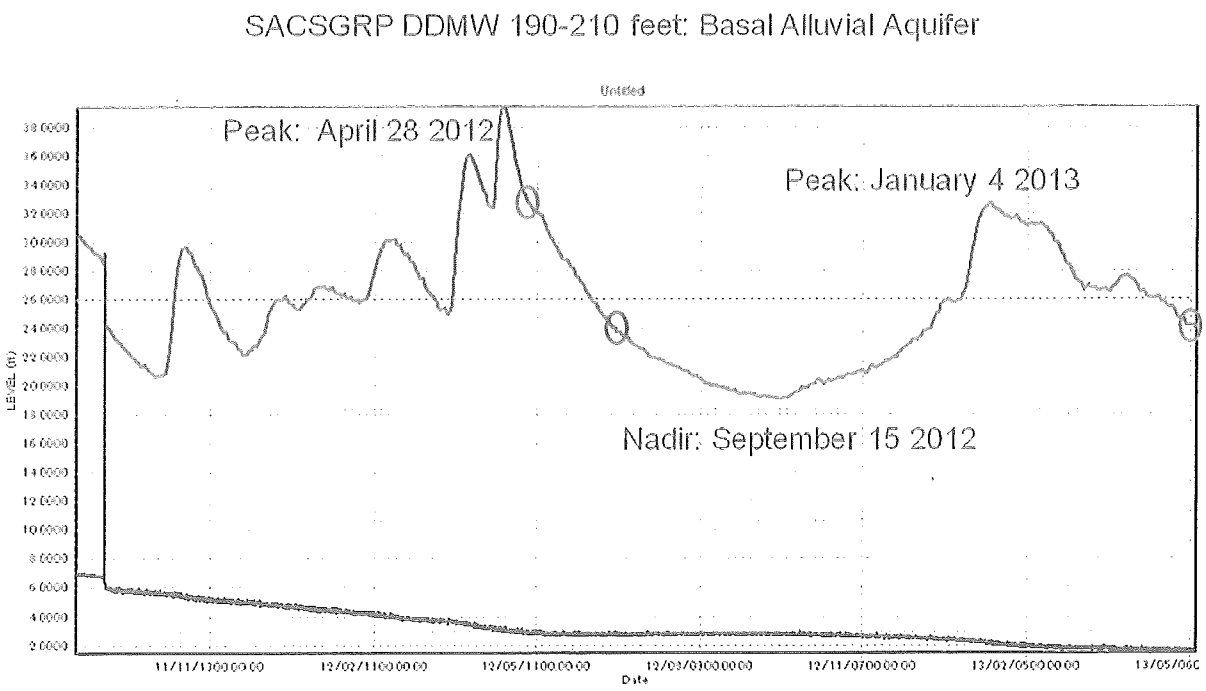


Figure 10- SACSGRP DDMW water levels October 2011 to May 2013

Monitoring of water levels by the County and OBGMA in several key wells provide a direct insight into basin storage and the effects of drought on portions of the basin. Generally, peripheral northern and eastern areas appear to be less affected by the droughts as they store the bedrock-derived recharge first as compared to central and southern portions of the basin. Additional storage capacity and extraction from the central portions of the basin compared to the peripheral areas also contribute to this phenomenon of discrepancy in water levels.

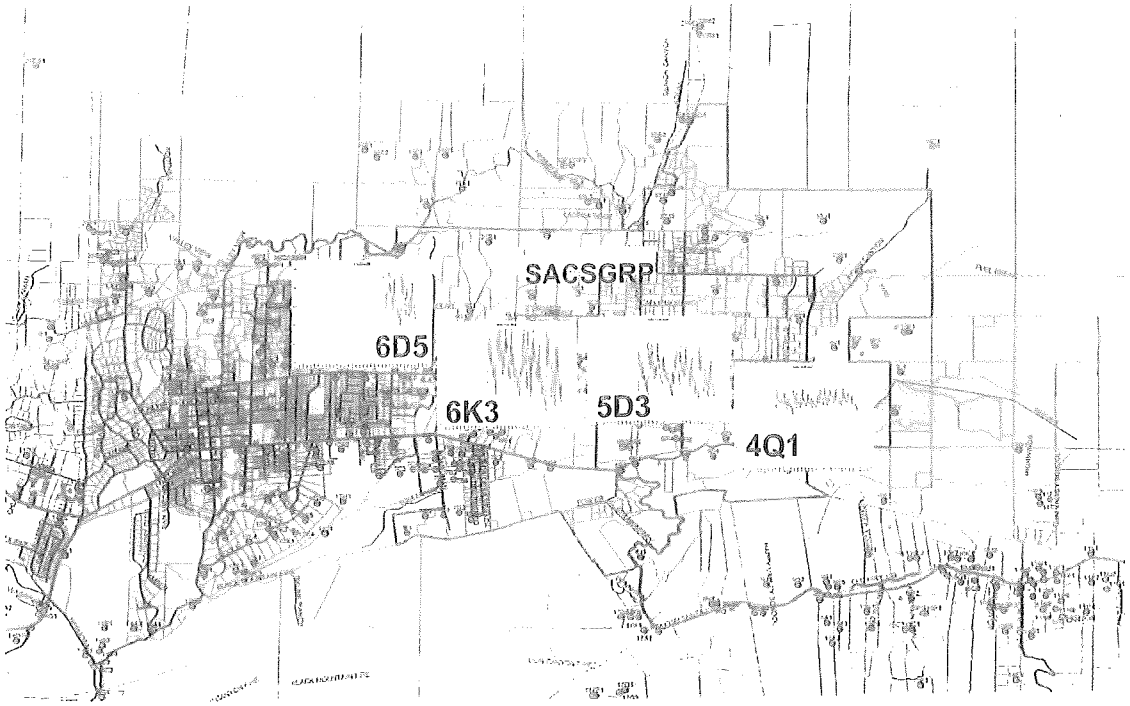
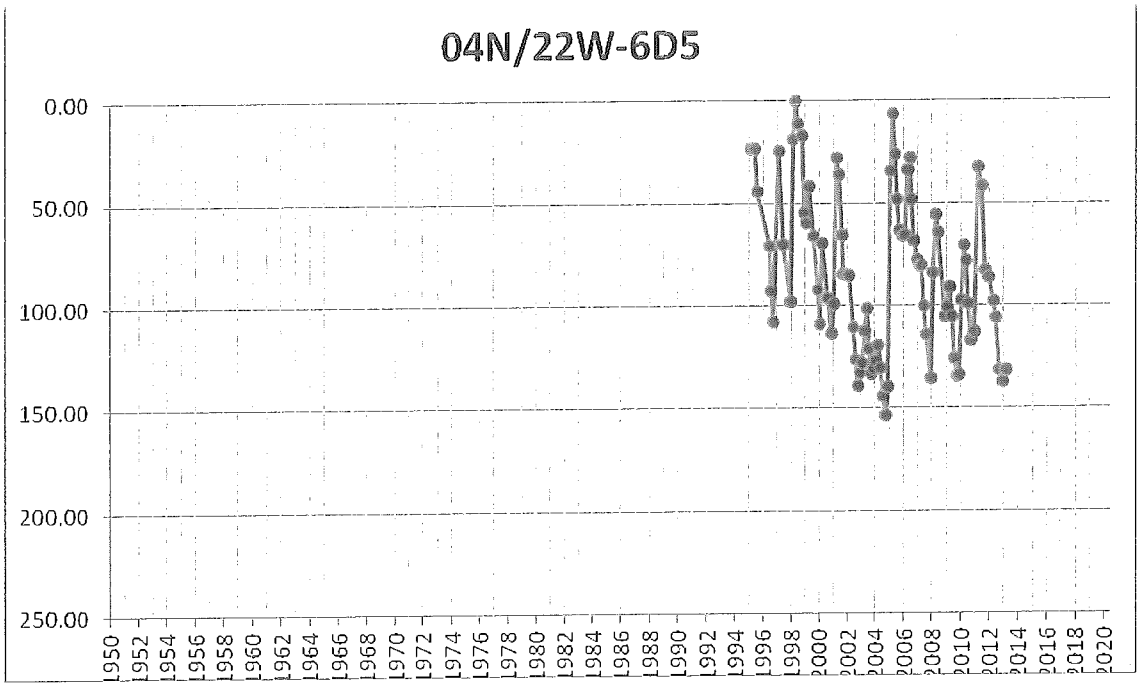
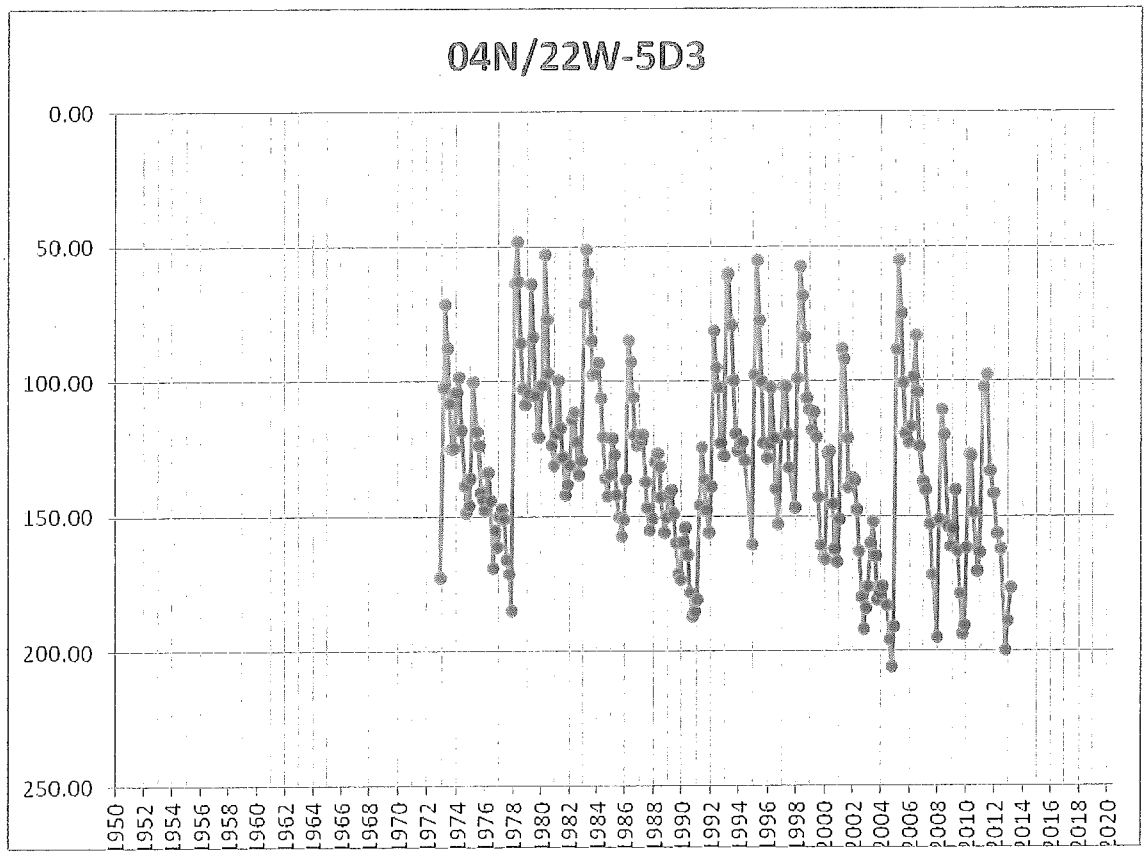


Figure 11 - Locations of Wells with hydrographs are shown above, including the SACSGRP DDMW basal alluvial aquifer, while details of the data are presented on the following graphs.




04N/22W-5D3
0.00
50.00
100.00
150.00
200.00
250.00
1950
1952
1954
1956
1958
1960
1962
1964
1966
1968
1970
1972
1974
1976
1978
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2012
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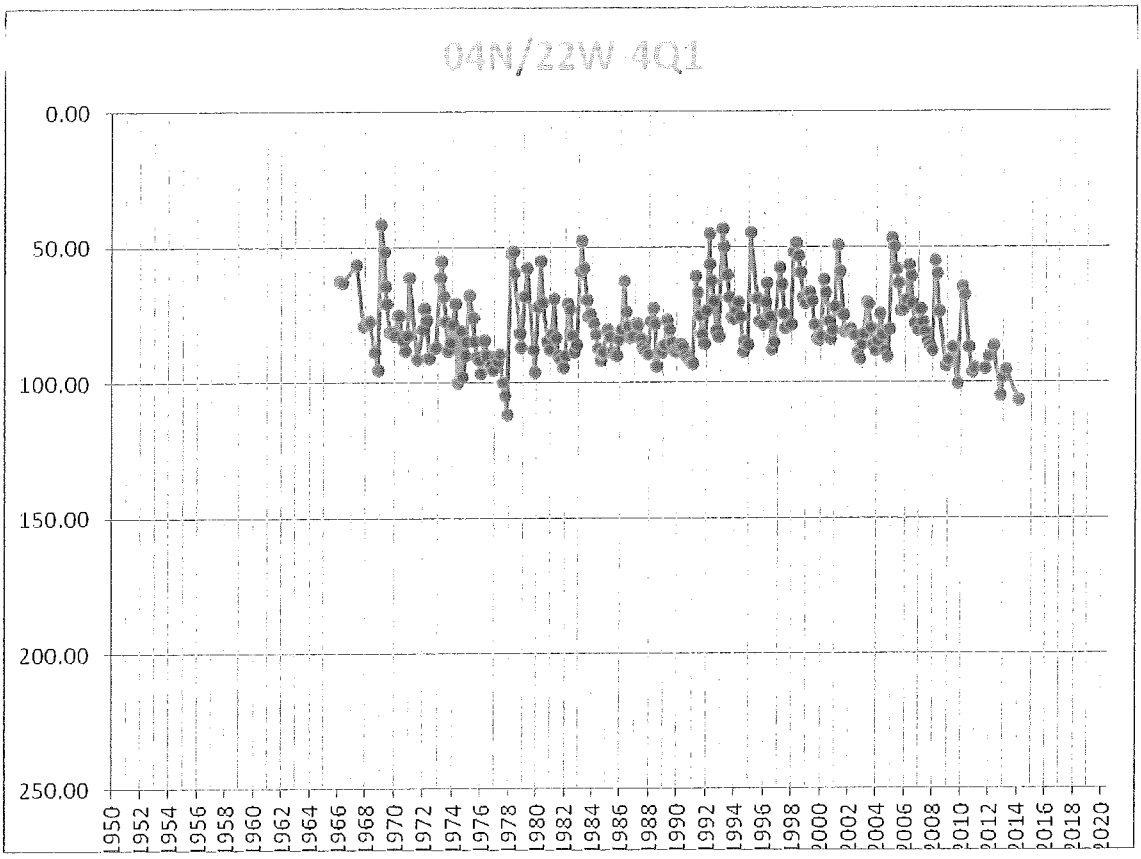
2016
2018
2020


04N/22W-4Q1
0.00
50.00
100.00
150.00
200.00
250.00
1950
1952
1954
1956
1958
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1962
1964
1966
1968
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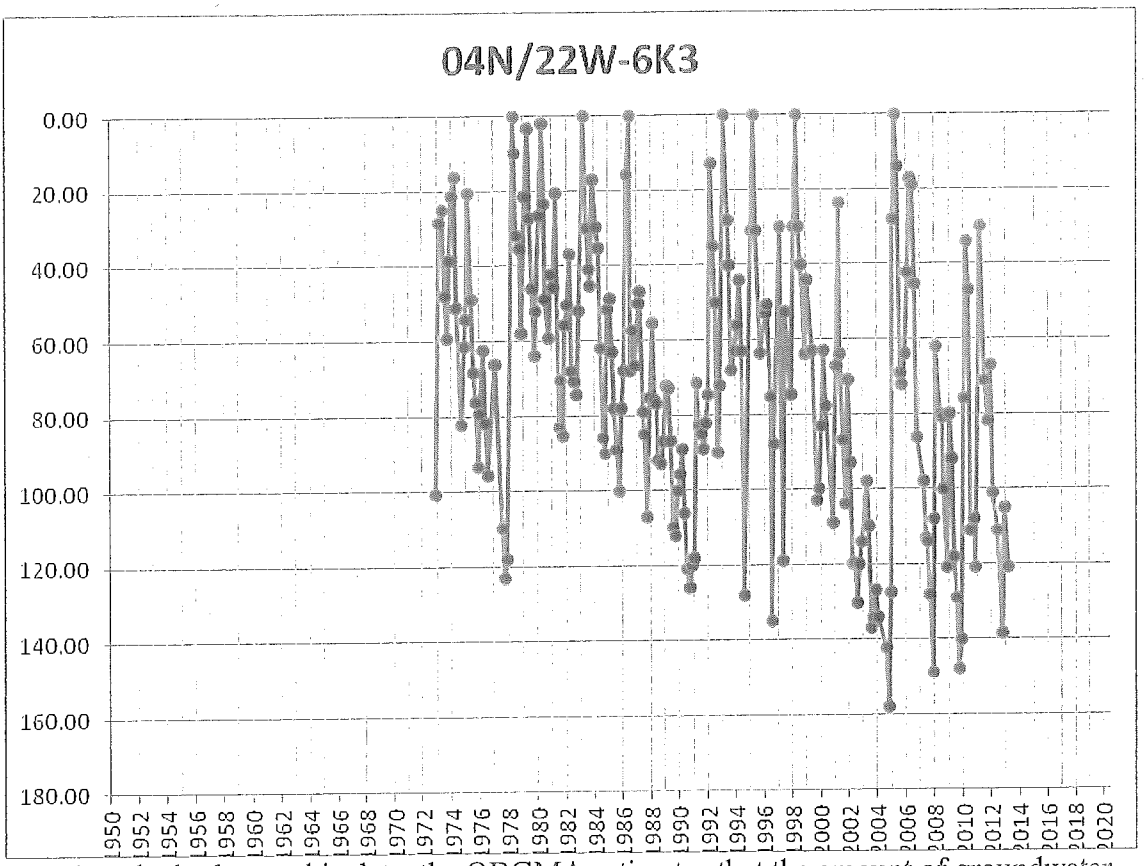
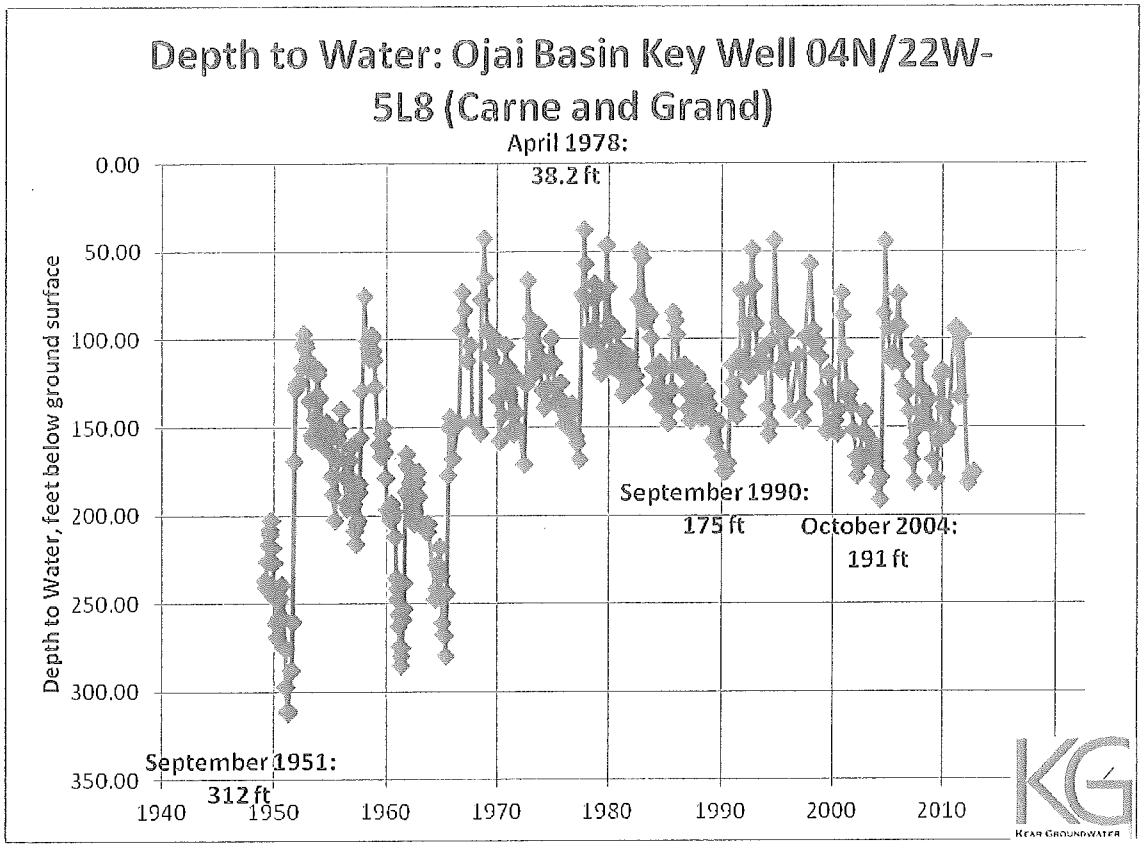


Based on the hydrographic data, the OBGMA estimates that the amount of groundwater in storage in the Basin at the spring high point is as follows:

The historic nadir in basin storage was in 1951 during a significant drought and before the current practice of conjunctive use including Casitas water imports was commonplace. At that time, in 1951, 43,741 acre feet are estimated to have been in storage in the Basin. This nadir is a significant threshold because the confined aquifer skeleton would have been maximally compacted at that time. Static water levels below that depth would increase compaction and potentially cause subsidence and cause irrecoverable storage capacity in the Ojai Basin.

YEAR	Springtime Basin storage (Acre Feet)
2002	62,567 AF
2003	57,087 AF
2004	55,094 AF
2005	80,000 AF *Artesian Flow Observed*
2006	62,810 AF *Artesian Flow Observed*
2007	49,750 AF
2008	59,000 AF
2009	50,000 AF
2010	54,627 AF
2011	63,944 AF *Artesian Flow Observed*
2012	62,402 AF


Depth to Water: Ojai Basin Key Well 04N/22W-5L8 (Carne and Grand)
April 1978:
38.2 ft
September 1990:
175 ft
October 2004:
191 ft
September 1951:
312 ft
Depth to Water, feet below ground surface
0.00
50.00
100.00
150.00
200.00
250.00
300.00
350.00
1940
1950
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010

5.0 Groundwater Quality

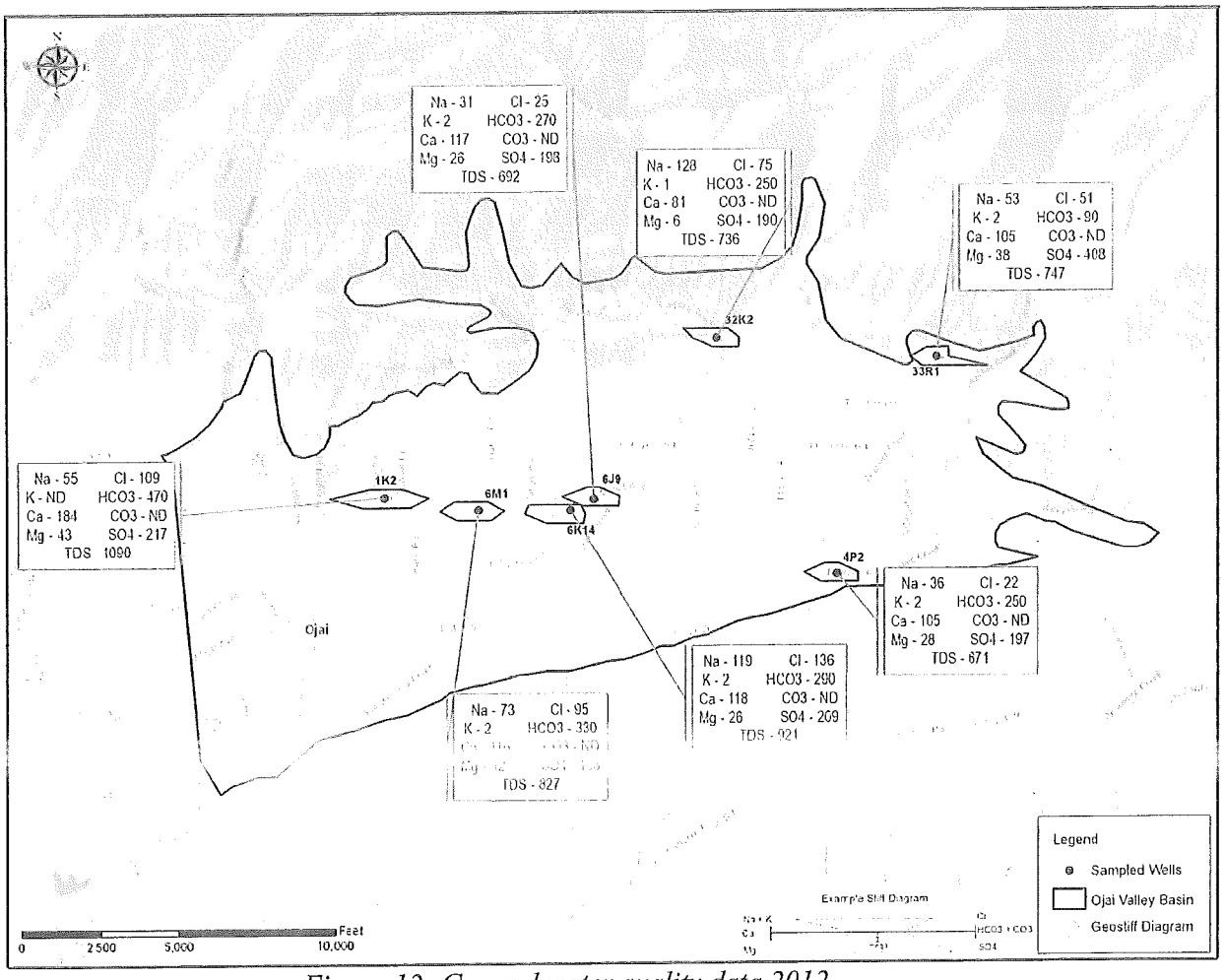


Figure 12- General water quality data 2012

The Ojai Valley Basin water quality is considered good for domestic and agricultural purposes. Average TDS is 812 mg/l and ranges from 671 to 1090 mg/l in county-sampled and reported wells. Depth-discrete information indicate a higher chloride concentration in deep aquifers in the central and southwestern portion of the basin. Two wells have iron (Fe) concentrations above the secondary MCL for drinking water. Water samples from three wells were analyzed for inorganic chemicals (Title 22 metals). No inorganic chemical was above the primary MCL for drinking water. Stiff water quality diagrams in the figure above show that Ojai Valley groundwater chemistry is quite variable. The above figure also shows approximate well locations and concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS), sodium (Na^+), potassium (K^+), calcium (Ca^{2+}), magnesium (Mg^{2+}), chloride (Cl^-), bicarbonate (HCO_3^-), carbonate (CO_3^{2-}) and sulfate (SO_4^{2-}) for the wells sampled by the County of Ventura in the Ojai Valley basin in 2012.

6.0 Groundwater Extractions

Reported Extractions

Reported extractions from 125 wells in 2011 and 124 wells in 2012 indicate an extraction quantity of 5,125 acre-feet and 5,310 acre-feet, respectively.

These extraction totals are in-line with historical use and trends since the OBGMA has been monitoring extractions from the Basin. Graphical depiction of these extractions, compared to estimated irrigation demand, imported water, and municipal groundwater extraction, are presented and tabulated below. Notably absent from this calculation is the imported water from Lake Casitas that Golden State Water Company (GSWC) provided to its customers.

Since the passage of OBGMA Ordinance No. 7 requiring metering of extraction facilities, an increased accuracy is afforded to these calculations and reporting. Additionally, a general declining trend may be observed owing to the fact that crop factors, formerly used to estimate extraction, often overestimated the actual amount of groundwater extraction.

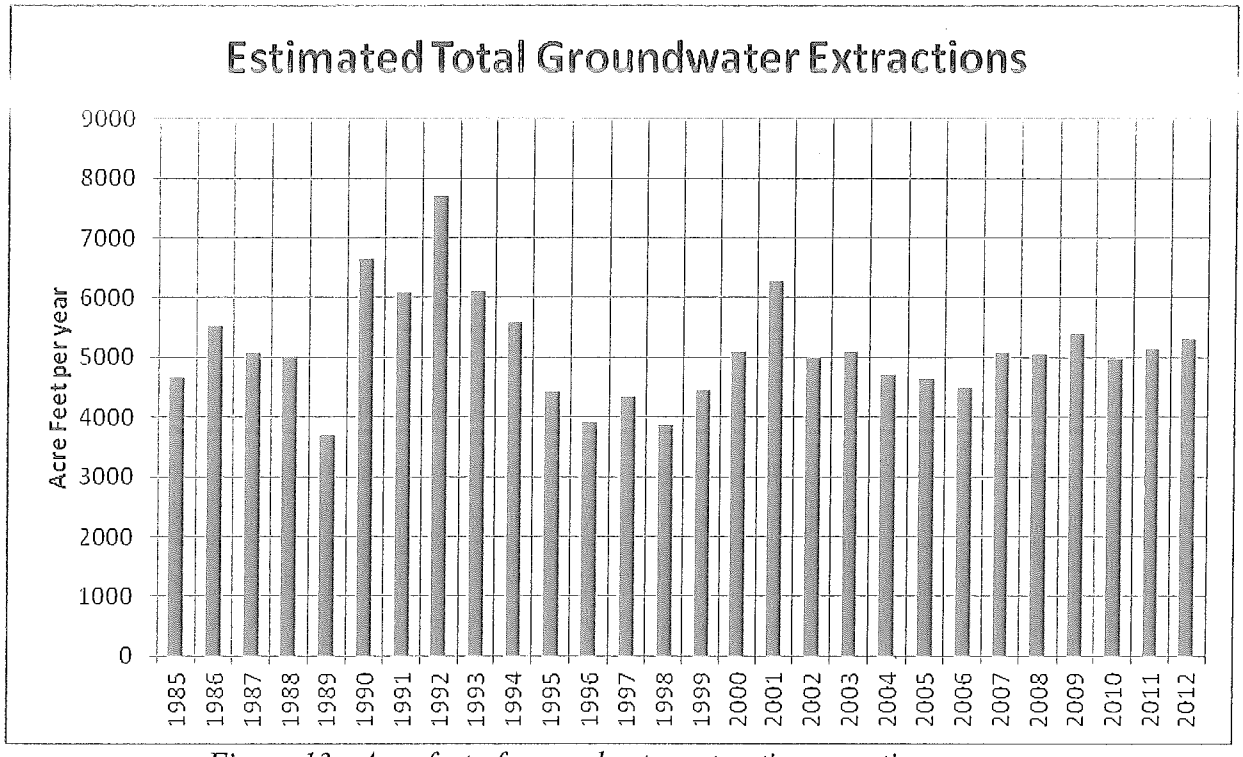


Figure 13 - Acre feet of groundwater extraction over time

Groundwater Extractions, Demands and Imports

Calendar Year	Estimated Irrigation Demand	Casitas Importation	Estimated Groundwater Extraction (Private Wells)	Groundwater Extraction (GSWC)	Estimated Total Groundwater Extractions
1985	7200	4181	3019	1638	4657
1986	7500	3633	3867	1663	5530
1987	7800	4473	3327	1744	5071
1988	7796	4635	3161	1839	5000
1989	7093	5169	1924	1766	3690
1990	9804	4961	4843	1804	6647
1991	7631	3377	4254	1819	6073
1992	8769	2744	6052	1645	7697
1993	6829	2800	4029	2070	6099
1994	7072	3433	3639	1946	5585
1995	6117	3530	2587	1846	4433
1996	6801	4468	2333	1569	3902
1997	8017	5272	2745	1583	4328
1998	5071	3115	1956	1913	3869
1999	6185	3922	2263	2181	4444
2000	7054	4044	3010	2080	5090
2001	7204	3195	4009	2258	6267
2002	7021	4249	2772	2220	4992
2003	6450	3428	3022	2066	5088
2004	7058	4185	2873	1824	4697
2005	5462	2768	2694	1955	4649
2006	5462	2796	2666	1818	4484
2007	6877	3770	3107	1963	5070
2008	6492	3176	3316	1736	5052
2009	7054	3411	3643	1751	5394
2010	5633	2404	3229	1742	4971
2011	5867	2990	3191	1934	5125
2012	6292	2986	3664	1646	5310

Natural Discharge

Natural discharge from the Basin occurs primarily via San Antonio Creek. Modeled discharge to surface streams is reported to average 2,282 Acre feet per year. Smaller components of discharge are to evapotranspiration (258 af/yr) and outflow to downgradient bedrock and alluvium (129 AF/yr).

In Water Year Ending 2011, a total of 10,597 acre feet are calculated to have discharged at San Antonio Creek beneath the Casitas Springs bridge at Highway 33. This compares to 906 Acre feet at the same point for water year ending 2012. The Ojai Basin comprises

approximately 70.3 percent of the surface water tributary area to this gage and is one of the only groundwater basins that provides perennial discharge to the creek system. Although no active gage is present to date near the discharge point from the Ojai Basin, monitoring of the San Antonio Creek at Creek Road is within the OBGMA Purview and a planned activity.

7.0 Conclusions

Outlook for coming year (2013 and 2014)

Local precipitation in 2011 and 2012 represented a drying trend with declining precipitation totals for each water year. Continued persistent drought is anticipated, with low precipitation anticipated for 2013 and 2014. Demand on the Basin is anticipated to be high and natural discharges low.

Agency Planned Activities

For 2013 the OBGMA is planning several key objectives:

- Continued involvement in the SACSGRP, slated for construction late 2013
- Installing and monitoring additional continuous water level monitoring devices in key stakeholders' wells
- Adding hydrographs to the website
- Permitting wells
- Running model updates to evaluate dynamic conditions and scenarios
- Holding monthly board meetings with public participation to carry out the objectives of its enabling legislature and groundwater monitoring plan
- Supporting recordation of water extractions for individual well owners
- Documenting groundwater extraction from reported pumping
- Coordinating with County and private entities to monitor basin conditions
- Participated in outreach programs
- Compiling geologic and hydrogeologic data to further the understanding of the basin
- Participating in watershed, county, and state-wide meetings, conferences, and discussions to further the agency's participation and exposure to affect policy
- Assisting individual stakeholders to understand their roles, rights, and responsibilities as overlying landowners of the groundwater basin.
- Maintaining and updating the website to inform the public regarding the OBGMA activities and basin conditions.
- Considering a Groundwater Management Plan Update
- Considering the ramifications of ownership transfer of GSWC on basin management, possibly revising the OBGMA Act
- Continue to explore and apply for grant funding opportunities to carry out the OBGMA responsibilities, goals and objectives.

APPENDIX C

Public Outreach and Engagement

Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Public Outreach and Engagement Plan

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
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Ojai, California 93023
Contact: John Mundy

Prepared by:

DUDEK
621 Chapala Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101
Contact: Trey Driscoll

APRIL 2021

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Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

Term/Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
Engagement	Efforts made to understand and involve stakeholders and their concerns in activities and decisions of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
OBGMA	Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
OVGB	Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
Stakeholder	An individual or entity interested or affected by the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

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1 The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on September 16, 2014, created a new framework for groundwater management in California. The framework includes a structure and schedule to achieve sustainable groundwater management within 20 years. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has historically managed the state's central repository for groundwater data. Under SGMA, DWR provides guidance, financial assistance, and technical support for compliance with state requirements. The State Water Resources Control Board provides the regulatory backstop under SGMA, taking over basin management and assessing fees if local groundwater management is not successful in complying with the requirements of SGMA.

SGMA established a new structure for local groundwater management through Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). Each basin designated as a high- or medium-priority groundwater basin by DWR required the formation of a GSA by July 1, 2017. Each GSA for these high- and medium-priority basins must then develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that details how sustainable groundwater management will be achieved within 20 years of implementing the GSP. Sustainable groundwater management is defined by SGMA as "the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results." This avoidance of undesirable results is measured through the following six sustainability indicators:

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply if continued over the planning and implementation horizon
- Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage
- Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion
- Significant and unreasonable degradation of water quality
- Significant and unreasonable land subsidence
- Depletion of interconnected surface water and groundwater that has significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water

The GSP is a tool used to help the GSA sustainably manage the basin. Before the GSP can be adopted, the criteria for sustainable management must be assessed, including determining what is significant and unreasonable within the parameters of SGMA for the groundwater basin managed by that GSA, with input from stakeholders.

1.1 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is an important component of any successful long-term planning effort and is required by SGMA (Sections 10720–10730) and GSP Regulations (Section 353–354). Each GSA shall encourage and support active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin (Section 10727.8). The GSA must also allow for voluntary participation by Native American tribes and the federal government (Section 10720.3). The GSA may appoint and consult with an advisory

committee (Section 10727.8) and must consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the basin (Section 10723.2).

Engaging members of the public in groundwater sustainability planning can improve public understanding of the technical, financial, and political considerations the GSA factors into their decision-making process. Participation by the public can also improve the GSA's understanding of the potential impacts of their decisions. While this Outreach and Engagement Plan is focused on the stakeholder and interested parties associated with the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the OBGMA, there is a nexus with the ongoing Ventura River Watershed Adjudication. Specifically, the *Santa Barbara Channelkeeper v. City of Buenaventura*, Case No 19STCP01176 filed in September 2014, alleges diversions from the Ventura River were unreasonable and hurt habitat for endangered steelhead trout and other wildlife. In response to the lawsuit, the City of Ventura filed a Cross-Complaint seeking to bring in other users of surface water and groundwater in the Ventura watershed, including the Ojai Basin, which was one of the four "significant" basins identified by the City of Ventura in the lawsuit. Presently, this adjudication agreement is ongoing and at the time of print there still has not been settlement on the adjudication. Nonetheless, the OBGMA recognizes the issue. To the extent necessary, this will be addressed in the GSP.

SGMA recognized the importance of stakeholder engagement and has laid out specific requirements for stakeholder engagement within each of the following four phases of SGMA.

Phase 1: GSA Formation and Coordination

- Establish and maintain a list of interested parties (Section 10723.4).
- Provide public notice of the GSA formation (Section 10723[b]).
- Conduct a GSA formation public hearing (Section 10723[b]).
- Notify DWR of the GSA formation (Section 10723[b]).
- Provide a written statement to DWR, as well as the cities and counties within the GSA boundary, describing how interested parties may participate in the GSP development (Section 10727.8).

Phase 2: GSP Preparation and Submission

SGMA requires local agencies throughout California to sustainably manage groundwater basins by developing GSPs or submitting an alternative to DWR for consideration. Per SGMA, alternatives must demonstrate how water managers have already achieved or will achieve sustainable groundwater management.

An alternative, per Water Code Section 10733.6(b), may be any of the following:

1. An existing groundwater management plan
2. Groundwater management pursuant to an adjudication
3. An analysis of basin conditions that demonstrates that the basin has operated within its sustainable yield over a period of at least 10 years

Subsequent to the passage of SGMA, the Board of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) elected to submit an alternative. The decision was in part based on the fact that OBGMA was created in 1991 amidst concerns of local water agencies, water users, and well owners about potential overdraft of the Ojai Valley

Groundwater Basin and is responsible for managing the supply and demand of Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin for the protection and common benefit of agricultural, municipal, and industrial water users of the basin. As such, the agency is required to have a Groundwater Management Plan to guide its operations. Elements of OBGMA's Groundwater Management Plan are implemented in the form of policies, rules, regulations, and ordinances. These were determined by the Board of Directors to meet the SGMA requirements and were submitted to DWR on December 27, 2016. On July 17, 2019, the DWR presented a letter response, via email, that their recommendation was to not approve the Alternative Demonstration submitted by OBGMA. On August 14, 2019, OBGMA submitted a response to DWR's recommendation indicating that the agency was committed to developing a GSP that addresses the issue raised by the DWR recommendation.

GSP preparation and submission will include the following items to specifically address stakeholder outreach and engagement:

- Submit initial notification of intent to prepare a GSP (Section 353.6)
- Prepare a GSP that considers beneficial uses and users of groundwater when describing undesirable results, minimum thresholds, projects, and actions (Section 10727.8, Section 10723.2, and Section 354.10)
- The GSP must include a communication section that includes the following (Section 354.10):
  - Explanation of the GSA's decision-making process
  - List of public meetings at which the GSP was discussed
  - Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of how public input and response will be used
  - Description of how the GSA encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin
  - Description of how the GSA will inform the public about progress implementing the GSP, including the status of projects and actions
- Public noticing must be completed and public meeting procedures must be adhered to prior to adopting, submitting, or amending a GSP (Section 10728.4)

Phase 3: GSP Review and Evaluation

- Work with the Ventura Watershed parties and the management committee to coordinate the GSP preparation with the Management Plan and requirements of the Physical Solution, and adopt, if appropriate, thresholds and actions identified by the GSA.
- Upon GSA adoption of the GSP and submittal to DWR, the GSP will be available on the DWR website for a 60-day public comment period. Any person may provide comments to the DWR on the GSP. DWR will consider the comments received prior to completing their evaluation and assessment of the GSP (Section 353.8).

Phase 4: Implementation and Reporting

- SGMA requires assessments and re-evaluation of the GSP at least every 5 years.
- GSAs must provide public notice and hold public meetings prior to amending the GSP (Section 10730).