

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY



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FCGMA STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) **Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)** was held at 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, July 23, 2009 at the Ventura County Government Center, Atlantic Conference Room (Admin. Bldg.) at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California.

- A. **Call to Order** – SAG Chair Gerhardt Hubner called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.
- B. **Introductions** – Chair Hubner skipped introductions as all were acquainted (16 people present)
- C. **Public Comments** – None
- D. **Attending Board Member Comments** – None (Director Michael Kelley and Alternate Sam McIntyre in attendance)
- E. **Approval of Minutes** – Suggested changes to Item K of the Minutes from the June 25, 2009 Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) meeting were read aloud; and with no objections, the minutes were approved.
- F. **Follow-up to Prior FCGMA Board Meeting** – The group discussion regarding the prior FCGMA Board Meeting focused primarily on the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 proposed workplan and budget:
 - 1. Several members expressed concerns about the proposed use of surcharge and/or penalty monies for staff labor and instead suggested that those monies be used to purchase supplemental water or to develop new water sources. An example would be to provide incentives for the installation of reverse osmosis systems on individual wells to generate “new water” from marginal quality groundwater supplies.
 - 2. The group discussed what level of studies and reporting might be needed to manage the groundwater basins. Some members suggested that an adequate understanding of technical issues exists or is not necessary and that further study would not be good use of Agency funds. Basin boundaries were cited as an example of a something that could potentially consume significant staff resources. Other members commented that some things need to be fairly well understood in order to effectively manage the groundwater resource and that further evaluations are warranted.
 - 3. Several members requested that future budget presentations be less detailed and include a roll-up summary.

- G. Las Posas Basin Management Plan Update** – UWCD/FCGMA Associate Hydrogeologist Bryan Bondy passed out and briefly summarized Discussion Papers #3 and #4 from the Las Posas Users Group. Discussion paper #3 describes the schedule for the Las Posas Basin-Specific Management Plan (BSMP). Discussion paper #4 lists topics for future technical and strategic evaluations by the Users Group. The results of the technical and strategic evaluations will be folded into the BSMP. The group briefly discussed Las Posas basin issues including Simi outflows, wastewater treatment plant outflows, rising groundwater, etc.
- H. Model for Incorporating Basin-Specific Planning into the FCGMA** – Mr. Bondy described the need for a framework or model from incorporating basin-specific plans into existing FCGMA policies. Mr. Bondy provided the members with a table containing four draft options: (1) Resolutions only; (2) Ordinance modifications only; (3) Ordinance modification and resolutions; and (4) Adopt an enforceable policy document. During the ensuing discussion, a fifth option consisting of a “Roadmap Document” was added. Overall, the members expressed a preference for working toward a solution that will result in a single document. Due to time limitations, further discussion on this topic was tabled until the next SAG meeting.
- I. Strategy Evaluation Matrix** – Dr. Steve Bachman presented the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) strategy evaluation/priority list. Before we send this matrix or ranking/scoring list to the Board, however as the TAG Chair, he wanted to collect comments and opinions from the SAG members and/or stakeholders so he could summarize such comments into an understandable presentation. It was collectively decided that all SAG members should E-mail Steve at steven.bachman@verizon.net before August 11, 2009.
- J. Groundwater Basin Boundaries Discussion** – Mr. Bondy recapped the June 2009 FCGMA Board meeting discussion about the lack of an official, adopted map of the groundwater basins with the territory of the Agency. FCGMA staff is seeking SAG and TAG input before going back to the FCGMA Board with a recommended course of action. Mr. Bondy reviewed four options for addressing the lack of official basin boundaries, as presented in the June 24, 2009 Board letter and then opened the topic up for group discussion. During the ensuing discussion, a fifth option was added. This option would be to use the basin boundaries that contained in any basin-specific management plans that are developed. Several members also suggested that “groundwater management areas” could be used instead of groundwater basins to avoid potential political or geology-related problems. The use of drainage basin (watershed) boundaries instead of groundwater basins as management areas was suggested as an example of this approach. The group did not reach a consensus regarding the criteria for defining basin boundaries or groundwater management areas. The group directed TAG to provide a technical recommendation, including an evaluation of the potential complications related to using the watershed boundary to define groundwater management areas. The TAG will report to the SAG at the September or October meeting.
- K. FCGMA Credits Evaluation and Review** – Mr. Bondy introduced the credits evaluation and review item to the SAG members. Mr. Bondy described how the large number of accumulated credits are a perceived threat to the groundwater resources with the FCGMA and that FCGMA work plan calls for the development of policy recommendations to deal with accumulated credits and the future earning of credits. Mr. Bondy summarized two presentations regarding credits that were previously made to the TAG. Following the presentation summary, the group briefly began reviewing a draft list of strategies for managing accumulated credits and the future earning of credits. Mr. Bondy requested members read the draft strategies list and to return to the next SAG meeting with additional strategies and suggestions about how best to combine the different strategies.

- L. Next Strategic Advisory Group Meeting Agenda – September 24, 2009**
- M. Adjourn Strategic Advisory Group Meeting – Chair Hubner called the meeting to a close at 3:13 PM.**