OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 24, 2026

The Regular Meeting of September 24, 2026, of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency was called to order at 3:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai, CA 93023.

Attendees were: Board Members: Richard Hajas, Mike Weaver, Andy Gilman and Carla Ferrante di Ruffano. General Manager Julia Aranda and Secretary/Treasurer Cece VanDerMeer.

Also in attendance: Peter Candy, Attorney and Jordan Kear, Consultant.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chair Hajas called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. VanDerMeer called the roll.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Hajas.

3. **Director Announcements/Reports/Comments:**

   Mutuals: None

   Ojai Water Conservation District: Absent

   City of Ojai: Gilman reported on the Watershed Adjudication.

   Casitas Municipal Water District: Hajas reported on the Watershed Adjudication.

   Community Facilities District Report: None

4. **GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS:**
   Aranda reported that she had received the 5-year Periodic Evaluation Update with the Climate Change Scenarios from Dudek. Aranda stated that she would be reviewing it with Jordan Kear. Aranda discussed the upcoming Board Meeting dates. Aranda said that the November 26, 2026 meeting falls on Thanksgiving, and that she tentatively reserved the City Chambers for December 17, 2026 Board Meeting. Aranda will present this at the October 29, 2026 meeting.

5. **BASIN STATUS REPORT:**
   Jordan Kear had a presentation “All Things Being Equinox”. Kear reported the Key Well was 107.04’ below ground level and there was 63,200 acre feet in the basin.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA:
None

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Weaver motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Hajas seconded. The Financial Report for August 2026 and the Minutes of September 9, 2026 were approved unanimously.
Roll Call vote:
Ayes: Weaver, Ferrante di Ruffano and Hajas.
Noes: None
Abstain: Gilman

8. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Item: Appoint General Manager:
Aranda introduced Miranda Patton, as the recommended new General Manager to the Board. Patton introduced herself to the Board.
Weaver motioned to appoint Patton as the new General Manager.
Gilman seconded.
Roll call vote:
Ayes: Weaver, Ferrante di Ruffano and Hajas.
Noes: None

b. Item: Employment Agreements:
Aranda presented Cece Vandermeer's Employment Agreement for the period of October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027 to the Board.
Weaver motioned to approve Cece Vandermeer's Employment Agreement for the period of October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027.
Gilman seconded.
Roll call vote:
Ayes: Weaver, Ferrante di Ruffano and Hajas.
Noes: None

Aranda presented Tara Ransom's Employment Agreement for the period of October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027 to the Board.
Weaver motioned to approve Tara Ransom's Employment Agreement for the period of October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027.
Gilman seconded.
Roll call vote:
Ayes: Weaver, Ferrante di Ruffano and Hajas.
Noes: None

c. Item: Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget:

Aranda presented the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget to the Board. Aranda stated that she had presented a Draft Fiscal Year 2026-27 at the September 9, 2026 Board meeting. Aranda explained that she had included the new office rent increase, and that Patten, the new General Manager's, laptop and phone.

Weaver motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget. Gilman seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Weaver, Ferrante di Ruffano and Hajas.
Noes: None

d. Item: Resolution 2026-03: Approve Banking Resolution 2026-03:

Aranda presented Resolution No. 2026-03 Signatory Authority for Banking Activities to the Board for approval.

Ferrante di Ruffano motioned to approve Resolution 2026-03. Gilman seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Weaver, Ferrante di Ruffano and Hajas.
Noes: None

e. Item: Resolution 2026-04: Proposed New Well Located within the Boundaries of the Agency on APN 014-0-030-205:

- Determine that Groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with the sustainable groundwater management program established in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by OBGMA for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin.

- Determine that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not decrease the likelihood of achieving any sustainability goal for the Basin as covered by the Plan; and

- Adopt Resolution No. 2026-04 Authorizing Written Verification of a proposed New Well Located Within the Boundaries of the Agency of Assessor's Parcel No. 014-0-030-205. Candy stated that Dudek's report mentioned that it was a replacement well and that Dudek needed to change the report to it being a new well.

Ferrante di Ruffano motioned to approve Resolution No. 2026-04. Weaver seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Weaver, Ferrante di Ruffano and Hajas.
Noes: None

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Legislative Ad-Hoc Committee Update:
None

b. Meter Compliance Ad-Hoc Committee Update:
None

Hajas stated that the Ad-Hoc Committees can be disbanded.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be October 29, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai.

ATTEST: _____