

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 30, 2026

The Regular Meeting of July 30, 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, Jim Finch, Bob Daddi, Mike Weaver and Andrew Whitman (arrived at 3:10). 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: Finch reported that Director Allan West passed away.

City of Ojai: None

Casitas Municipal Water District: None

Community Facilities District Report: None

4. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS:

Aranda reported the Dudek is working on the five-year plan update. Aranda is working on the Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027 draft budget. Aranda reported that at the July 14, 2026, the Ojai City Council meeting voted to suspend processing water well permits within the City limits and will vote to approve it at the August 11, 2026, meeting, it will take thirty days to take effect. Aranda announced that she will be retiring from her General Manager position in the Fall.

5. BASIN STATUS REPORT:

Jordan Kear had a presentation “Back to Basics”. Kear reported the Key Well was 91.53’ below ground level and there was 70,400 acre-feet in the basin.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA:

None

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Finch motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Daddi seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Roll Call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Whitman, Finch, Weaver and Hajas

Noes: None

8. ACTION ITEMS:

Public Hearing was opened by Hajas at 3:43

a. Item: Board Hearing to consider the imposition of a Fine and/or Civil Penalty to be Assessed Against the Owner/Operator of State Well No. 04N22W04P04S

- i. Review and Approve Resolution No. 2026-01, a Resolution of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Imposing a Fine and/or Civil Penalty on the Owner/Operator of State Well No. 04N22W04P04S Located at 417 McAndrew Road (APN 029-0-100-14).

The Board recognized the partial payment made by Mr. Wilson in the amount of \$5,025 by check dated July 27, 2026. With regard to the balance of \$3,357.50 which remains due and payable, which amount was required to be paid on or before the compliance deadline of June 19, 2026, the Board imposed a civil penalty of \$2050 (equivalent to \$50.00 per day) for failure and refusal to pay wellhead fees, groundwater extraction fees, groundwater sustainable plan fees, recordation fees, and late charges during the period June 19, 2026 (compliance deadline) to the Board hearing on July 30, 2026, a total of forty-one (41) separate days. The Board would waive the \$2,050 civil penalty in its entirety if the balance of delinquent fees (\$3,357.50) is paid no later than August 31, 2026.

Daddi motioned to approve Resolution 2026-01. Whitman seconded.

Resolution 2026-01 was approved unanimously.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Whitman, Finch, Weaver and Hajas

Noes: None

b. Item: Item: Board Hearing to consider the imposition of a Fine and/or Civil Penalty to be Assessed Against the Owner/Operator

**of State Well Nos. 04N22W07B02S, 04N22W07B07S and
04N22W07B09S**

- i. Review and Approve resolution No. 2026-02, a Resolution of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Imposing a Fine and/or Civil Penalty on the Owner/Operator of State Well Nos. 04N22W07B02S, 04N22W07B07S and 04N22W07B09S Located at 791 Boardman Road (APN 024-0-080-10)

The Board heard evidence proffered by OBGMA hydrogeologist Jordan Kear indicating that a well destruction report was on file with the County for SWN 04N22W07B07S. Based on this evidence, the Board concluded SWN 04N22W07B07S has been properly abandoned and is no longer a concern. Per an email provided by Mr. Luttenberger dated July 29, 2026, two (2) wells remain on his property, one of which is operative and active (SWN 04N22W07B07S), and the other which is inoperative and inactive (SWN 04N22W07B09S). According to Mr. Luttenberger's email the inactive well is not equipped with a pump nor does it have power run to it.

After considering the evidence the Board imposed a one-time fine of \$500 on Mr. Luttenberger for failure and refusal to pay wellhead fees, groundwater extraction fees, groundwater sustainability plan fees, recordation fees and late charges on or before the compliance deadline of June 19, 2026.

In addition, with respect to Mr. Luttenberger's operative and active well (SWN 04N22W07B07S), The Board imposed a civil penalty of \$2,050 (equivalent to \$50.00 per day) for failure and refusal to pay wellhead fees, groundwater extraction fees groundwater sustainability plan fees, recordation fees, and late charges during the period June 19, 2026 (compliance deadline) to the Board hearing on July 30, 2026, a total of forty-one (41) separate days.

With respect to Mr. Luttenberger's inoperative well (SWN 04N22W07B07S), the Board imposed an additional civil penalty of \$2,050 (equivalent to \$50.00 per day) for failure and refusal to pay wellhead fees. However, the Board also clarified that, given the inactive nature of the well, the Board would waive the \$2,050 civil penalty applicable to this well in its entirety if the well/owner operator demonstrates compliance with the County's Well Ordinance requirements applicable to "Inactive" or "Abandoned" wells within 90 days of the Board Hearing date of July 30, 2026.

Finch motioned to approve Resolution 2026-02. Whitman seconded. Resolution 2026-01 was approved.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Whitman, Finch, Weaver and Hajas

Noes: None

Abstain: Daddi

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Legislative Ad-Hoc Committee Update:

Aranda reported that the Small GSA Coalition will be receiving some of the Proposition 4 money.

b. Meter Compliance Ad-Hoc Committee Update: None

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be August 19, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai.

ATTEST: _____