

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 24, 2025

The Regular Meeting of April 24, 2025, 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 and Andrew Whitman. 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: Absent

Ojai Water Conservation District: Absent

City of Ojai: None

Casitas Municipal Water District: None

Community Facilities District Report: None

4. **GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS:** Aranda reported that there has been significant work on the database. The quarterly statements were updated and mailed the last week of March. Aranda stated that she is interested in developing a power point information video showing how to complete the quarterly statement.

5. **BASIN STATUS REPORT:**

Jordan Kear had a presentation "A Short Winter or Long Summer". Kear reported the Key Well was 99.77' below ground level and there was 64,000 acre-feet in the basin.

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

**7. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. The Financial Report for March 2025 and the Minutes for the March 27, 2025, meeting and the March 27, 2025, Special Board meeting. Finch motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items a, b and c. Whitman seconded.  
The Consent Agenda Items a, b and c were approved unanimously.  
Roll Call vote:  
Ayes: Finch, Whitman and Hajas  
Noes: None

**8. ACTION ITEMS:**

**a. Well Verification – 1188 Carne Road:**

Determine that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any 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;

Adopt Resolution No. 2025-03 Authorizing Well verification for a Proposed New Well Located Within the Boundaries of the Agency on APN 029-0-010-260, 1188 Carne Road.

The Board discussed Resolution No. 2025-03. Aranda stated that Dudek had reviewed the new well application. The extraction amount on the application was eight acre-feet per year.

Whitman motioned to approve Resolution 2025-03. Finch seconded. Resolution 2025-03 was approved unanimously.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Finch, Whitman and Hajas  
Noes: None

**b. Proposed Well Metering Exemption Ordinance (Ordinance No. 13)**

Review draft Ordinance No. 13 and provide comments. The Board welcomes public comment and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance. After receiving public comments and testimony, the Board will set a date for a public hearing to consider adoption of the ordinance.

Aranda reported that Ordinance No. 13 is following the County of Ventura's Well Metering Exemption requirements. Ordinance No. 13 will require Well Owners to be current with their reporting and

payment and there will be a fee to apply for an exemption. Whitman moved to bring Ordinance No. 13 to be presented at a Public Meeting at the Board Meeting on May 29, 2025. Finch seconded. Resolution 2025-03 was approved unanimously for the first reading at the May 29, 2025, Board meeting.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Finch, Whitman and Hajas

Noes: None

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**a. Legislative Ad-Hoc Committee Update:**

Aranda reported there will be a meeting of the Small Groundwater Sustainability Agency Coalition on May 7, 2025 in Sacramento to meet with State legislators and staff and she will be attending.

**b. Meter Compliance Ad-Hoc Committee Update:**

Aranda reported updates on the two Well Owners that are noncompliant. An attorney for the VanLanduyt well contacted our attorney, Peter Candy. The Board discussed preparing a Resolution to prepare a process to put fees on the Property Tax Roll.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be May 29, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_