

Semi-Annual Newsletter

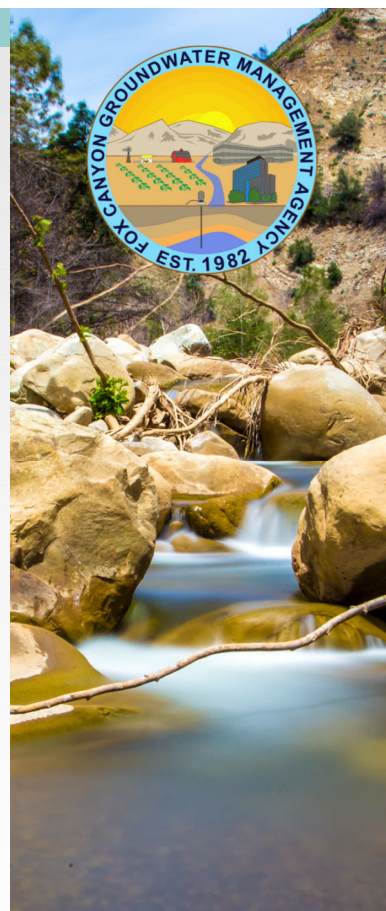
New Pumping Allocation System for Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins

The drought that hit Ventura County this last decade caused the Board to adopt the allocations set in Emergency Ordinance E as a temporary solution. Over the last four years, the Agency worked closely with stakeholders to develop a new and long-term replacement to that emergency action. Last October, the FCGMA Board adopted an ordinance establishing the new pumping allocation system for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins beginning October 1, 2020 and rescinding the Emergency Ordinance E and Ordinance Code allocation systems and the IAI reporting requirement.

The new allocations will initially be assigned to wells based on the annual average extraction from 2005 through 2014. The Board indicated its intent to transition to a land-based system in the future in the new ordinance. Operators will continue to be able to combine wells into CombCodes within the same basin. FCGMA sent information to operators earlier this year on the reported extractions at each well in 2005 through 2014. There is a variance process for owners or operators who believe there are special circumstances that apply to their well. Visit www.fcgma.org for more information and to view the ordinance.

Transition to Water Year Reporting & Allocations During Transition

The Agency is transitioning to water year reporting (October through September) which is required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The new allocation ordinance for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins implements this transition on October 1, 2020. New allocation systems have not yet been adopted for the Las Posas Valley and Arroyo Santa Rosa Valley Basins.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

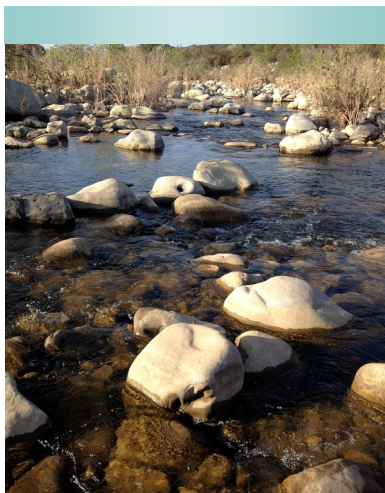
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Steve Bennett
Supervisor, County of Ventura

Michael W. Mobley
Director, United Water Conservation District

Tony Trembley
Councilperson, City of Camarillo



Upcoming 2020 Board Meetings

August 26, 2020

September 23, 2020

October 28, 2020

November - DARK
(Combined with December)

December 2, 2020

*All meetings are held in the Board
of Supervisors Hearing Room
generally starting at 1:30 PM*

Limited in-person seating is available by reservation and participation will continue to be available through Zoom while social distancing requirements remain in place.

Extraction allocations and reporting need to be adjusted to transition to the new allocation system starting on October 1, 2020. The Board adopted an ordinance on May 27, 2020, to adjust extraction allocations to facilitate the transition to water year reporting. For agricultural operators, a special reporting period for August and September 2020 was established with allocations set at 35% of each operator's 2019/2020 efficiency allocation based on analysis of AMI data which showed that 89% of agricultural operators extracted 35% or less of their total annual extractions during these two months.

For M&I operators, the ordinance sets extraction allocations for January through September 2020 at 76% of TEA based on analysis of monthly potable water production reported to the State Water Board by urban water purveyors operating in the Agency area. Similarly, domestic operators' allocation is set to 76% of their historical or baseline allocation, as applicable. July through September 2020 is a special reporting period for M&I and domestic operators.

A simplified variance process is available for operators to provide evidence of different usage during the transition period. Applications for variance to the transition allocation must be received in writing by August 31, 2020. This is a one-time allocation adjustment that will not affect the new allocations starting on October 1, 2020. Presently, this adjusted transition allocation applies only to operators in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins, but will apply to the other basins if the Board adopts an ordinance implementing a new allocation system effective October 1, 2020. Visit www.fcgma.org for more information and to view the ordinance.

Groundwater Extraction Reporting 2020-1

Semi-Annual Extraction Statements (SAES) for the first half of 2020 are due to the Agency post-marked no later than the due date printed on the SAES. To establish Agricultural allocation for crop year 2019/20 (August 1, 2019-July 31, 2020) an Annual Application for Efficiency Allocation (aka IAI form) must be submitted with the 2020-1 SAES. Should you need assistance completing any of your groundwater extraction reporting please contact our office.

*Rainfall Year Type is **TYPICAL** for the
2019/20 Crop Year*

OPV New Extraction Allocation Webinar

The Agency hosted a well-attended webinar on the new extraction allocation system for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley (OPV) Basins on Wednesday, June 3, 2020. To view the PowerPoint presentation, please go to the front page of www.fcgma.org then scroll down to [OPV New Extraction Allocation Webinar](#).

Agency Board Defers Civil Penalties and Accrual of Interest in Response to the Coronavirus Emergency

Everyone at Fox Canyon GMA hopes you, your families, your coworkers and friends are healthy and safe during these challenging times. In recognition of the challenges facing operators, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2020-04 to defer civil penalties and accrual of interest imposed by Resolution No. 2019-1 for certain violations of the Agency Ordinance Code. Civil penalties and accrual of interest are deferred from March 12, 2020, the date the County of Ventura declared a state of emergency, through June 30, 2020, the end of the current fiscal year.

Water Market Pilot Participation and Trading at All-Time High

Three times as many CombCodes and six times as many wells participated in this year's Water Market Pilot. That was 81% of eligible CombCodes in the Oxnard Basin. Since trading began at the end of March, the number of participants actively offering to buy or sell also steadily increased. At the time of writing, over 146 acre-feet of allocation have been traded at an average price of \$317 per acre-foot.

The Water Market Pilot allows pumpers to sell unused allocation for profit or buy additional allocation to avoid surcharges. With surcharges at \$1,315 per acre-foot, the average market price of \$317 per acre-foot represents a significant savings. The grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service administered by The Nature Conservancy, which covers the costs of participating in the Water Market, has been extended for another year. At the July Board meeting, the Board will be requested to extend the Water Market Pilot for the 2020-2021 water year which begins in October. The extension is proposed to have the same rules except the new allocation system for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins will apply to all pumpers in those basins. It will replace the IAI so Irrigation Efficiency Reports will no longer be required.

All agricultural well owners or operators in the Oxnard Basin can join the Water Market and submitting bids to buy or offers to sell allocation is completely voluntary. To be eligible, a well owner must have no outstanding payments and be in compliance with all Agency regulations including meter calibration and AMI. While AMI is required, it is not necessary to have AMI provided through the grant funded vendor. Two additional vendors are currently providing FCGMA required AMI that is also compatible with the Water Market Pilot.

For more information on the Water Market Pilot please visit: www.fcgma.org and select "AMI & Water Market" from the Quick Link on the right.

FCGMA Mission Statement

The Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) manages and protects both confined and unconfined aquifers within several groundwater basins underlying the southern portion of Ventura County. The FCGMA is an independent special district, separate from the County of Ventura or any city government. It was created by the California Legislature in 1982 to oversee Ventura County's vital groundwater resources. The Agency is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Las Posas Valley Basin and the majority of the Oxnard Subbasin and the Pleasant Valley Basin.

The boundary covers 183 square miles, and all lands lying above the deep Fox Canyon aquifer account for more than half of the water needs for over 700,000 residents in the cities of Ventura, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Camarillo, and Moorpark, plus the unincorporated communities of Saticoy, El Rio, Somis, Moorpark Home Acres, Nyeland Acres, Point Mugu and Montalvo.

Our offices are located at Watershed Protection Ventura County Government Center Hall of Administration.

FCGMA STAFF

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Glenn Shephard

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Deputy Director

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Clerk of the Board

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Dolores Conlin

Compliance Specialist

Kathy Jones

Business Process Coordinator

Christine Dalida

Management Assistant II

Mary Capcap

Water Resources Specialist

Alberto Boada

Agency Council

Nested Monitoring Wells Installation Update

As reported in our January 2020 newsletter, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) installed five nested groundwater monitoring wells in the northern portion of the Pleasant Valley Basin and three nested groundwater monitoring wells in the southeastern portion of the Oxnard Subbasin in response to the Agency's successful grant application. Since January, groundwater level data has been collected from the nested monitoring wells in the Pleasant Valley Basin, and three additional deeper nested monitoring wells were installed in the Oxnard Subbasin. Development of the deeper nested wells has been delayed due to COVID-19 Shelter In Place Orders and nesting birds. Development of the nested wells is scheduled for July 2020.

The location and depths of the monitoring wells were designed to fill data gaps in the groundwater monitoring network identified in the Groundwater Sustainability Plans. Permitting and environmental compliance monitoring were paid for by the Agency. Direct charges for installation and development of the monitoring wells were funded by DWR through the Technical Support Systems program. For more information, see presentations at Board meetings on June 26, 2019 (Item 5), and August 28, 2019 (Item 4) [www.fcgma.org].



Agency awarded \$854,600 Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning Grant by DWR

2020 Adopted Ordinances and Resolutions

The Board adopted Resolution 2020-04 at the April 22, 2020 meeting, which defers civil penalties and accrual of interest from March 12, the date of the declared County Public Health Emergency, through June 30, the end of the current fiscal year. Operators with specific hardships can apply for a waiver under the existing Resolution 2019-1.

The Board Adopted Resolution 2020-03 at the April 22, 2020 meeting, establishing an allocation variance application fee, prescribing penalties for certain non-reporting violations, establishing variance review committees for non-routine variance requests, and restricting use of civil penalties collected during the variance process.

To learn more visit www.fcgma.org, select [Resolutions](#) and scroll to bottom and click link to [2020-03](#) and [2020-04](#).



Resolution 2019-03 increases Sustainability Fee to \$14 /AF effective July 1, 2020 for M&I and DOM (>2 AF/year), and August 1, 2010 for AG

Grant Awarded to FCGMA

The Agency successfully applied to California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for grant funding under the 2019 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program, Planning Grant – Round 3. The program provides financial assistance for sustainable groundwater planning through a competitive grant solicitation process. The program is primarily funded by Proposition 68. Round 3 funding was available for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). DWR recognized that some GSAs have been working on GSPs which were due in January 2020. Eligible reimbursable costs are those that were incurred by Grantees after June 5, 2018 (when Proposition 68 was approved by voters). The FCGMA submitted a grant application for development of *GSPs for the Oxnard Subbasin, Pleasant Valley Basin and Las Posas Valley Basin* (Project). The Grant amount awarded to FCGMA is \$854,600 with a cost share of \$285,000. The Agency plans to use much of this funding for efforts to increase the sustainable yield of the basins including basin optimization studies and project feasibility analyses.

*The deadline for **Domestic pumpers** to install AMI on all active flowmeters is **October 1, 2020***

Crop Year 2019-2020 Preliminary Rainfall Data in Inches (5 Station Average)



For more information please
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Welcome Councilperson, City of Camarillo, Tony Trembley

Tony Trembley is the new Five Cities' Representative on the FCGMA Board of Directors. He is currently the Mayor of the City of Camarillo and has served on the Camarillo City Council since 2016. Tony also serves as a director on the Ventura County Transportation Commission and as an alternate director for Metrolink.



Tony is originally from Marin County and received his undergraduate education at the University of California, Davis and Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. He graduated from the UC Davis School of Law in 1983.

Tony's law practice focuses on public entity and environmental law. He semi-retired in 2017 and maintains a small part-time solo practice. Tony's prior general counsel clients include the United Water Conservation District, Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board, and Friant Water Authority.

Surcharge Rates: Tier I: One to 25.000 AF = \$1,461.00 per AF

Tier II: 25.001 AF to 99.999 AF = \$1,711.00 per AF

Tier III: 100 AF or more = \$1,961.00 per AF

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