

MINUTES

Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

Board Members:

INDIAN CREEK-WESTRIDGE CSD	Luis Elias	BIG PINE CSD	BryAnna Vaughan
COUNTY OF MONO	Rhonda Duggan	LONE PINE PAIUTE SHOSHONE TRIBE	Mel Joseph
CITY OF BISHOP	Karen Kong	OWENS VALLEY COMMITTEE	Mary Roper
COUNTY OF INYO	Dan Totheroh		

July 22, 2021

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. via videoconference.

1. Pledge of allegiance

The Chairperson led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

The Chairperson opened up public comment and there was no one wishing to address the Board of Directors.

3. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe and Owens Valley Committee absent.

4. Approval of minutes from the April 8, 2021 Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting. Motion to approve by Rhonda Duggan, seconded by Karen Kong. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Rhonda Duggan – Y, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Totheroh - Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Mel Joseph - absent, Dave Wagoner – absent . Motion passed 5 Yes, 2 absent.

5. Board Member Reports

The Chairperson opened up Board Member reports and there were no reports or updates provided.

6. OVGA staff reports

a. Financial Report

Laura Piper, Inyo County Water Department provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$410,278.92; revenues included \$304,804.81 in grant reimbursements from January-Junc 2021, 3rd quarter 2020/21 interest of \$399.70; expenses were insurance costs of \$2,473, \$5,987.50 to the consultant, and staff costs \$33,640.08.

b. Report on Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority activities

John Vallejo stated IWVGD has filed for a basin wide adjudicatory action to find out who has what water rights in the basin and has included the Navy in the lawsuit; contentious enforcement administrative hearings on two major pumpers, the pistachio growers and Searles Valley Minerals have continued to pump their groundwater without paying the fee; they have both filed a lawsuit challenging the fee. IWVGD authorized staff to initiate a lawsuit to bring the enforcement of shutting their pumping down into the court's jurisdiction. The IWVGD has approved the purchase of some groundwater rights from a user who has water project entitlements in Antelope Valley which they believe is the best path or deal with LADWP for water from the aqueduct. Commissioner Vaughan inquired if there were any conservation efforts in that area.

Dave Wagner joined the meeting at 1:45 pm.

c. Owens Lake update

Dr. Steinwand stated LADWP published a press release that officially postponed the pump test on Owens Lake.

d. AB 754 update

Dr. Steinwand stated RCRC notified him there was an assembly bill moving through the process that would allow DWR the discretion to extend the deadline to submit GSP's by up to six months to allow for additional stakeholder engagement.

- On July 8 the bill died in the Senate Committee hearing.
- e. Tri-Valley survey update
- Dr. Steinwand stated a survey was distributed to the Tri-Valley area; approximately 500 were mailed with approximately 30 responses. Michael Draper, Mono County, stated they continue to receive surveys.

7. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding future management actions to include in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dr. Steinwand provided an in-depth PowerPoint presentation on proposed management actions and projects that could be included in the GSP, recognizing the basin is ranked low priority. Despite the ranking, there are some concerns in portions of the basin such as declining water levels and data gaps. This will be a roadmap to address those concerns if the GSP is implemented. The Board and staff discussed this at length. Holly Alpert discussed the IRWMP program helping with administration and grant writing. Philip Anaya stated under the management actions, could they consider under additional activities an action of formally requesting for a voluntary GSP for the adjudicated portion of the basin and working for a basin wide management; under the management area looking for surface flow management, Bishop Creek, Chandler Decree requiring a minimum flow of 37,000 acre feet annually, can the OVGA regulate a portion of the excess of minimum flows for recharge of the aquifers. Dr. Steinwand stated it was requested informally and LADWP was not interested in a GSP; and that the OVGA could not regulate surface water flows. Philip Anaya stated he believes in SGMA there is the ability for groundwater authorities to regulate surface flow for recharge. Emily Fox, Deputy Council Mono County, representing Tri-Valley stated she appreciates seeing the matrix and Tri-Valley looks forward to providing additional comments on the jurisdictional issues. Rick Kattelmann stated the IRWMP is supportive to work with the OVGA to secure funding needs in the future.

8. Correspondence: Department of Water Resources letter and Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District request

Dr. Steinwand reviewed correspondence that Tri-Valley has requested the OVGA modify its GSA boundary to carve out the district so their request to become a GSA could go forward by DWR. The letter from DWR stated the OVGA is the exclusive GSA so it is up to this Board to consider the request and can be placed on the agenda as a future action item. The OVGA's obligation per DWR is to produce a GSP that includes the entire basin which is necessary to fulfill the grant agreement and to comply with SGMA and file a complete submission of a plan. Philip Anaya stated he believes in discussions it was apparent that each basin could have as many GSA's as they wanted with one GSP.

9. Discussion regarding future agenda items

The Board and staff discussed future agenda items; review and approval of the GSP.

10. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3:20 pm.

COUNTY OF INYO
WED, AUG 11, 2021, 11:42 AM --req: HW0254---leg: GL ---loc: AUD-----job:29956708 J13070---prog: GL440

[T R A N S A C T I O N L I S T I N G] 07/01/2020 - 08/11/2021
08/11/2020 - 08/11/2021
REPORT id: GLFLTR02

SORT ORDER: OBJECT within BUDUNIT

SELECT BUDGET UNIT: 621601

Lg BUDGET UNIT	Primary Ref	Transaction Description	SS	Ref Date	Job No	Debit	Credit	NET
GL 621601-5265	248080	DANIEL B STEPHEN APR21 INYO P#D OH 05/26/21 02925039				1,535.00	0.00	289,271.20
*****Total *OBJT 5265		PROFESSIONAL & SPECIAL SERVICE	DR	289,271.20			0.00	289,271.20
GL 621601-5539	JE37592	OVGA-BOARD STAFF JUL-SEP20	JB	10/15/20	02787152	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
GL 621601-5539	202101	MONO COUNTY JUL-SEP 2020 OVGA	OH	11/03/20	02798240	5,673.75	0.00	8,673.75
GL 621601-5539	JE38067	JUL-SEP2020 STAFF OVGA BOARD	JE	12/14/20	02821410	9,223.69	0.00	17,897.44
GL 621601-5539	202102	MONO COUNTY 10/20-12/20 MONO C OH	02/18/21	02859888	2,184.00	0.00	20,081.44	
GL 621601-5539	JE38701	OCT-DEC20 OVGA INYO STAFF	JE	03/18/21	02876914	18,767.23	0.00	38,848.67
GL 621601-5539	Q3 20/21	OVGA LEGAL SVCS	JE	04/14/21	028394983	4,500.00	0.00	43,348.67
GL 621601-5539	JE38925	Q2 20/21 OVGA LEGAL SVCS	JE	04/14/21	028394983	4,500.00	0.00	47,848.67
GL 621601-5539	202103	MONO COUNTY JAN-MAR 2021 STAFF OH	04/28/21	028394334	4,161.00	0.00	52,009.67	
GL 621601-5539	JE39129	I#000-1 JAN-MAR21 INTO STAFF	JE	05/07/21	0291162	9,941.67	0.00	61,951.34
GL 621601-5539	JA20027	APR-JUN21 OVGA-STAFF SERVICES	JE	06/27/21	02863401	1,500.00	0.00	63,451.34
GL 621601-5539	JA20028	APR-JUN21 OVGA-STAFF SERVICES	JE	06/27/21	02963401	9,037.41	0.00	72,488.75
GL 621601-5539	202104	MONO, COUNTY OF APR-JUN 2021 S OH	06/27/21	02971183	2,576.50	0.00	75,065.25	
*****Total *OBJT 5539		OTHER AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS	DR	75,065.25		0.00	75,065.25	
*****Total *BUDG 621601		OVGA-OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER	DR-CR	1,537,673.12	1,537,673.12	0.00		

*** G R A N D T O T A L ***

DR-CR 1,537,673.12 1,537,673.12 0.00

COUNTY OF INYO
UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCES

AS OF 06/30/2021

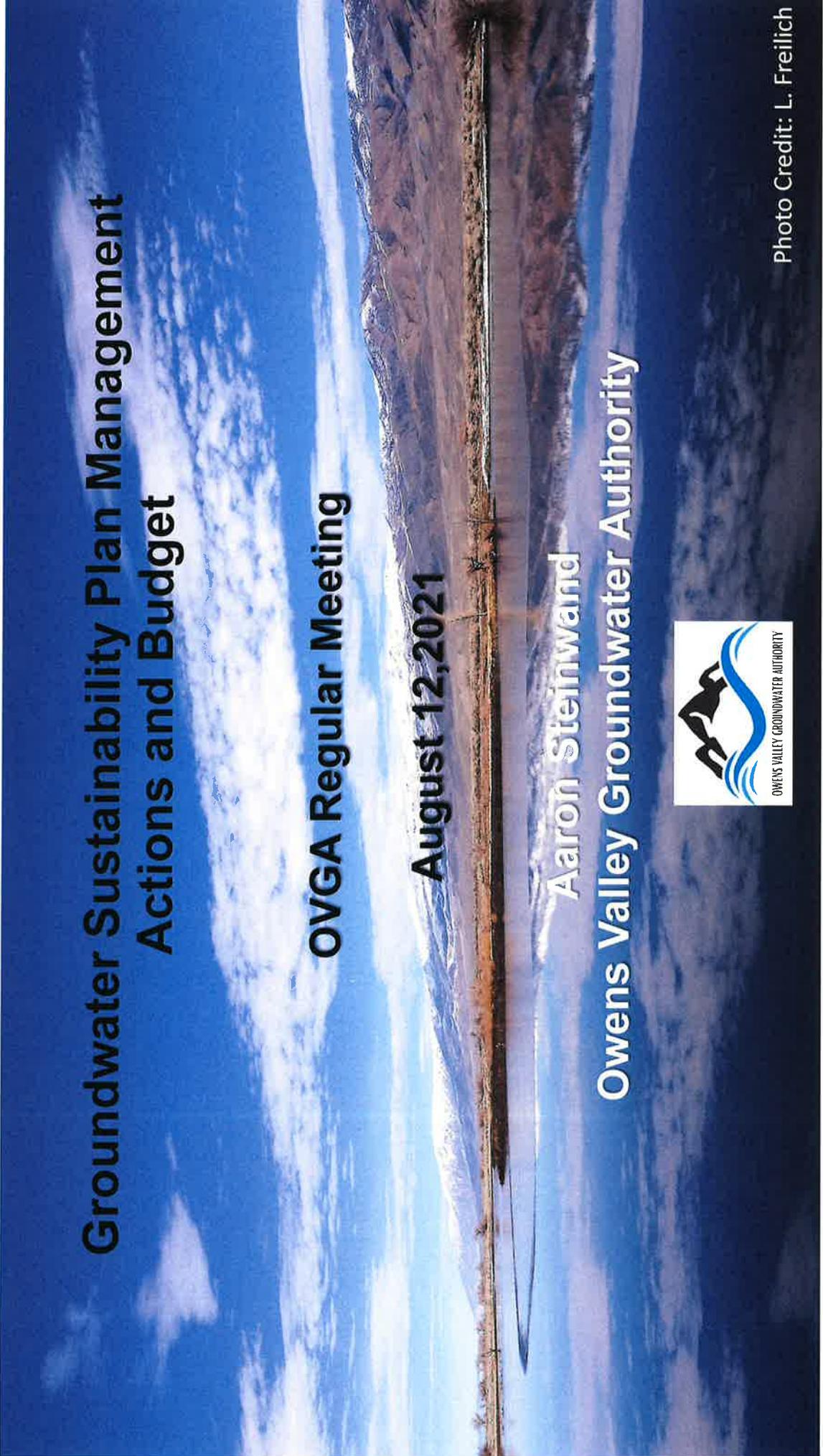
		Claim on Cash 1000	Accounts Receivable 1100,1105,1160	Loans Receivable 1140	Prepaid Expenses 1200	Accounts Payable 2000	Loans Payable 2140	Deferred Revenue 2200	Computed Fund Balance	Fund Balance Undesignated
WDIR	- WATER									
6272	OVGA-OWENS VALLEY	410,279	573		2,473	2,577			410,748	410,439
WDIR	Totals	410,279	573		2,473	2,577			410,748	410,439
Grand Totals		410,279	573		2,473	2,577			410,748	309

COUNTY OF INYO
Budget to Actuals with Encumbrances by Key/Obj

Ledger: GL

As Of 8/11/2021

Object	Description	Budget	Actual	Encumbrance	Balance
Key: 621601 - OVGA-OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER					
Revenue					
4301	INTEREST FROM TREASURY	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
4498	STATE GRANTS	311,284.00	0.00	0.00	311,284.00
4599	OTHER AGENCIES	249,195.00	0.00	0.00	249,195.00
Revenue Total:		564,479.00	0.00	0.00	564,479.00
Expenditure					
5129	INTERNAL COPY CHARGES	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
5155	PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE	2,500.00	2,473.00	0.00	27.00
5263	ADVERTISING	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
5265	PROFESSIONAL & SPECIAL	314,834.00	0.00	0.00	314,834.00
5291	OFFICE, SPACE & SITE RENTAL	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
5311	GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSE	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
5539	OTHER AGENCY	104,470.00	0.00	0.00	104,470.00
5901	CONTINGENCIES	13,290.00	0.00	0.00	13,290.00
Expenditure Total:		440,594.00	2,473.00	0.00	438,121.00
621601	Key Total:	123,885.00	(2,473.00)	0.00	126,358.00



Groundwater Sustainability Plan Management Actions and Budget

OVGA Regular Meeting

August 12, 2021

Aaron Steinwand

Owens Valley Groundwater Authority



Photo Credit: L. Freilich

GSP Development Steps



Science: Describe the Basin

Institutional Setting: Plan Area, Water Supply	Data Compilation & Data Management System
Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model	Water Budget (Historical, Current, and Projected)

Policy: Set Groundwater Monitoring and Goals for the Basin

Develop Monitoring Plan	Define Undesirable Results for this Basin
Set Sustainability Criteria (SMC)	

Implementation Components: Steps the OVGA can undertake to manage the Basin

Projects and Management actions to Achieve Sustainability (Regulations)?	Future Budget and Financing (Fees, Member Contributions?)
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GSP Budget Assumptions

1. OVGA continues to be active to implement entire GSP
2. 2021-22 Budget remains unchanged; FY 2022-23 and ongoing annual costs estimated
3. Staffing from member's staff or contractors
4. Costs (mostly staff) built from hours for specific tasks
5. Individual costs for Management Actions and by Management Area also presented
6. Uncertainty regarding future jurisdiction and Board decisions regarding implementation of the GSP were set aside. This budget can adjust depending on the future situation.
7. Budget doesn't include line item for contingency (e.g. a fixed percent)



GSP Budget Assumptions: Administration

1. Two meetings a year: Staff and Counsel time
2. Annual report and budget: Staff time
3. Routine business and track SGMA developments: Staff time
4. Website maintenance: contractor
5. Insurance, Fiscal Agent, and general operating expense

Estimated Administration Annual Total: \$22,970



GSP Database Maintenance Budget

1. Staff time for data entry
2. Assumes no additional water level or pumping data (ICWD will maintain data provided under LTWA)
3. Additional data entry from ordinances or increased water level monitoring included in Management Action costs

Estimated Database Annual Total: \$3,360

GSP Proposed Management Actions and Projects

1. Well Registration and Reporting Ordinance
2. Well Permit Review Ordinance
3. Increase groundwater level monitoring network
4. Tri-Valley groundwater model development
5. Additional Activities:
 - Provide assistance acquiring state or federal funding
 - Develop pumping program to stabilize water levels in Tri-Valley Groundwater Management Area
 - Owens Lake Groundwater Development Project



GSP Management Actions and Projects Budget



Management Action	FY 2022-23	Ongoing annual cost
Well Registration and Reporting Ordinance	\$14,370	\$360
Well Permit Review Ordinance	\$7,920	\$1,740
Increase groundwater level monitoring network	\$26,730	\$10,050
Groundwater model	\$310,775	\$0
Grant Assistance or multi agency cooperation	\$5,840	\$5,840
Total	\$365,635	\$17,990



GSP Budget by Management Area, All Actions Implemented

OVGA Operation	Admin and Basin Wide Projects	Tri-Valley	Owens Valley	Owens Lake	Totals
FY 2022-23	\$45,260	\$20,640	\$8,545	\$6,825	\$81,270
Ongoing annual cost	\$25,070	\$11,760	\$4,645	\$3,145	\$44,620
GW model		\$310,775			\$310,775
Total	\$70,330	\$343,175	\$13,190	\$9,970	\$436,665



- Questions?:

- Website : OVGA.us

- Contacts:

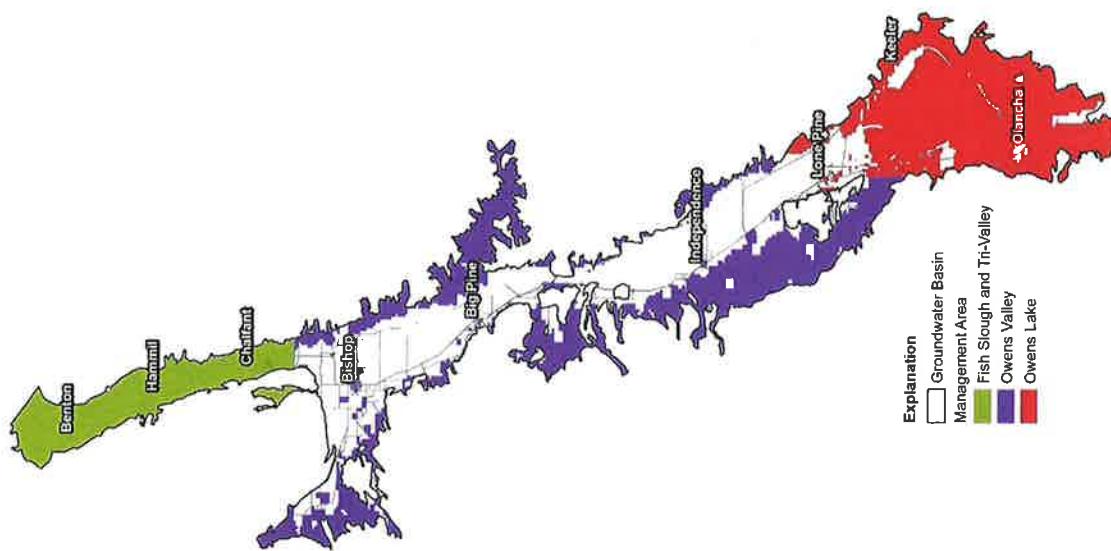
Aaron Steinwand
Executive Manager, OVGA
asteinwand@inyocounty.us



Funding for this project has been provided in part from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 and through an agreement with the State Department of Water Resources



Proposed Management Areas for the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin



OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Big Pine CSD – City of Bishop – County of Inyo – County of Mono – Indian Creek-Westridge CSD
Interested Parties: Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe - Owens Valley Committee

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Fax: (760) 878-2552
www.inyowater.org

Staff Report

Date: August 12, 2021

Subject: Item #8, Action Item: Creation of Owens Valley Groundwater Basin Management Areas.

This agenda item requests the Board formally create three management areas in the Basin. In March 2021, the OVGA directed staff and consultants to organize the GSP by the proposed management areas, but the areas have not been created by a formal vote. Staff and consultants have proposed dividing the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin into three management areas based on the varying hydrogeologic conditions arising from the differences in topography, geology, and climate over the large area of the Basin. The management areas are: Tri-Valley and Fish Slough, Owens Valley, and Owens Lake. Dividing the Basin into separate management areas allows for development of unique sustainable management criteria and potential management actions that take into account the hydrogeologic conditions present in each area. The Joint Powers Agreement (Article II. 4.3) requires a majority vote of the Directors appointed by members to create management areas. Interested Parties do not vote on this action.