

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		

January 27, 2022

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. via videoconference.

1. Pledge of allegiance

Bob Gardner led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

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

3. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with one alternate in attendance, Mono County, Bob Gardner.

4. Approval of minutes from the January 6, 2022 Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2022 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Luis Elias, seconded by Dan Totheroh. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Bob Gardner – abstain, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Totheroh - Y, BryAnna Vaughan – abstain, Mel Joseph - Y, Mary Roper – Y. Motion passed 5 Yes, 2 abstentions.

5. Request that OVGA adopt finding pursuant to AB 361 that: A) the Board reconsidered the circumstances of the existing State of Emergency issued on March 4, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and B) local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing, and/or the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the request that OVGA adopt finding pursuant to AB 361 that: A) the Board reconsidered the circumstances of the existing State of Emergency issued on March 4, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and B) local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing, and/or the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person. Motion to approve by Luis Elias, seconded by BryAnna Vaughan. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Bob Gardner – Y, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Totheroh - Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Mary Roper - Y. Motion passed 7 Yes.

6. Discussion regarding future meeting dates agenda items

The next two meetings were scheduled for February 10, 2022 and March 10, 2022. Dr. Steinwand stated upcoming agenda items will be the boundary of the GSA; potential management actions; a draft budget; and a future staffing model. Luis Elias inquired about the view of attendees for the public; Dr. Steinwand stated it was discussed at the January 6, 2022 meeting, under this software platform, there is not the ability to allow the public to view attendees during the meeting webinar but a screen shot will be placed on the meetings page of the OVGA website.

10. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:13 pm.

WED, FEB 02, 2022, 2:05 PM --req: HW0254-----leg: GL ----loc: AUD-----job:3095840 J3974-----prog: GL440 <1.61>---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	621601-1000	YEAREND	1. Balance Forward 2020/2021	JE	07/01/21	03078945	410,278.65	0.00	410,278.65
GL	621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20719A Job:2974214	OH	07/28/21	02974214	0.00	2,576.50	410,278.65
GL	621601-1000	INTRCBL	AutoID:JA21802D Job:2977979	JE	08/02/21	02977979	572.61	0.00	408,274.76
GL	621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20811B Job:2991718	OH	08/18/21	02991718	0.00	3,885.57	404,389.19
GL	621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:OB21C04B Job:3023580	OH	10/05/21	03023580	0.00	6,925.75	397,463.44
GL	621601-1000	JE40105	AutoID:JR21C07B Job:3025272	JE	10/07/21	03025272	0.00	27,101.58	392,963.44
GL	621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20C04B Job:3026345	OH	10/07/21	03026345	0.00	2,451.23	363,410.63
GL	621601-1000	IS1021	AutoID:IS21C18E Job:3036558	JE	10/26/21	03036558	0.00	36.46	363,374.17
GL	621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20C19A Job:3039230	OH	10/29/21	03039230	0.00	186.00	363,188.17
GL	621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20C21A Job:3039230	OH	10/29/21	03039230	0.00	181.76	363,006.41
GL	621601-1000	INTEREST	AutoID:JA21819B Job:3052784	JE	11/08/21	03052784	192.25	0.00	363,198.66
GL	621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:SW21N17K Job:3054855	OH	11/23/21	03054855	0.00	1,625.00	361,573.66
GL	621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20N19B Job:3058264	OH	12/01/21	03058264	0.00	10,428.81	351,144.85
GL	621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD21D08A Job:3066978	OH	12/15/21	03066978	0.00	248.00	350,896.85
GL	621601-1000	TTLCR	AutoID:CS21D21A Job:3070820	CR	12/21/21	03070820	9,604.95	0.00	360,501.80
GL	621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD21D17A Job:3073948	OH	12/29/21	03073948	0.00	930.00	359,571.80
GL	621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:ES22105C Job:3079792	OH	01/07/22	03079792	0.00	500.00	359,071.80
GL	621601-1000	JE40799	AutoID:JR22119B Job:3087957	JE	01/19/22	03087957	0.00	4,500.00	354,571.80
GL	621601-1000	IS0122	AutoID:IS220120 Job:3089973	JE	01/25/22	03089973	0.00	0.72	354,571.08
GL	621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD22124C Job:3092724	OH	01/28/22	03092724	0.00	2,795.33	351,775.75
*****Total *OBJT 1000 CLAIM ON CASH DR							420,648.46		351,775.75
GL	621601-1160	YEAREND	1. Balance Forward 2020/2021	JE	07/01/21	03078945	572.61	0.00	572.61
GL	621601-1160	INTRCBL	4th QTR INTEREST RVRS	JE	08/02/21	02977979	0.00	572.61	0.00
*****Total *OBJT 1160 INTEREST RECEIVABLE DR							572.61		0.00
GL	621601-1200	YEAREND	1. Balance Forward 2020/2021	JE	07/01/21	03078945	2,473.00	0.00	2,473.00
GL	621601-1200	2122 PREPAID	UR414926:GOLDEN STATE RISK MAN	JE	07/08/21	02957191	0.00	2,473.00	0.00
*****Total *OBJT 1200 PREPAID EXPENSES DR							2,473.00		0.00
GL	621601-2000	YEAREND	1. Balance Forward 2020/2021	JE	07/01/21	03078945	0.00	6,462.07	6,462.07
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20719A Job:2974214	OH	07/28/21	02974214	2,576.50	0.00	3,885.57
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20811B Job:2991718	OH	08/18/21	02991718	3,885.57	0.00	0.00
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:OB21C04B Job:3023148	OH	10/04/21	03023148	0.00	6,925.75	6,925.75
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:OB21C04B Job:3023580	OH	10/05/21	03023580	6,925.75	0.00	0.00
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20C04B Job:3024986	OH	10/06/21	03024986	0.00	2,451.23	2,451.23
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20C19A Job:3037191	OH	10/08/21	03026345	0.00	0.00	0.00
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20C21A Job:3037563	OH	10/26/21	03037191	0.00	186.00	186.00
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20C19A Job:3039230	OH	10/27/21	03037563	0.00	181.76	367.76
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20C21A Job:3039230	OH	10/29/21	03039230	186.00	0.00	181.76
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20C21A Job:3051402	OH	11/17/21	03051402	181.76	0.00	0.00
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:SW21N17K Job:3054855	OH	11/23/21	03054855	0.00	1,625.00	1,625.00
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD20N19B Job:3057687	OH	11/30/21	03057687	0.00	0.00	0.00
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD21D08A Job:3058264	OH	12/01/21	03058264	10,428.81	0.00	10,428.81
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD21D08A Job:3065865	OH	12/14/21	03065865	0.00	0.00	0.00
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD21D17A Job:3066978	OH	12/15/21	03066978	248.00	0.00	248.00
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD21D17A Job:3072004	OH	12/27/21	03072004	0.00	930.00	930.00
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD21D17A Job:3073948	OH	12/29/21	03073948	930.00	0.00	0.00
GL	621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:ES22105C Job:3077708	OH	01/05/22	03077708	0.00	500.00	500.00

SELECT BUDGET UNIT: 621601

GL BUDGET UNIT	Primary Ref	Transaction Description	SS Ref	Date	Job No	Debit	Credit	NET
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:ES22105C Job:3079792	OH	01/07/22	03079792	500.00	0.00	0.00
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD22124C Job:3090711	OH	01/25/22	03090711	0.00	2,795.33	2,795.33
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD22124C Job:3092724	OH	01/28/22	03092724	2,795.33	0.00	0.00
*****Total *OBJT 2000		ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			CR	32,733.95	32,733.95	0.00
GL 621601-3000	YEAREND	1. Balance Forward 2020/2021	JE	07/01/21	03078945	0.00	406,862.19	406,862.19
*****Total *OBJT 3000		FUND BALANCE AVAILABLE			CR	0.00	406,862.19	406,862.19
GL 621601-4301	INTEREST	1ST QRT 21/22 INTEREST	JE	11/08/21	03052784	0.00	192.25	192.25
*****Total *OBJT 4301		INTEREST FROM TREASURY			CR	0.00	192.25	192.25
GL 621601-4498	CR128270	I#6 OVGA GRANT PMNT	CR	12/21/21	03070820	0.00	9,604.95	9,604.95
*****Total *OBJT 4498		STATE GRANTS			CR	0.00	9,604.95	9,604.95
GL 621601-5129	IS1021	IS PHOTOCOPIES Q1	JE	10/26/21	03036558	36.46	0.00	36.46
GL 621601-5129	IS0122	IS PHOTOCOPIES Q2	JE	01/25/22	03089973	0.72	0.00	37.18
*****Total *OBJT 5129		INTERNAL COPY CHARGES (NON-IS)			DR	37.18	0.00	37.18
GL 621601-5155	2122 PREPAID	UA414926:GOLDEN STATE RISK MAN	JE	07/08/21	02957191	2,473.00	0.00	2,473.00
*****Total *OBJT 5155		PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE			DR	2,473.00	0.00	2,473.00
GL 621601-5263	54522	COMMUNITY PRINT OWENS VALLEY G	OH	10/06/21	03024986	2,451.23	0.00	2,451.23
GL 621601-5263	9277	THE SHEET INC INYO COUNTY WATE	OH	10/26/21	03037191	186.00	0.00	2,637.23
GL 621601-5263	6200 0321	INYO REGISTER, ACCT#6200	OH	10/27/21	03037563	0.00	66.24	2,570.99
GL 621601-5263	6200 0921	INYO REGISTER, ACCT#6200	OH	10/27/21	03037563	168.00	0.00	2,738.99
GL 621601-5263	7589 0921	INYO REGISTER, ACCT#7589	OH	10/27/21	03037563	80.00	0.00	2,818.99
GL 621601-5263	6200 1121	INYO REGISTER, ACCT#00006200	OH	12/14/21	03065865	168.00	0.00	2,986.99
GL 621601-5263	7589 1121	THE SHEET INC INYO COUNTY WATE	OH	12/14/21	03065865	80.00	0.00	3,066.99
GL 621601-5263	9426	ADVERTISING	OH	12/27/21	03072004	930.00	0.00	3,996.99
*****Total *OBJT 5263					DR	4,063.23	66.24	3,996.99
GL 621601-5265	250511	DANIEL B STEPHE INYO CO PROJ#D	OH	10/04/21	03023148	6,925.75	0.00	6,925.75
GL 621601-5265	251356	DANIEL B STEPHE INYO CO PROJ#D	OH	11/17/21	03051402	1,625.00	0.00	8,550.75
GL 621601-5265	252198	DANIEL B STEPHE INYO CO PROJ#D	OH	01/05/22	03077708	500.00	0.00	9,050.75
*****Total *OBJT 5265		PROFESSIONAL & SPECIAL SERVICE			DR	9,050.75	0.00	9,050.75
GL 621601-5539	JE40105	JUL-SEP21 OVGS LEGAL SERVICE	JE	10/07/21	03025272	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00
GL 621601-5539	JE40106	JUL-SEP21 OVGS STAFF SERVICE	JE	10/07/21	03025272	27,101.58	0.00	31,601.58
GL 621601-5539	20221	MONO, COUNTY OF July-Sept 2021	OH	11/30/21	03057687	10,428.81	0.00	42,030.39
GL 621601-5539	JE40799	OCT-DEC21 OVGA STAFF	JE	01/19/22	03087957	4,500.00	0.00	46,530.39
GL 621601-5539	20222	MONO, COUNTY OF OCT-DEC 2021 M	OH	03/25/22	03090711	2,795.33	0.00	49,325.72
*****Total *OBJT 5539		OTHER AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS			DR	49,325.72	0.00	49,325.72
*****Total *BUDG 621601		OVGA-OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER			DR-CR	521,377.90	521,377.90	0.00
		** G R A N D T O T A L **			DR-CR	521,377.90	521,377.90	0.00

**COUNTY OF INYO
UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCES**

AS OF 06/30/2022

WDIR - WATER	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	Encumbrances	Fund Balance Undesignated
6272 OVGA-OWENS VALLEY	351,776							351,776	309	351,467
WDIR Totals	351,776							351,776	309	351,467
Grand Totals	351,776							351,776	309	351,467

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

Ledger: GL

As Of 2/1/2022

Object	Description	Budget	Actual	Encumbrance	Balance	
Key: 621601 - OVGA-OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER						
Revenue						
4301	INTEREST FROM TREASURY	4,000.00	192.25	0.00	3,807.75	4.80
4498	STATE GRANTS	149,542.00	9,604.95	0.00	139,937.05	6.42
	Revenue Total:	153,542.00	9,797.20	0.00	143,744.80	
Expenditure						
5129	INTERNAL COPY CHARGES	1,500.00	37.18	0.00	1,462.82	2.47
5155	PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE	2,500.00	2,473.00	0.00	27.00	98.92
5263	ADVERTISING	3,000.00	3,996.99	0.00	(996.99)	133.23
5265	PROFESSIONAL & SPECIAL	12,659.00	9,050.75	309.00	3,299.25	71.49
5291	OFFICE, SPACE & SITE RENTAL	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
5311	GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSE	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
5539	OTHER AGENCY	107,470.00	49,325.72	0.00	58,144.28	45.89
5901	CONTINGENCIES	13,290.00	0.00	0.00	13,290.00	0.00
	Expenditure Total:	142,419.00	64,883.64	309.00	77,226.36	
621601	Key Total:	11,123.00	(55,086.44)	(309.00)	66,518.44	

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

P.O. Box 337
135 Jackson Street
Independence, CA 93526

Phone: (760) 878-0001
Fax: (760) 878-2552
www.inyowater.org

Staff Report

Date: February 10, 2022

Subject: Item #8 Status of OVGA membership and possible direction to staff regarding adjustment of the OVGA boundary.

Introduction

In accordance with the JPA (Article VI 1.1), the Mono County Board of Supervisors considered their status as a member of the OVGA and provided notice of its intent to withdraw. Notices to withdraw do not require Board approval and given that we are in a low-priority basin, Mono's membership would terminate July 1, 2022. After that date, the OVGA will only consist of members with land or water management jurisdiction in Inyo County and will not be able to implement the GSP in the Mono County portion of the Basin (Water Code § 10726.8(b)). It is appropriate for the OVGA to consider whether to amend the GSA boundary. Staff are requesting direction whether to prepare the necessary notifications and OVGA actions to amend the boundary at a future meeting. Board action is not being requested at this meeting.

Review

Amending the GSA boundary is a different and less onerous process than amending the boundary of the groundwater basin. Agencies begin the process of acquiring GSA status by providing notice to DWR of their intent to assume groundwater management responsibilities in an area. DWR's authority is largely ministerial if the notice is complete and complies with SGMA. DWR posts notices judged complete, and after 90 days if no other local agency submits a notification to manage groundwater in same area, then the agency is presumed to be the exclusive GSA. Originally, Inyo County, Mono County, City of Bishop and the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District each were the exclusive GSAs within their respective jurisdictions. In May 2018, the four agencies withdrew their individual notices and simultaneously and the OVGA filed a new notice to be the exclusive GSA for the Basin.

Analysis

Actions that the OVGA could take following the withdrawal of Mono County include: 1) take no action until the Basin is re-ranked and remain the exclusive GSA for the entire basin, 2) consider the 2021 request of the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District (TVGMD) to amend the GSA boundary to exclude the portion of the basin within their district, or 3) amend the GSA

boundary to coincide with the Inyo County portion of the basin subject to SGMA where members have jurisdiction.

If the OVGA takes no action to amend the GSA boundary, the entire Basin would remain the responsibility of the OVGA including areas in Mono County where the OVGA has no jurisdiction to implement the GSP. The boundary of the agency would not coincide with the GSA members' boundaries, and the OVGA notice may no longer be judged "complete" and in compliance with SGMA. As long as the basin remains low priority, such an arrangement may be permitted to persist, but as a general principle, it would not be advisable to retain responsibility for areas over which the agency has no authority.

In February 2021, the TVGMD (District) provided notice to DWR of its intent to form a GSA. The District is already within the boundary of the OVGA, and because the OVGA had not withdrawn as the exclusive GSA over that area, DWR could not post the notice submitted by the District. Subsequently, in June 2021 TVGMD requested the OVGA amend its boundary to exclude the District. The OVGA has not acted on that request. Amending the GSA boundary to exclude TVGMD would allow their notice to be posted, but the OVGA would still include areas in Mono County over which it would have no jurisdiction.

Establishing the GSA boundary along the Inyo-Mono County line would contract the OVGA to areas managed by the present members, preclude questions of jurisdiction and management under the GSP, and avoid overlap with the other two potential GSAs. The TVGMD request to DWR could proceed and Mono County would also be allowed to re-establish its GSA status over the remaining portion of the Basin if it desires. In the event TVGMD or Mono County acquire GSA status, SGMA allows a basin to be managed by multiple GSAs, but the additional step of developing coordination agreements may be required. If the Basin is re-ranked and a portion of the Basin is not managed by a GSA and GSP, it is unlikely that the OVGA would be responsible for the uncovered portion of the Basin if the state intervened.

SGMA does not directly address the procedure to modify a GSA. Water Code §10723.8(c) does include steps to resolve overlap among GSAs. If the actions or agreements of local agencies to resolve overlap result in a "*material change in the information in the posted notice*", then "*a new notification shall be submitted and DWR shall post the notice*". The original notification would be withdrawn and the process of forming the GSA would start over including a new 90-day period for other agencies to file notices to become a GSA for part of the area. However, if a local agency makes the determination that a material change did not occur when resolving overlap, then the new map and a new GSA-boundary shapefile would be posted and reviewed by DWR.

Several GSAs have modified their posted notifications to make small changes to the GSA area after land annexation or basin boundary modification. Some GSAs have withdrawn individual notices and resubmitted. It is suggested that the procedure to resolve overlap be applied to our situation of dividing a GSA if the OVGA desires to amend the boundary. The OVGA would be required to make a determination whether the amended boundary constitutes a material change. If a material change has occurred, the OVGA would withdraw and post a new notice. If a material change has not occurred, the OVGA would revise the boundary shapefile and associated

information in the original notice which would be subject to DWR review. This process should be coordinated with DWR and adjacent (potential) GSAs to avoid portions of the basin being identified as unmanaged.

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

P.O. Box 337
135 Jackson Street
Independence, CA 93526

Phone: (760) 878-0001
Fax: (760) 878-2552
www.inyowater.org

Staff Report

Date: February 10, 2022

Subject: Item #9 Discussion of OVGA GSP Management Actions and possible direction to staff for inclusion in the 2022-2023 budget.

Introduction

The Final Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was submitted to the California Department of Water Resources on January 26, 2022. The Basin is low priority and the OVGA is not required to comply with SGMA or implement the GSP unless the basin is ranked as medium or high priority in the future. This agenda item is an opportunity for the Board of Directors to consider the desired level of administration and management actions described in the GSP to implement in 2022-23. Staff request direction on these activities to guide preparation of the draft annual budget that must be presented to the Board before April 1 and adopted before May 1 (JPA Article I, 5.8). Cost estimates included in the GSP were the best assessment of hours required to complete and were based on recent OVGA staff rates to assist OVGA decisions on what projects to pursue. In the draft budget, estimated expenses should probably include an allowance for unforeseen circumstances (e.g. plan for two meetings but budget for three), but those details will be discussed in March when the draft budget is presented.

Because of the discretion afforded the OVGA by the low priority status, the Board could delay all or part of the GSP until required by SGMA. The rationale for continuing to develop the GSP after the Basin ranking was lowered was to take advantage of available grant funding to allow the OVGA to complete the GSP and allow the GSA to be prepared to comply with SGMA should the Basin ranking change in the future. This staff report assumed that the OVGA will remain a viable GSA, prepared to implement or amend the GSP if necessary.

Administrative tasks

Several administrative actions for the Board of Directors were contemplated in the JPA including: establishment of regular meeting times and place, annual selection of chair and vice chair, adoption of an annual budget, and annual reporting of OVGA operations (JPA, Articles I, III, and IV). These actions would could be accomplished with as few as two meetings each year and administrative staff time. Administrative costs also would include staff time for meetings, annual report preparation, routine OVGA business, tracking SMGA implementation or requirements, website maintenance, insurance, fiscal agent costs, and general operating

expenses. Estimated annual cost for these basic operations was \$25,070 (this did not include staff or OVGA meetings to revise the GSP if DWR requests changes). Implementation of the GSP management actions would entail additional administrative and technical staff costs as described in the GSP and summarized below. Management actions would not be implemented in Mono County unless additional cooperative agreements are prepared.

Management Actions

SGMA grants GSAs the powers and authorities to “*perform any act necessary or proper...*” including adopting “*..rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions...*” necessary for SGMA implementation (CWC §10725.2(b)). Registration of groundwater extraction facilities and reporting is permitted by SGMA (CWC §10725.6 and 10725.8). Acquisition of groundwater pumping and well information is necessary to manage groundwater in accordance with SGMA and GSAs must maintain a database and report up-to-date hydrologic data as part of GSP implementation (Reg. §354.40). Because the Basin is low priority, exercise of these powers is optional at this time. The GSP included two management actions to consider ordinances designed primarily to address data gaps and maintain an up-to-date database.

Management Action 1: Well Registration and Reporting Ordinance

This management action consists of developing an ordinance to register pumping wells and require reporting of pumping amounts. The purpose of the ordinance is to address data gaps regarding well locations and pumping amounts in the Inyo County portion of the Basin. Several water providers or commercial pumpers did not respond to requests to provide data voluntarily to the OVGA to include in the database. Ongoing reporting of pumping would only be required for agricultural, commercial, or municipal pumpers, and CSD/mutual water companies; domestic well or *de minimis* users would be exempt. The proposed ordinance would describe acceptable methods for measurement of pumping or alternate procedures for calculation of pumping rates. Staff will inspect the data received and update the OVGA database approximately annually. Expected benefit of this management action is a more accurate and complete database.

The list of domestic wells in the Basin is probably incomplete. If it becomes necessary for OVGA to regulate pumping amounts or well spacing to prevent well interference or other undesirable results to private wells, identifying those wells at risk would rely on information in the database. Registration of *de minimis* pumpers is permitted by SGMA, and this ordinance could require a one-time reporting of well information. Alternatively, the OVGA could create on-line reporting forms on the website describing procedures and methods for voluntary reporting.

Applicable noticing and public hearings to adopt an ordinance will be necessary if this ordinance is considered including advertising, posting all notices on the website, and notifying individuals on its interested party contact list (CWC 10725.2 (c)). Preparation of the ordinance was estimated to cost \$14,370; cost to annually receive, catalog, enter data, was estimated to be \$360 annually (the low cost anticipates development of streamlined online notification and reporting).

Management Action 2: Well Permit Review Ordinance

A second ordinance in the GSP would establish procedures for OVGA review of permit applications for new wells in Inyo County (approval of well permits would remain with the County). Substantial effort and funds were expended to compile historical data into the OVGA database, and this management action would maintain an up-to-date list of monitoring and pumping wells in the Inyo County portion of the Basin. The database provides groundwater information to all beneficial users in the Basin in a readily accessible format.

This ordinance will describe the procedure for Inyo County departments responsible for evaluating well permits to provide the permits and specify procedures that the OVGA will employ to complete its review. The OVGA must follow all public noticing and review requirements when preparing and adopting the ordinance as described in Management Action 1.

If the OVGA desires to regulate new pumping projects that may cause conditions to deviate from sustainable management criteria, this ordinance could be the mechanism to perform the necessary evaluation. Alternatively, the OVGA can establish those procedures and criteria in a separate ordinance adopted later to conduct new well analyses that would guide setting conditions on well location, construction, or operation as warranted to sustainably manage the Basin.

The OVGA would incur staff, administrative, and noticing costs of approximately \$7,920 to prepare and adopt this ordinance. Annual costs to receive, review, analyze potential pumping effects was estimated to be \$1,740 based on the recent history of well permit applications submitted in Inyo County. The low cost of this project reflects the relatively low number of well permit applications received each year (approximately 40, including monitoring wells in the adjudicated portion of the basin) and small workload to update the database.

Management Action 3: Increase groundwater level monitoring network

The GSP included a project to increase the groundwater level monitoring network. Monitoring data in portions of Round Valley and the Owens Valley south of Owens Lake are sparse, and this project would attempt to locate cooperating well owners to volunteer their well for monitoring. This is a potentially a more cost effective method to fill data gaps than installing dedicated monitoring wells. A form can be added to the OVGA website to allow well owners to volunteer for the program or request monitoring of their well or alternatively direct mailer or public meetings can be organized. The OVGA would inspect candidate wells with an interested land owner to determine if it is suitable for monitoring and would provide reliable and useful information. Based on that inspection, the OVGA would select wells to include in the program and begin negotiating access agreements. Monitoring frequency would be a condition in access agreements, but should be at least annually or semi-annually. Fieldwork should be conducted by certified staff or contractors and comply with all applicable regulations, standards, and monitoring protocols to prevent contamination or damage to private property. Access for the OVGA to conduct monitoring would be voluntary and could be terminated by the well owner at any time.

Expected benefits of this management action are a more accurate and complete characterization of groundwater conditions and trends in the Basin. The data will be housed in the OVGA database and readily accessible. The OVGA would incur staff and administrative costs to inspect and monitor candidate wells and prepare land access agreements. The cost of the inspections and conducting the monitoring depends on the number of wells but was estimated at \$10,050 with ongoing costs of \$2,250 assuming approximately 10 additional monitoring locations in Inyo County may be visited semi-annually.

Management Action 4: Tri-Valley Groundwater Model Development

The GSP included a project to develop a groundwater model for the Tri-Valley portion of the basin. Water level trends in Tri-Valley and likely hydrologic connection to Fish Slough, an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, were described in the GSP. The lack of an adequate numerical groundwater model to integrate available information about that portion of the Basin and assist management of pumping was identified as high priority data and knowledge gap in the GSP.

The OVGA improved the understanding of the hydrogeological conceptual model and groundwater balance of the Tri-Valley area. The GSP proposed to build upon these advances in knowledge by developing a regional hydrogeologic groundwater model to simulate groundwater levels, flow, and spring discharge within Fish Slough and the Tri-Valley management area. Expected benefits from the model include: 1) compiling all relevant hydrogeologic information into a single repository, 2) increasing regional geologic understanding by developing a 3D geologic model, 3) quantifying the amount of recharge and flow paths from specific areas, and 4) providing an indispensable tool for predicting anticipated effects of proposed management actions to address declining spring flow and water levels in the management area.

If this project is undertaken, the OVGA included in the GSP a groundwater management public education campaign concurrent with model development to help Tri-Valley residents understand the current groundwater conditions, the purpose for the project, methods adopted for the work, and inform residents how they can assist in the model development process. The intent for this outreach component would be to directly involve and inform residents on decisions that could affect their environment or livelihoods consistent with OVGA Strategy #6 and General Principle #1 (Section 1.2). The outreach should include discussions at regularly scheduled TVGMD meetings as well as public meetings hosted by the OVGA in each of the communities. This project was added at the December 9, 2021 hearing and was not included in the project cost estimate.

Neither the OVGA nor its member agencies possess sufficient funding to complete the groundwater model. In 2021, the OVGA placed this project on a list to be considered for funding by Proposition 1, Round 2 Implementation grant program through the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP). The OVGA and several JPA members (Inyo, Mono, Bishop, Big Pine CSD, and Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe) are signatories to the IRWMP MOU. Requested funds were \$150,000 with up to an additional \$150,000 anticipated as matching funds or in-kind contribution to complete the project. Much of the in-kind contribution was anticipated to include ICWD staff time to compile existing geographic and hydrogeologic information including stratigraphy, water levels, water balance,

boundary conditions, aquifer properties, and well log information. Several of the datasets for the proposed numerical groundwater flow model were acquired as part of this GSP preparation but need to be assembled into formats compatible with the model. A contractor would be selected to prepare and calibrate a numerical model using information provided by the OVGA. This is a data compilation and groundwater modeling project and is not dependent on conducting activities within Mono County, although lack of access and OVGA jurisdiction could potentially diminish the information contained in the model.

Providing matching funds, OVGA staff time to assist and oversee a consultant, and an outreach program would be added expenses for the OVGA, for an area located largely outside its jurisdiction. Imposing fees in the Tri-Valley Management Area to fund the project will not be possible following Mono County's withdrawal. The OVGA could acquire grant funds and develop the groundwater model without Mono County as a member, but in that situation the project should be conducted in cooperation with Mono County and/or the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District in accordance with a separate agreement.

The Proposition 1, Round 2 draft request for proposals (PSP) was released in December 2021. A final PSP is expected to be released in April with project proposals likely due in the summer 2022. The IRWMP region was allocated \$2.762M for Round 2 which is expected to be the final round of funding for projects. The IRWMP will compile a list of potential projects for our region using a consensus process and submit them as a package for funding consideration. A project receiving a "thumbs down" (literally) indicating disapproval by any member will be not be included in the proposal package.

The IRWMP is requiring that project proponents include a contribution to the IRWMP equal to 1% of the grant request to fund assembling the package and managing the proposal process. This cost was not included in the GSP estimate for this project and would increase the potential OVGA expense.

Other Activities

Two additional monitoring tasks were included in the GSP, acquisition of publically available subsidence and water quality data and incorporation into the database. Costs for these activities (\$2,620) were included as "ongoing annual costs" in Table 5-2 of the GSP but are broken out here separately for the Inyo County portion of the Basin. Finally, the OVGA could direct staff to increase coordination with the IRWMP to seek or manage grant funding, continue to participate on the Owens Lake Groundwater Stakeholder Development project, and/or initiate monitoring of groundwater dependent ecosystems outside LADWP lands using remote sensing techniques. Costs for these activities were not estimated in the GSP but could be included in the draft budget. In addition, should an agency in Mono County become a GSA, coordination agreements may be prepared (it is not required if all GSA's adopt a single GSP or the basin is low priority). That activity was not included in the GSP but could be included in the draft budget.