

MOUND BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, September 17, 2020 | 1:00 PM
via Zoom, due to COVID-19 Meeting Protocol

MINUTES

DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Mobley, Chair
Susan Rungren, Secretary
Glenn Shephard, Treasurer
Jim Chambers
Conner Everts

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Bryan Bondy, Executive Director
Joseph Hughes, Agency Legal Counsel
Jackie Lozano, Clerk of the Board

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

Dan Detmer, UWCD
Burt Handy
Kathleen Kuepper, UWCD
John Lindquist, UWCD
Eddie Pech, DWR

CALL TO ORDER 1:02 PM

Chair Mobley called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Mobley led the participants in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

Chair Mobley asked if there were any public comments. None were offered.

3.&4. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Clerk of the Board Jackie Lozano commenced Roll Call in tandem with Approval of Agenda. Roll Call and Motion to approve the agenda, Director Everts; Second, Director Rungren. Roll call vote: five ayes (Chambers, Everts, Mobley, Rungren, Shephard); none opposed. Motion carried unanimously 5/0.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

5a Approval of Minutes

Motion

The Board will consider approving the Minutes from the August 20, 2020, Regular Mound Basin GSA Board of Directors meeting.

5b Approval of Warrants

Motion

The Board will consider approving payment of outstanding vendor invoices.

5c Monthly Financial Reports
Information Item

The Board will receive the monthly profit and loss statements and balance sheets for the month of August 2020.

No comments or questions were offered by the Directors.

No public comments were offered.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar, Director Everts; Second, Director Rungren. Roll call vote: five ayes (Chambers, Everts, Mobley, Rungren, Shephard), none opposed. Motion carried unanimously 5/0.

6. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

6a Director Rungren announced the proposed physical solution for the Ventura River adjudication has been released and can be accessed via www.venturariver.com. It is also on the City's website.

6b The Directors spent no time on grant eligible activities.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Executive Director Bondy provided an update on the Agency's nine past due accounts, six of which have been paid and three remain outstanding. Staff issued invoices and statements to the entity responsible for the three outstanding individual wells and will continue to monitor until payment is received in full.

Additionally, Executive Director Bondy provided an update on the proposed groundwater monitoring well, advising that the Coastal Development Permit application was received from the City of Ventura Planning Department and he will follow-up with DWR regarding the status of the funding opportunity.

No comments or questions from the Directors.

No public comments were offered.

8. INFORMATION ITEM

8a GSP Stakeholder Workshop No. 1 Recap (Grant Category (c), Task 3)
Information Item

Executive Director Bondy provided a thorough overview of the feedback received from the poll responses and recommendations for further public/stakeholder engagement.

The Board discussed potential methods for additional outreach. Concepts discussed included providing more information about MBGSA on the City of Ventura website, noticing meetings in the Ventura Water monthly newsletter, requesting a newspaper article in the Ventura County Star, further outreach by the Environmental stakeholder director to his constituents, participation in the Santa Clara River Watershed Committee meetings by the Executive Director and stakeholder directors, and possible booths at community events. Executive Director Bondy stated that he would like to see the results of the recent outreach effort using Ventura Water bill stuffers to determine if that helped.

No further comments or questions by the Directors.

No other public comments or questions were offered.

9. MOTION ITEMS

9a Groundwater Sustainability Plan Monthly Update (Grant Category (c), Task 3 and Category (d), Task 4)

Motion

Executive Director Bondy provided an update to the staff report regarding the groundwater model and GSP development.

The model is scheduled to be completed in October and then the Agency will need to prepare the future projected water balance using the model, starting with a baseline run. The analysis will consider future pumping, climate change, potential future hydrology, and future land use. SGMA requires a 50-year period based on historical data for analysis in understanding the range of the hydrologic conditions. The Agency is collaborating with Fillmore Piru Basin GSA because it covers some of the same area. The data period covered is 1944 through 2018, a 75-year period. DWR also requires GSAs to address climate change in the analysis and provides factors to apply to both rainfall and streamflow, which would be used in the Agency's planning. Assumptions regarding baseline pumping demands and future pumping, including the City of Ventura's water supply planning goal of 4,000-acre feet per year of production, would also be included in the baseline planning value.

Executive Director Bondy displayed a chart of historical pumping broken down between agriculture and municipal and industrial uses, explaining that the trend of agricultural pumping does not provide a clear basis for establishing an assumption for future agricultural pumping. He has requested a recommendation from MBAWG and plans to use it in the modeling. Land use change is another future assumption to consider and a land use map was presented to the Board. The Basin's agricultural land is within the Save Open-Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR) Ordinance limits, except for one small parcel that is already pending development. Executive Director Bondy recommends no changes in land agricultural land use for the future projections, and that assumption can be revisited during GSP updated based on actual events.

Director Chambers said he planned to share the pumping graph with his tenants to gather data on their business plans over the five and ten-year leases, in terms of crop rotations and pumping expectations, which he will share with the Agency. Executive Director Bondy asked Director Chambers if he could complete that request over the next couple of weeks and thanked him for his efforts.

Direction Rungren asked if she could look at the land use map and talk with the City's planning department to see if they heard of any other parcels going into development. Executive Director Bondy said he will e-mail the materials to Director Rungren and will also include the materials in the meeting minutes.

Director Chambers asked about a timeframe for the Board to discuss higher levels of pumping and Director Rungren said the information is being developed for the next urban water management plan, for which the City looks at operational issues as well as other water supply sources and when the plan is completed, she will share the information.

Director Shephard thought the precipitation data shown on the graph looked wrong, but the data was later confirmed as correct by UWCD's John Lindquist.

Director Everts asked if environmental water needs were being considered along with agriculture and urban needs, saying the general trend with agriculture pumping and sometimes with urban needs too, the demand drops over time.

Executive Director Bondy replied that for agriculture, changes in irrigation practices and crops could impact demand, but he would like MBAWG's input to confirm. For urban demand, the City of Ventura supplies the water and has multiple water sources, so the variability is more operational than demand oriented. The Agency, he said, can use the 4,000 acre feet per year planning value without worrying much about how urban water demand will affect the projections.

Chair Mobley reiterated the question about how environmental usage would be tracked or measured and Executive Director Bondy said that shallow groundwater that interacts with the Santa Clara River and the estuary is not pumped by wells. The water balance portion of the GSP will include estimates of the evapotranspiration of native vegetation in these areas, but it is not something that will probably be directly measured.

Director Everts also had a concern about expectations of certain water amounts from different users when the basin reaches times of extended dryness or resulting from climate change, and asked what impact that would have on surface flows during times of pumping. Executive Director Bondy said that in the Mound basin, there appears to be little interaction between pumping and the shallow zone groundwater or surface water, so it will not likely be a groundwater management focus.

Director Chambers asked if the graphs could be sent out to agricultural users for feedback. Executive Director Bondy said he had forwarded the information to Neal Maguire, MBAWG's attorney for distribution.

No further comments or questions by the Directors.

No public comments were offered.

Motion to receive and file the GSP monthly update, Director Everts; Second, Director Rungren. Roll call vote: five ayes (Chambers, Everts, Mobley, Rungren, Shephard), none opposed. Motion carried unanimously 5/0.

9b Sustainability Goal (Grant Category (d), Task 4)

Motion

Executive Director Bondy noted that no public comments on the draft sustainability goal had been received to date and received was an email Neal Maguire on behalf of MBAWG stating MBAWG supports the goal as presented in the Board packet.

Executive Director Bondy explained that the redline edits were developed based on Board member feedback during the prior board meeting and recommended adopting the Sustainable Goal as presented. Legal Counsel Joe Hughes reviewed the wording and approved the document. There were no legal concerns.

Director Everts asked for an explanation of why 4c was redlined out. Executive Director Bondy explained that at the last meeting the Board requested the item be removed during its discussion. Additionally, there was a concern that the Agency would be expected to enhance the ecosystems or spend a lot of potential money on projects to do so. There was another agency that had a similar discussion and outcome on the same topic.

Chair Mobley agreed with the change of 4c and in support of the change was Director Chamber. It was mentioned the language was not too specific and could be misleading regarding expectations.

Director Everts preferred to keep the language, saying that the words *where possible* leaves the language open for change and wondered if there was slightly different language that the Board would consider.

Director Everts made a motion to approve the sustainability goal with the redline changes, with the exception of item 4c. The motion did not receive a second.

No further comments or questions by the Directors.

No public comment was offered.

Motion to adopt the Sustainability Goal as presented, Director Rungren; Second, Director Chambers. Roll call vote: four ayes (Chambers, Mobley, Rungren, Shephard), one opposed (Everts). Motion carried 4/1.

Chair Mobley suggested to Director Everts that if he felt strongly about the item, he could propose a language change for item 4c at the next meeting and seek input from other groups for feedback.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None were offered by the Directors.

On a separate note, Executive Director Bondy requested from legal counsel to confirm the voting requirements in the bylaws as they related to the vote on Item 9b. Legal Counsel Joe Hughes reviewed the bylaws and reported that a simple majority of three out of five was required for the motion to pass.

ADJOURNED 2:10 PM

Chair Mobley adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM to the next **Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2020**, or call of the Chair.

I certify that above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Board of Directors meeting of September 17, 2020.

ATTEST: 
Susan Rungren, Board Secretary

ATTEST: 
Jackie Lozano, Clerk of the Board

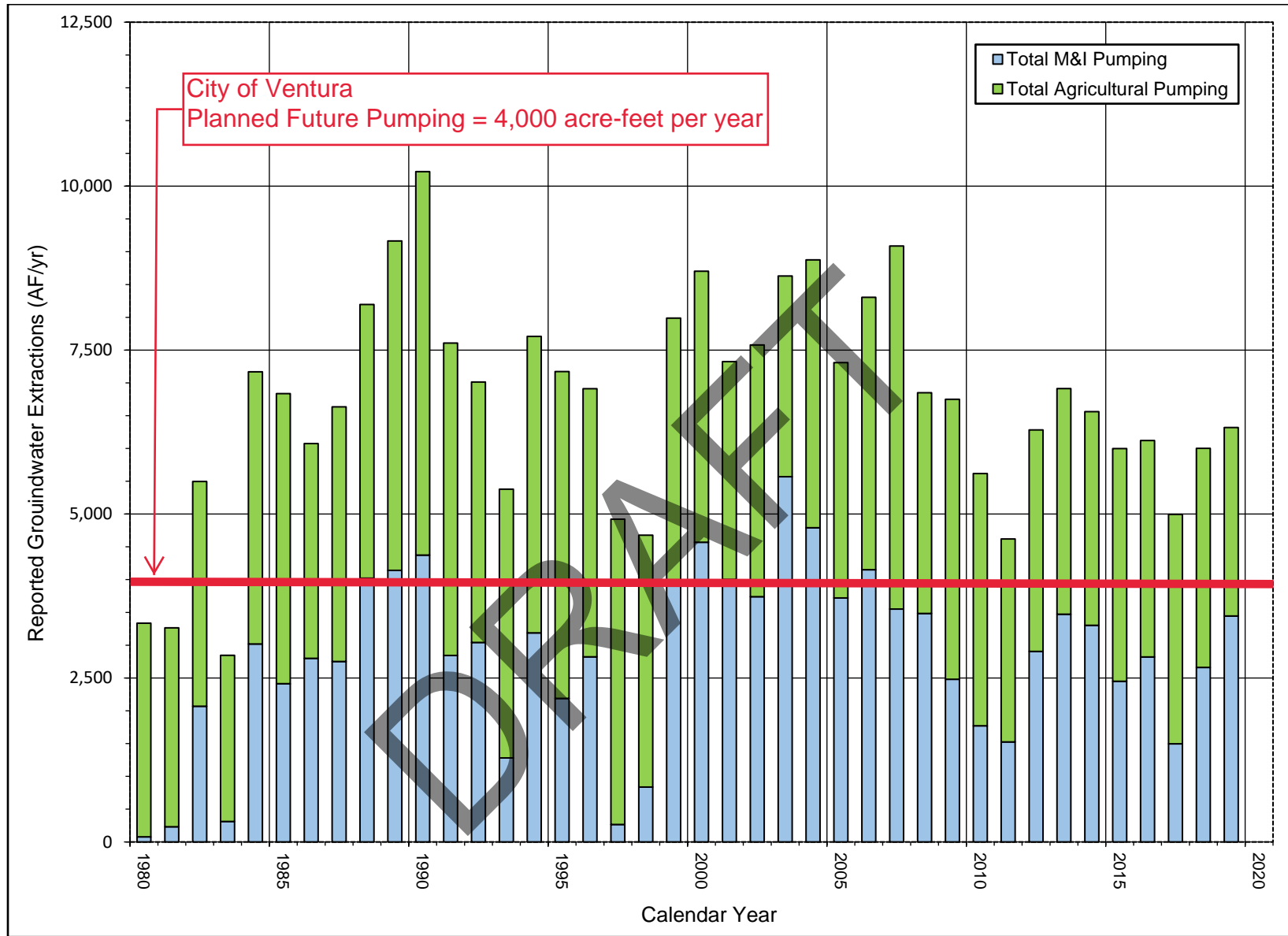
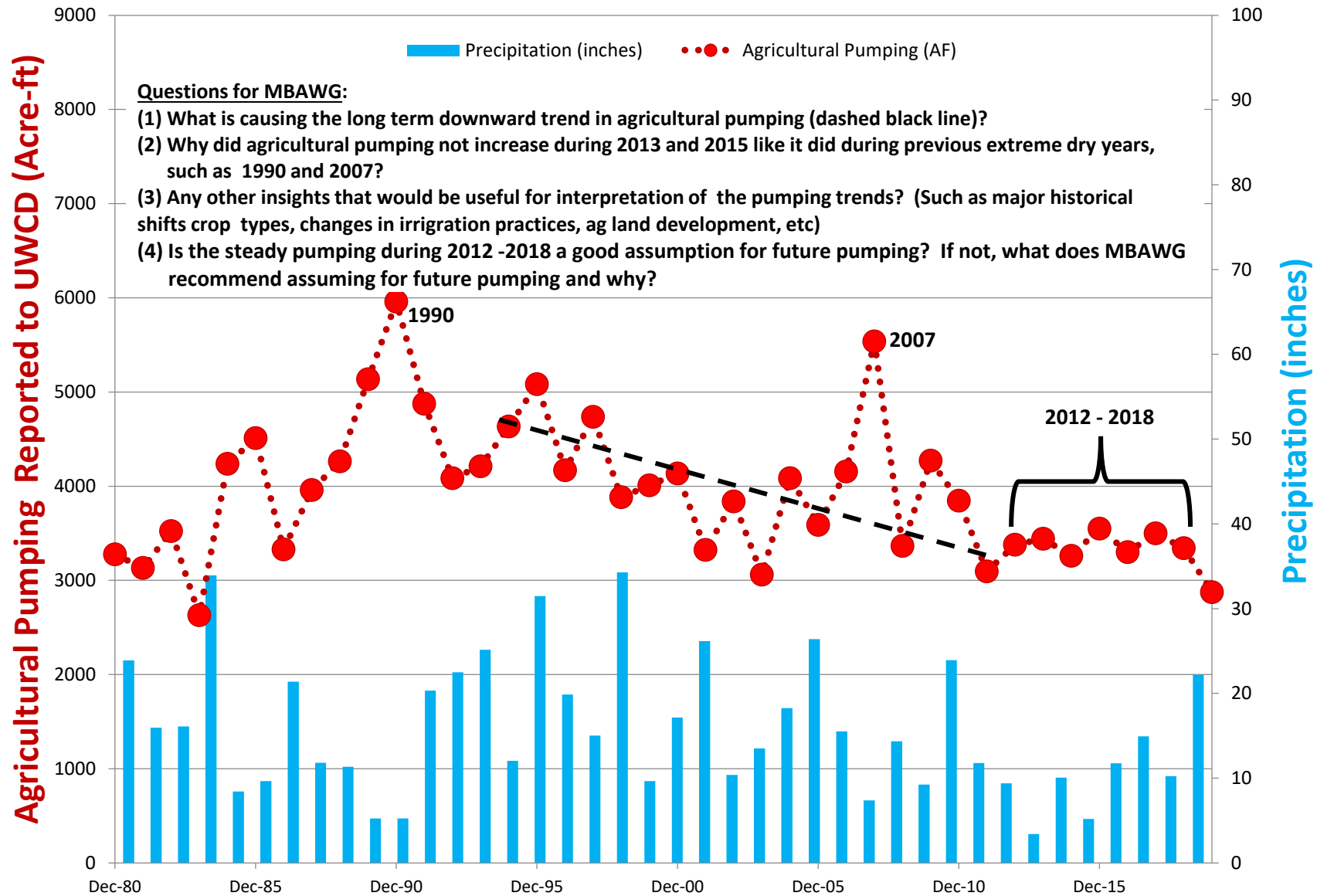


Figure 3.1-27 Graph of Historical (1980-2019) Pumping from Mound Basin by Use Sector.

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Mound Basin Agricultural Pumping and Precipitation



Note: Precipitation is annual calendar year totals for VCWPD Station 222A (County Gov. Center)

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