

*Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control
& Water Conservation Improvement District*

STAFF REPORT

**Agenda Item 6: Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Update & Representative Appointments
Monday, August 4, 2025**

The Strategic Plan relevant priority is **Collaboration** by working with partners to achieve aligned goals for regional water security.

- The UVBGSA continues to address DWR identified corrective actions to maintain sustainability goals and avoid undesirable results.
- Priorities comprise filling data gaps including those related to surface water beneficial uses that may be impacted by depletions of interconnected surface water caused by ground water pumping.
- The District considers understanding the interconnection between groundwater and surface water an important component to the future of water supply for its constituency.

Background:

The Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (UVBGSA) was created by a Joint Powers Agreement to serve as the official Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Ukiah Valley Basin required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGMA) Act of 2014.

SGMA seeks to provide sustainable management of groundwater basins, enhance local management of groundwater, establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management, and provide local groundwater agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater.

The purpose of this Agency is to take actions deemed necessary to ensure sustainable management of the Basin, as required by SGMA. The Agency must implement the 20-year plan it has developed to ensure the sustainable use of groundwater within a groundwater basin called a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP.)

The District has been a member of the UVBGSA since inception, appointing one Trustee as a UVBGSA Board Member, one Trustee as an alternate UVBGSA Board Member, and one District representative to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to the UVBGSA Board. The TAC role has historically been assigned to the General Manager, but it is not required.

In addition to appointing representatives, the District has financially contributed \$167,500 over two years after the initial development of the GSP was grant funded through the Department of Water Resources (DWR.) In 2024, the UVBGSA began collecting fees from property owners, retail water suppliers, and agricultural users. The District no longer financially contributes to the UVBGSA.

(Continued....)

Discussion

Recently, the City of Ukiah contracted with the UVBGSA to provide administrative services including a General Manager, Clerk, and financial services. The UVBGSA Board continues to approve and oversee annual budgets including the collection of fees.

The UVBGSA was also awarded Facilitation Support Services fully paid by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop a strategic plan, conduct general and Tribal focused outreach, and update vital Agency documentation such as the Joint Powers Agreement.

Projects being undertaken by the UVBGSA now include a Well Inventory Study and an Interconnected Surface Water & Groundwater Study which will address some of the DWR recommended corrective actions in the GSP approval letter of July 27, 2023. Additionally, the monitoring network continues to be strengthened.

Recommended Actions:

- Receive an update from Staff; and
- Move to approve Resolution #25-06 Approving the Appointment of Representatives to the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Attachments:

- Resolution #25-06 Approving the Appointment of Representatives to the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Links:

- RRFC Webpage: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/sustainable-groundwater-management>
- Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency website: <https://ukiahvalleygroundwater.org/>

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Prepared and submitted to the Board of Trustees by: *Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager*

Resolution #25-06

**of the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control &
Water Conservation Improvement District**

**Approving the Appointment of Representatives to the
Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

WHEREAS, groundwater in the Ukiah Basin is a vital resource to meet the water supply needs for customers of the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District (District);

WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino Water Agency, City of Ukiah, Upper Russian River Water Agency, and the District came together as Member Agencies to improve management of groundwater in the Ukiah Valley Basin under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) creating the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA);

WHEREAS, each of the Member Agencies is a local agency as defined by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA), duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California with the ability to exercise powers related to groundwater management; and,

WHEREAS, Article 7 of the GSA Joint Powers Agreement provides for the appointment and re-appointment by Resolution of Directors and Alternate Directors on the Agency Board of Directors to serve as representatives of each Member Agency, including the District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that effective immediately and until the District takes action otherwise, **Trustee John Bailey** will serve as the Director and **Trustee Christopher Watt** will serve as Alternate Director to represent the District on the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency in the event that the Director representing the District cannot attend a GSA Board of Directors meeting. **Trustee Christopher Watt** will also serve as the appointee to represent the District on the Technical Advisory Committee.

ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District on 4th day of August, 2025.

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|------------------|-----------------------------|
| John Reardan | Yes / No / Abstain / Absent |
| Dave Koball | Yes / No / Abstain / Absent |
| John Bailey | Yes / No / Abstain / Absent |
| Tyler Rodrigue | Yes / No / Abstain / Absent |
| Christopher Watt | Yes / No / Abstain / Absent |

Signed: _____

Christopher Watt, President

Attest: _____

Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager