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[www.mendocinocounty.org/government/affiliated-entities/ukiah-valley-basin-gsa](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/affiliated-entities/ukiah-valley-basin-gsa)

November 21, 2022

Jared Walker  
General Manager  
Willow County Water District  
151 Laws Avenue  
Ukiah, CA 95482

**SUBJECT: Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency FY 2022-23 Dues Explanation for URRWA Board**

Dear Mr. Walker,

Before April 2022, the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) was managed by the County of Mendocino Department of Transportation staff Amber Fisette and Michael Harrigan. Since April 2022, the GSA contracted with West Yost Associates (West Yost) to take over the administration and management of the GSA. I am an employee of West Yost and I am serving in the role as General Manager for the GSA. It's my understanding that several years ago, the GSA member agencies which include Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA), County of Mendocino, City of Ukiah, and the Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RRFC) and their respective Boards are committed to support the GSA through providing appointed representatives to the GSA Board and financial contributions that allow the GSA to continue making progress towards implementing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). It's also my understanding that URRWA has not had an active GSA Board member for the past year and a half and as such, there hasn't been quarterly updates on GSA activities to URRWA. This letter serves to help provide clarity where requested.

GSA staff has been working closely with the Board and TAC focused on the following tasks over the last eight months:

1. Approving FY 22-23 budget
2. Obtaining our own legal counsel so the GSA is no longer reliant on County Counsel
3. Evaluating and prioritizing Projects and Management Actions (PMAs) outlined in the GSP and identifying appropriate grant funding opportunities to fund the implementation of the highest priority PMAs over the next 3 – 5 years
4. Working towards a process in close coordination with the County to comply with the Executive Order N-7-22 well permitting requirements
5. Migrating the GSA website from the County website to a GSA maintained and owned web domain
6. Pursuing the DWR Round 2 SGM Implementation Grant Program grant to fund six critical PMAs that are focused on funding a rate and fee study which will help the GSA become self-funded within the next 5 years, filling in data gaps, updating the GSP and model, and better understanding the reliability of our water supply within the Ukiah Valley and the uncertain future of the Potter Valley Project.

7. Identifying additional grant funding opportunities to support the implementation of additional PMAs

It's important to note the DWR Round 2 SGM Implementation Grant Program grant and other grants only fund administration costs associated with the PMAs that are specifically being requested to be supported by the grant and does not support routine GSA administration, legal, and other non-grant specific costs that the GSA may have.

Through these efforts, the GSA is on a trajectory to become less financially reliant on the GSA member agencies over the long term and the GSA Board is keen to become self-funded. The GSA Board is planning to start a rate and fee study in July 2023 and is anticipated to start implementing the rate and fee study by July 2025. Funds collected from implementation of the rate and fee study to support the GSA are anticipated to start by July 2026. Until the GSA becomes sufficiently self-funded through the implementation of the rate and fee study, GSA member contributions are not anticipated to change. The GSA will keep Theresa McNerlin, recently appointed to the GSA Board from URRWA, informed of all GSA activities going forward and we look forward to her active participation on the GSA Board.

I am happy to answer any additional questions that may come up in the future. I would also encourage you and other URRWA Board members to refer to the GSA web page to access Board and TAC meeting materials as a resource to reference for information related to GSA activities. Together, we are working hard to support sustainability of water resources within the Ukiah Valley and we appreciate URRWA being a partner to the GSA to achieve our shared sustainability goal.

Sincerely,



Erik Cadaret  
General Manager  
Ukiah Valley Basin GSA