

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-6

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OJAI BASIN
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY ADOPTING THE AGENCY
MANAGEMENT PLAN 2007 UPDATE**

Whereas, the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) adopted a Groundwater Management Plan in 1994; and

Whereas, the OBGMA is required by law to have a Groundwater Management Plan (Plan) to guide its operations, and the State of California has promulgated new guidelines for groundwater management planning; and

Whereas, since the original Plan was published additional information has been developed based on studies done for OBGMA by its hydrologists and contractors, input from well owners and water users, and advice made by the State of California Department of Water Resources and other interested parties, all of which has led to a better understanding of the hydrogeology, water demands, and hydrologic fluctuations that affect the Ojai Groundwater Basin and its water users; and

Whereas, a 2007 Management Plan Update has been prepared by a professional hydrogeologist in accordance with the State Department of Water Resources groundwater management plan guidelines, and includes five broad goals: Understanding the Basin, Controlling Exports Protecting and Managing the Basin, Encouraging Supporting Activities, Effective Communications, and Efficient Administration, and

Whereas, the OBGMA has provided for notice of, and held public hearings on the draft and final Management Plan 2007 Update and given due and proper consideration of public input received;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, the OBGMA Board of Directors, having reviewed the Agency Management Plan 2007 Update attached and incorporated as exhibit "A", finds that the goals and elements of the Management Plan 2007 Update provide sound guidance for Agency action in protecting the basin's groundwater quality and balancing the long-term average annual water replenishment and extractions in the basin. Further the Board has determined after notice and hearing that the adoption and implementation of the Management Plan 2007 Update is necessary to support the OBGMA activities, and hereby approves and adopts the OBGMA Management Plan 2007 Update.

DATED: June 28, 2007

SIGNED: 
Jerry Conrow, President

ATTEST: 
CeCe VanDerMeer, Secretary

EXHIBIT "A"

FINDINGS WITH RESPECT TO THE CLASS 7 AND CLASS 8 CEQA CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS APPLICABLE TO ADOPTION OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Agency hereby determines that adoption of its Management Plan 2007 Update is exempt from further CEQA review under the Class 7 and Class 8 categorical exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15307 and 15308. The Agency makes this determination based upon the following findings:

1. In accordance with its enabling legislation, the Agency had adopted a basin groundwater management plan in 1994, which, in keeping with the Agency's mission statement, is intended to protect and maintain the long-term water supply of the basin. Based upon additional information obtained through professional studies and water user input, as well as new guidelines established by the California Department of Water Resources, the Agency has prepared a Management Plan 2007 Update.
2. The Management Plan Update sets out five broad goals with numerous action elements that the Agency intends to undertake. These action elements may be separated into three general categories based on the characteristics of the Agency's intended activities: 1) educating the basin water users, 2) monitoring basin usage, and 3) actively managing and enhancing the water resource.
3. Under the first category are the following types of activities: water conservation education, annual reporting on its ongoing monitoring efforts and other educational activities the Agency may undertake. These are all intended to educate the water users on the state of the water resource in the basin, the impacts their use has on the natural resource, and the ways they may alter their usage to protect and enhance the water resource. These are all activities that fall within the Class 7 and Class 8 categorical exemptions as they are meant to protect, maintain and enhance the natural resources and environment in the Ojai basin.
4. The second category, monitoring, includes well registration, extraction monitoring, and the host of other data collection activities the Agency will undertake on its own and in conjunction with Ventura County. Each of these are intended to provide the Agency with information from which it can make reasoned decisions on managing, protecting, and maintaining the water resource under its jurisdiction. Again, these are activities that fall within the Class 7 and Class 8 categorical exemptions.
5. Finally, the Agency intends to undertake some activities that may be described as active enhancement efforts. These include encouraging Ventura County's abandoned well program, endorsing the San Antonio Creek Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation Project, establishing permit criteria for basin exports, and replenishment projects, and encouraging the United States Forest Service to initiate enhanced watershed management

practices. Each of these activities are specifically undertaken to protect and enhance the water resource in the basin. Thus, the Class 7 and 8 categorical exemptions apply to these as well.

6. In addition, with respect to this last category of activities, the Agency would not be considered the lead agency for CEQA purposes. Rather, the Agency would be taking a subsidiary role in encouraging and cooperating with the lead agency. If it is determined that any of these projects requires further environmental review, the Agency would not be the lead agency for CEQA purposes.

7. It is also important to note that the Management Plan 2007 Update is a living document intended to guide the Agency's efforts. It will be updated every 5 years. It details several action elements that the Agency is committed to explore and implement by subsequent rule, regulation or ordinance. As stated in the Plan Update, implementation will only occur after appropriate public review, advisory committee recommendation and Board consideration and approval. Should there be any question that implementation of a particular action item might cause an adverse environmental impact, the Agency will then undertake further CEQA review as appropriate.