

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors Special Meeting

May 22, 2025

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

Directors

Bantilan, Cory – Chair
Yurosek, Derek – Vice Chair
Albano, Byron – Treasurer
Higbee, Jason
Jackson, Steve
Reely, Blaine – Alternate
Williams, Deborah
Wooster, Jane
Young, Matthew
Zenger, Katelyn

Staff

Beck, Jim – Executive Director
Bianchi, Grace – Project Coordinator
Blakslee, Taylor – Assistant Executive Director
Dominguez, Alex – Legal Counsel
Van Lienden, Brian – Woodard & Curran

1. Call to Order

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Chair Cory Bantilan called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Bianchi called roll (shown above) and informed Chair Bantilan that there was a quorum of the Board.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Bantilan.

PUBLIC HEARING

4. Groundwater Extraction Fee

Mr. Taylor Blakslee provided an overview of the groundwater extraction fee hearing.

Stakeholder Blaine Morris commented on the water justice fellows supported by Blue Sky and Quail Springs that celebrates Cuyama's water. She thanked the board for their work navigating water sustainability and managing the budgets.

5. Consider Approval of Resolution No. 2025-051 Setting a Groundwater Extraction Fee for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and Authorize Invoicing of Landowners

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the resolution that is being considered for approval. He noted the fee strategy discussed with the board last year.

Director Jackson asked what the ending cash balance will be based on the \$10 that previously.

Director Young asked how much the fee escalated with \$5 for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Blakslee reported that a \$5 fee for this fiscal year 2025-2026 results in a \$38 fee the following year. He reported that \$10 fee results in a \$35 fee in the following year.

Director Wooster commented that she thought the board agreed to a \$10 fee during the CBGSA Board meeting on May 7, 2025.

Director Yurosek commented that he believed the board agreed to a \$5 fee. He noted that the fee is to irrigated landowners.

Director Albano commented that he believed the board agreed to a \$5, but he would prefer a \$10 fee.

MOTION

Director Yurosek made a motion to set the groundwater extraction fee for fiscal year 2025-2026 at \$5. The motion was seconded by Director Jackson. A roll call vote was made and the motion passed with 89%.

- AYES: Albano, Bantilan, Higbee, Jackson, Reely, Williams, Wooster, Young, Yurosek, Zenger
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: None

CLOSED SESSION

6. Closed Session

At 5:00 PM, the Board adjourned to closed session. At 5:27 PM, the Board returned from closed session at which time Legal Counsel reported to the public that there was no reportable action.

7. Adjourn

Chair Bantilan adjourned the meeting at 6:49 PM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Chair: *Cory Bantilan*
Cory Bantilan (Sep 16, 2025 12:45:21 PDT)

