

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)
Governing Board Meeting
Final Minutes
May 13, 2015

LOCATION: 10060 Goethe Road, Room 1212
Sacramento, CA 95827
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

MINUTES:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Brett Ewart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members (Primary Rep):

Tom Mahon, Agricultural Interests
Mark Madison, Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District
Rick Bettis, Conservation Landowners
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company

Board Members (Alternate Rep):

Roger Kohne, City of Folsom
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Bruce Kamilos, Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District
José Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Forrest Williams, Sacramento County
Charlotte Mitchell, Agricultural Interests
Mike Wackman, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District

Staff Members:

Ping Chen, SCGA
Ramon Roybal, Acting Clerk

Others in Attendance:

Tom Nelson, Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District
Rodney Fricke, Aerojet Rocketdyne
Ali Taghavi, RMC Water and Environment
Jim Blanke, RMC Water and Environment
Jafar Faghieh, HDR
Chris Petersen, GEI Consultants
Spencer Halsey, Green Acres Nursery and Supply

Member Agencies Absent

City of Elk Grove
City of Rancho Cordova
Rancho Murieta CSD
Agricultural-Residential
Commercial/Industrial Self-Supplied
California-American Water Company

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Nelson introduced himself as the Vineyard Area Community Planning Advisory Council's nomination to fill the vacant Agricultural-Residential seat on the SCGA Board of Directors. Mr. Nelson stated that his nomination was being scheduled to be heard at the June 9, 2015 Sacramento Board of Supervisors meeting for approval.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The draft meeting minutes for the March 11, 2015 Board meeting were reviewed for final approval.

Motion/Second/Carried – Mr. Schubert moved, seconded by Mr. Bettis, the motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes.

4. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Chen introduced the proposed FY 2015/2016 budget and listed the identified program objectives for the year which included; evaluating administrative alternatives and the existing Groundwater Management Plan for compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Biennial Basin Management Report, groundwater monitoring for elevation and quality, data management, groundwater modeling, possible grant application funding, Groundwater Accounting Program, and evaluation of existing funding program including multi-year projection of anticipated revenues and expenditures. Mr. Chen then gave an overview of the total means of financing for FY 2015/2016 which totaled \$630,800 and consisted of a \$358,049 prior year fund balance, \$210,423 annual contributions, \$36,233 reserve release, \$29,000 for AB303 grant funding, and minus \$2,905 in interest income due to a minor accounting error. Mr. Chen then stated that staff recommended that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2015-01 to fund the Authority's administrative budget for FY 2015/2016 and provide for the collection of the annual contributions as described in the JPA.

Mr. Schubert reported that in the coming fiscal year the Authority would need to review the how it collected its annual fees because they were not covering expenses and that declining pumping was exacerbating the problem. Mr. Schubert speculated that a new fee structure may be required by the next fiscal year in order to sustainably fund operation of the Authority. Mr. Chen concurred and further reported that groundwater pumping and associated fee collection had been declining for the past five years with a twenty-seven thousand dollar reduction in the past year and that Authority expenses would likely be

increasing due to increased activity related to SGMA compliance. Mr. Chen additionally pointed out that the FY2015/2016 SCGA Budget Board Letter identified “Evaluation of Existing Funding Program including multi-year projection of anticipated revenues and expenditures” as a program objective.

Mr. Ewart expressed the City of Sacramento’s concern regarding the need to identify the appropriate level of resources, including SCGA staffing and budget, necessary to comply with the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) under SGMA. Mr. Ewart requested an analysis and report back to the Board by staff.

Mr. Kamilos asked what the additional \$100,000 budget for staff expenditures was earmarked for. Mr. Chen responded that it was primarily needed to support additional work related to SGMA as well as other program objectives identified for FY2015/2016.

Motion/Second/Carried – Mr. Bettis moved, seconded by Mr. Kamilos, the motion carried unanimously to Adopt Resolution No 2015-01 to fund the Authority’s administrative budget for fiscal year 2015/2016 and provide for the collection of the annual contributions as described in the JPA.

Note: Votes to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2015/2016 budget were received from the cities of Elk Grove and Rancho Cordova in the affirmative.

5. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Mr. Chen announced that staff would be attending a workshop sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) which would address GSA formation as it concerned those in the Sacramento region. Topics to be covered during the workshop would be; 1) background information on SGMA tailored to decision makers, 2) updates on the development of regulations and legislation that would amend SGMA, 3) discussion of the required activities of jurisdictions in the region relative to implementing the law, 4) facilitate coordination among multiple entities that will be involved in on-going implementation. Mr. Chen announced that those with a current or future role in groundwater management were encouraged to participate.

Mr. Madison inquired as to what staff expected to gain from the workshop. Mr. Chen responded that staff sought to expand its understanding of the how to proceed with the development of a GSA and to gain an understanding of what other potential regional GSA entities are planning so that SCGA may coordinate with them in the GSA formation process.

Mr. Ewart stated that he believed the workshop would also address the issue of determining basin boundaries. Mr. Wackman concurred and stated that of particular concern were existing State-defined basins that spanned multiple County jurisdictions such as existed in the SGA and with Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD) and how to reconcile governmental control in those areas. Mr. Madison asked Mr. Wackman if OHWD had made a decision about what it wanted to do regarding its position of spanning two subbasins. Mr. Wackman responded that he did not know which direction the OHWD Board would take regarding the issue. He stated that he was personally encouraging the OHWD Board to remain within the boundaries of the Central Basin primarily for the reason that his District currently possessed

grant agreements and were pursuing grant opportunities that required OHWD to remain under the umbrella of SCGA GMP. Mr. Wackman said that there were people who felt that OHWD should remove itself from SCGA and join the Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority. Mr. Wackman concluded that he did not know which direction the OHWD Board would take.

Mr. Madison expressed his feeling that SCGA should develop some sort of ‘solidifying document’ that would demonstrate all the members’ intention to participate in the formation of a GSA under SCGA. Mr. Schubert responded that he was not sure that such an additional action was necessary if the SCGA Board made that declaration as a item at the appropriate time and stated its intentions to DWR as prescribed by SGMA. Mr. Williams stated that perhaps a scenario could arise where SCGA could proceed with GSA formation only to have a member agency or stakeholder back out later in the process and that Mr. Madison was looking to avoid such a scenario. Mr. Madison concurred. Mr. Williams then stated that Mr. Madison’s concern was valid and that there may be a process to avoid such a scenario although he was not sure what it would be. Mr. Schubert concurred but clarified that he did not believe that an additional formal action by the Board was necessary. Mr. Kamilos suggested that a report back to the Board by the Executive Director addressing the issue along with a definitive overall approach to GSA formation was needed. Mr. Chen responded that it was staff’s presumption that the upcoming workshop would provide

Mr. Madison remarked that he would like to see SCGA pick up the pace with regard to GSA formation as he expressed concern over missing opportunities for grant funding being made available by DWR for GSA formation and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development. He further expressed concern that SCGA should speed up GSA formation to avoid a scenario where another entity within the Central Basin might apply to be a separate GSA. Mr. Schubert agreed that timing was critical but reminded that DWR was still in the process of defining critical aspects of SGMA implementation such as basin boundary definitions and that SCGA needed to temper its actions to coincide with the timing of DWR’s decisions so as to avoid doing anything that ultimate may not be relevant or in compliance with DWR’s actions. Mr. Chen pointed out that only eight entities out of roughly a couple hundred state-wide, had applied for GSA formation. Mr. Schubert asked if any of the entities that had applied did not follow the DWR defined basin boundaries. Mr. Chen replied in the affirmative and pointed out Colusa County Water District as a specific example.

Mr. Ewart reiterated that staff should report back to the Board with a ‘roadmap’ that would outline the process of SCGA’s GSA formation. The report would identify milestones relative to DWR decisions and compliance with SGMA and to identify the staffing and resource needs that would allow SCGA to be nimble and reactive to DWR’s decisions.

Motion/Second/Carried – Mr. Bettis moved, seconded by Mr. Kamilos, the motion carried unanimously to direct staff to proceed with a process that would lead to the designation of the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Basin.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a) Government Affairs Update – Mr. Chen announced that there were numerous bills introduced in the legislature that would amend the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act or otherwise change water law and that the Regional Water Authority was tracking bills that related to local and regional issues. A summary of tracked bills could be found at rwah2o.org.
- b) Drought Update – Mr. Chen announced that on April 1, 2015, the Governor issued Executive Order B-29-15. Key provisions included ordering the State Water Resources Control Board to impose restrictions to achieve a 25 percent reduction in potable urban water usage through February 28, 2016; directing the California Department of Water Resources to lead a statewide initiative, in partnership with local agencies, to collectively replace 50 million square feet of lawns and ornamental turf with drought tolerant landscapes; and directing the California Energy Commission to implement a statewide appliance rebate program to provide monetary incentives for the replacement of inefficient household devices. The order also required agencies to immediately comply with groundwater monitoring requirements of the CASGEM program, which SCGA had been doing for several years. The April 1, 2015 executive order was available at <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18910>.
- c) GAP Committee – Mr. Chen announced that the GAP Committee would meet May 20, 2015 at 9:00 am at Golden State Water Company.

7. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Schubert announced that Golden State Water Company's (GSWC) mandatory water conservation measures were going into effect on June 1st. They were entering Stage 1 drought restrictions which limited outdoor irrigation to two days per week which were dictated by his agency. Mr. Schubert stated that GCWC had planned to engage the local parks and recreation district, the City of Rancho Cordova, other local government agencies, and Home Owners Associations to get a message out regarding water conservation in order to meet the State mandated thirty-six percent reduction assigned to GSWC's Cordova system.

Mr. Williams announced that the Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) was restricting outside irrigation to one day per week and three days per week for those utilizing drip irrigation. He also stated that SCWA outreaching to commercial property owners and landscape companies to notify them of the one day per week restriction. SCWA was also going to work with parks departments to develop water budgets which would allow them to irrigate more than one day per week while adhering to the agreed upon budget. SCWA was also going through the process to update its water code to allow it to issue water use penalties without having to go through a law enforcement agency. Mr. Williams stated that SCWA was putting a lot of emphasis on water conservation education for the public.

Mr. Ewart announced that the City of Sacramento was under a twenty-eight percent drought restriction and were implementing a two day a week irrigation limit and considering a move to one day a week limitation.

Mr. Madison announced that the Elk Grove Water District (EGWD) was under stage two drought restrictions and mandatory twenty-eight percent water conservation limits. Mr. Madison stated that EGWD was planning on reducing system pressures by 8 psi which would result in about a seven percent system-wide reduction in water use and would not adversely affect their customers. Mr. Madison stated that irrigation restrictions were set at two days per week and that they would be enforcing those restrictions seven days per week from 4 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, EGWD would be engaging in increased public outreach.


Mr. Ramirez announced that the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) was implementing a recycled water pipeline project that included the construction of a pipe from its treatment plant north to serve the Sacramento Power Authority's cogeneration plant located within the City of Sacramento. Construction on the project would begin within a couple months as a portion of the pipeline construction had already been awarded. Mr. Ramirez then announced that SRCSD was planning on constructing a recycled water hydrant tied into its treatment plant system and then would allow water tanker trucks to come onto SRCSD property to fill the trucks for use on landscape irrigation, street cleaning, and other non-potable uses. Mr. Ramirez then stated that SRCSD had received requests from residential customers in the Cities of Elk Grove, Folsom, Sacramento, and Rancho Cordova for similar access to recycled water for irrigation purposes and that SRCSD was in the planning process of constructing a tie-in to their system to serve that demand.

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings –

Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 9 am; 10060 Goethe Road, South Conference Room No. 1212 (Sunset Maple).

By: 
Chairperson


Date 7/8/16


Date

Date 07-08-15