

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)
Governing Board Meeting
Final Minutes
March 11, 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

Dave Ocenosak 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
Ron Lowry, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Dave Ocenosak, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company

Board Members (Alternate Rep):

Roger Kohne, City of Folsom
Britton Snipes, City of Rancho Cordova
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Bruce Kamilos, Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District
José Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Ward Winchell, Public Agencies Self-Supplied
Forrest Williams, Sacramento County

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck, Executive Director
Ping Chen, SCGA
Ramon Roybal, Acting Clerk

Others in Attendance:

Bill Konigsmark, Sacramento County
Amanda Platt, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Paul Siebensohn, Rancho Murieta CSD
Leyland A. Schneider, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Tom Nelson, Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District

Mike Schmitz, Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District
Rodney Fricke, Aerojet Rocketdyne
Jim Blanke, RMC Water and Environment
Jafar Faghieh, HDR
Joe Turner, Brown and Caldwell
Jay Schneider, Public

Member Agencies Absent

City of Elk Grove

Agricultural-Residential

Commercial/Industrial Self-Supplied

California-American Water Company

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jay Schneider addressed the Board concerning Groundwater Sustainability legislation, the definition of groundwater sub-basins, and the formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies. Mr. Schneider stated that in his opinion a formal groundwater sub-basin focused on the Cosumnes River be identified and formalized with State DWR. Mr. Schneider mentioned that the Omochumne-Hartnell Water District and Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District had hired a consultant to conduct E-Logs in an attempt to identify distinct hydrologic basin boundaries for the proposed Cosumnes River groundwater sub-basin. Mr. Schneider then proposed that once the basin was identified that all the regional groundwater management entities should then cooperatively make an argument to State DWR that the boundary be formally recognized and adopted. Mr. Schneider stated that formally recognizing a distinct Cosumnes River groundwater sub-basin would allow the land owners within that area to independently make decisions related to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The draft meeting minutes for the January 14, 2015 Board meeting were reviewed for final approval.

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

4. BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Eck provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 budget stating that the total approved budget for the year was \$832,170 and that through December 31, 2014 the total expenditures were \$196,103 with a remaining balance of \$636,067. Mr. Eck noted that the budget had included \$250,000 for an update to the groundwater management plan which would not be spent due to the passage of SGMA which prohibited updating existing plans after January 1, 2015.

5. FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016 BUDGET

Mr. Eck requested the formation of a budget subcommittee to prepare a budget recommendation for Fiscal Year 2015/2016 along with a request for 2014 groundwater pumping data from Authority groundwater purveyors for the calculation of their budget contributions. Mr. Bettis, Mr. Schubert, and Mr. Ocenosak volunteered to sit on the budget subcommittee.

6. 2013/2014 AUDIT REPORT

Bill Konigsmark, Accounting Manager, Sacramento County Department of Water Resources, provided copies and an overview of the annual financial audit report. Mr. Konigsmark reported that the Auditor had provided an unqualified opinion regarding the Authority's financial statements. Mr. Konigsmark reported that the Auditor had recommended that the Authority change the period of availability of grant funds as reported on the fund financial statements from sixty days to 120 days. The reasoning was that grant funding was typically slower to be received compared to other sources of income and thus caused confusion in reconciliation of fund financial statements from year to year. Mr. Konigsmark stated that it was legal to make the change and that he recommended the change as well. The Board decided to move forward with the change as part of the Fiscal Year 2015/2016 budget adoption process at the May board meeting. Mr. Konigsmark also reported that the Auditor had mentioned that there were a number of board members who had failed to submit their annual Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 and that this has been an issue in the past but moving forward the Auditor will report on those failing to submit the forms as a Finding in the next Audit Report. Failure to file is required to be reported to the Fair Political Practices Commission and is subject to a fine.

Action: Receive and File

7. UPDATE ON BASIN MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE THRESHOLD DEVELOPMENT AND RECHARGE MAPPING PROJECT

The purpose of the project is to improve groundwater management through the development of thresholds necessary to implement and monitor a quantitative, measurable Basin Management Objective (BMO) for groundwater levels and to improve the understanding of recharge in the Central Basin in order that more informed land use and water management decisions can be made. This project is being funded through a state AB 303 grant and the Groundwater Authority.

Jim Blanke, RMC Inc., provided an update on the Basin Management Objective Threshold Development and Recharge Mapping Project. (*Note: Mr. Blanke's presentation can be viewed on the Authority's website for the March 11, 2015 meeting date.*)

Mr. Blanke first discussed the threshold development component stating that it was based on an update to the baseline condition of the groundwater model which incorporated land-use/cropping, pumping, surface water diversion records, precipitation, streamflow, future

land-use, and future water supplies. Mr. Blanke stated that the next steps were to develop a future conditions baseline for the groundwater model, extract hydrographs for each BMO defined polygon grid area from the model, identify maximum and minimum modeled groundwater elevations, aggregate BMO polygons based on similar hydrologic responses, ground truth the results, and develop a framework for monitoring and management.

Mr. Blanke followed by addressing the recharge mapping component reporting that they had completed groundwater sampling and developed a draft recharge map. The next steps were to receive, analyze, and interpret the groundwater sample and verify model simulation of recharge based on sampling results with the goal of providing information on the sources of recharge.

Mr. Blanke then reported that the major deliverables would be draft and final technical memorandums for the threshold development and recharge analysis and a draft and final recharge map. Mr. Blanke stated that two more stakeholder participation events were potentially scheduled for the May 2015 SCGA Board meeting which would include another project update including proposed thresholds and a presentation of the final results at the July 2015 SCGA Board meeting.

8. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. Eck stated that the Board had asked staff to provide a report on activities related to the implementation of SGMA. Mr. Eck began by reporting that clean-up legislation was being proposed related to the delineation of basin boundaries. Mr. Eck stated that the legislation called for sub-basin boundaries to be delineated based on Bulletin 118 but that there was a mechanism in the legislation that allowed for these boundaries to be redrawn. Mr. Eck stated that there had been discussion amongst many groups in Northern California supporting delineation of sub-basins based on jurisdictional boundaries such as a County. Mr. Eck stated that the County boundary proposal makes sense for the Authority and other management programs in the County as it supports much of the foundational analysis conducted by the Water Forum such as the determination of sustainable yields for the various groundwater sub-basins in Sacramento County. It would also simplify coordinating agreements between various jurisdictions, particularly where “other” County groundwater management policies may significantly differ from those in Sacramento. As an example, Mr. Eck pointed out that the Cosumnes sub-basin, as defined in Bulletin 118, includes part of Sacramento County as well as parts of northern San Joaquin and western Amador Counties. Mr. Eck also reported that there has been work on clean-up legislation that would address the definition of “de minimis” pumping. The current definition states that pumping two acre-feet or less of groundwater is deemed as de minimis. According to SGMA, pumpers over that threshold could be subject to metering of their well pump if implemented by a local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Mr. Eck reported that recent discussion has centered on tying the definition of de minimis pumping to property acreage as opposed to volume of pumping. Mr. Eck then reminded the Board that as a part of the last Biennial Basin Management Report, the Authority in conjunction with RMC and Davids Engineering

developed a methodology for accurately estimating agricultural and agricultural-residential pumping within the Central Basin. Mr. Eck stated that continued reporting of that information would demonstrate the Authority's ability to accurately account for and report on Ag and ag-res pumping. Mr. Eck pointed out that the development of the methodology for estimating Ag and ag-res pumping, the BMO thresholds and groundwater recharge map strongly support sustainable groundwater management. Mr. Eck then reported on a provision of SGMA that requires sharing the groundwater recharge map with basin land-use agencies. Mr. Eck stated that he has been coordinating with Rob Swartz from the Sacramento Groundwater Authority to meet with representatives of the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department and Planning Departments to discuss issues related to SGMA. Similar discussions will need to be scheduled with the Cities of Sacramento, Rancho Cordova, and Folsom.

Mr. Schubert wanted to confirm that guidance from the State DWR regarding the definition of basin boundaries was forthcoming and when it was expected. Mr. Eck responded in the affirmative and that DWR had planned for January 1, 2016 as the date for adoption of basin boundary regulations. Mr. Schubert then asked about the deadline to file as a GSA; Mr. Eck responded June 30, 2017.

Mr. Madison asked when the establishment of basin boundaries was required. Mr. Eck responded that filing as a GSA requires the delineation of boundaries. Mr. Madison then asked if the de minimis pumping definition of two acre-feet was on a per-year or per-acre basis. Mr. Eck responded that it was on a per year basis regardless of acreage. Mr. Madison asked Mr. Eck's opinion of what the Galt Irrigation District's response would be if SCGA were made to act as GSA in their jurisdictional area. Mr. Eck responded that he did not specifically know of Galt ID's reaction to such a scenario but reported that he and Rob Swartz had met with Mike Wackman regarding the South Basin's plan to responded to SGMA and Mr. Wackman indicated that the stakeholders were preparing to move forward with a plan to act as the GSA in the South Basin.

Mr. Madison then went on to state that the Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District (FRCD/EGWD) has been following the development of the Groundwater Sustainability legislation. Mr. Madison then announced the attendance of Tom Nelson, FRCD/EGWD vice Chair and Mike Schmitz, FRCD/EGWD Associate Board Member. Mr. Madison stated that the FRCD/EGWD Board had had numerous discussions related to groundwater sustainability and were paying very close attention to it. Mr. Madison then articulated FRCD/EGWD's position that the Authority develop an MOU that would formalize SCGA as the GSA for the Central Basin with its current boundaries, and that the Authority should update the current GMP to comply with SGMA requirements for a Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Mr. Madison added that SCGA should file immediately as the GSA in order to aggressively pursue Proposition 1 grant funding and that the Authority should commence stakeholder outreach, particularly with land owners in the Cosumnes River basin because there is a lot of fear over what SGMA implantation will bring to them. Mr. Madison stated that those particular stakeholders needed to be informed of what was coming, where the boundaries would be, and what to expect of the process. Mr. Madison further

stated that as a part of FRCD/EGWD's proposed MOU the Sacramento County Water Agency would need to acknowledge Mr. Eck's expanded role as administrator of a GSA especially as it would concern enforcement issues.

Mr. Kamilos asked for detailed Board reports related to SGMA that would contain important milestones and actions needed for the Board's consideration to facilitate productive Board discussion.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a) Government Affairs Update – Mr. Eck stated that there were about eight pieces of proposed legislation on the table related to groundwater. A number of these bills are related to SGMA while others were bills that had come back around such as one that would make well drilling logs public information. Mr. Eck reported that staff would continue to track those bills.
- b) Form 700 – Mr. Eck requested that outstanding Form 700's be submitted to staff and stated that those individuals who had yet to submit the form would be contacted by staff.
- c) GAP Committee Meeting – Mr. Eck announced that the GAP committee would be meeting immediately following the regular SCGA Board meeting.

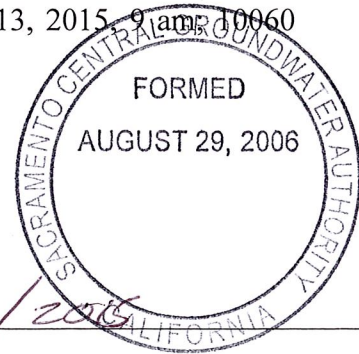
10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

None


ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings –


Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 9 am #10060
Goethe Road, South Conference Room No. 1212 (Sunset Maple).



By:



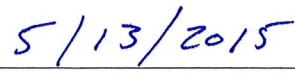
Chairperson



Date



Date



Date