

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)
Governing Board Meeting
Final Minutes
March 9, 2016

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 Nelson, Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District
Tom Mahon, Agricultural Interests
Rick Bettis, Conservation Landowners
Christine Thompson, Public Agencies Self-Supplied
Dave Ocenosak, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
Carl Werder, Agricultural-Residential
Ron Lowry, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District

Board Members (Alternate Rep):

Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Forrest Williams, Sacramento County
Brian Fragio, City of Elk Grove
Amittoj Thandi, City of Elk Grove
Charlotte Mitchell, Agricultural Interests
José Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck, Executive Director
Sarah Britton, Legal Counsel
Ping Chen
Ramon Roybal

Others in Attendance:

Rob Swartz, Sacramento Groundwater Authority
Jonathan Goetz, GEI
Tom Gohring, Water Forum

Mark Madison, Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District
Bruce Kamilos, Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District
Allen Quynn, City of Rancho Cordova
Jesse Roseman, The Nature Conservancy
Rodney Fricke, Public
Darlene Gillum, Rancho Murieta CSD
Mike Wackman, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Mike Eaton, Cosumnes Coalition
Jay Schneider, Sloughhouse RCD
Mike Koza, Sacramento County Department of Waste Management
Mark Souverville, State DWR-NCRO
Barbara Washburn, VFWC
Maureen Kerner, Sacramento State Office of Water Programs
Joe Turner, Kleinfelder
Jim Blanke, RMC Water and Environment
Linda Dorn, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Member Agencies Absent

City of Folsom
City of Rancho Cordova
Rancho Murieta CSD
Commercial/Industrial Self-Supplied
California-American Water Company

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The draft meeting minutes for the February 10, 2016 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. SCGA THE WATER FORUM AND SGMA

Mr. Ewart introduced Tom Gohring, Executive Director of the Water Forum as a guest speaker (*Note: Mr. Gohring's presentation can be viewed on the Authority's website for the March 9, 2016 meeting date*). Mr. Gohring provided a background of the Water Forum and its purpose to address the health of the Lower American River watershed and its role in facilitating the development of the Sacramento and Sacramento Central Groundwater Authorities. Mr. Gohring stated that relative to SGMA, SCGA faced significant process

issues to work through and announced that the Water Forum was available to serve as a neutral space for SCGA to utilize via such activities as mediation services.

Mr. Lowry asked if there was a concern about the Cosumnes River going dry would there be advocacy for storage upstream similar to the American River. Mr. Gohring replied that he could not answer the question.

Mike Eaton commented on behalf of the Cosumnes Coalition that he had participated in the Water Forum process but had stepped away with the understanding that a follow up effort to specifically address the Cosumnes River would occur which did not. Mr. Eaton then pointed out that there were a number of projects referenced in the Water Forum website that claimed to benefit the Cosumnes River but that none of them were active. Mr. Eaton finished by stating that the Cosumnes River and Deer Creek were world class ecological resources that were threatened but that there were some innovative projects that could help and that he looked forward to seeing them become active.

5. REQUEST BY FLORIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR A NEW JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

Mr. Eck stated that he had received correspondence from FRCD on March 2nd requesting to place a proposal for a new JPA on the March 9th SCGA Governing Board meeting agenda. Mr. Eck stated that the proposed JPA presented a new management and financial structure for the Authority. Mr. Eck then stated that in concurrence with representatives from FRCD, it was decided to place the proposed JPA on the Governing Board agenda as an informational item and on the March 10th SGMA Subcommittee agenda for discussion.

Mr. Williams asked if there was documentation of action by the FRCD Board to propose a new SCGA JPA. Mr. Nelson called upon Mark Madison to respond. Mr. Madison stated that there was no formal action taken by the FRCD Board but that the issue had been vetted by the board and that Mr. Nelson had full authority from the his board to make the determination to present the JPA.

Ms. Thompson remarked that it would be appropriate for the FRCD Board to be on record in support of the proposal to the SCGA Board and that it would help avoid the appearance of the proposal being on behalf of just one or two people. Ms. Thompson further stated that it was an important formality considering the significant nature of the proposal and that such a formality would include a rationale for the SCGA Board to consider.

Mr. Schubert stated that he felt that any board member of SCGA should be able to bring forward ideas and items for discussion without necessarily requiring formal approval from their respective boards but that he was confused as to why this item was being brought forward when the SGMA Subcommittee had already discussed it and determined a schedule to follow. Mr. Schubert asked what had changed or occurred with respect to FRCD for the issue to be raised again so soon.

Mr. Madison stated that FRCD sought to ensure that all members of the SCGA Board had received a copy of the proposed JPA and would wait to discuss the item at the SGMA Subcommittee as agreed.

6. BOUNDARY CHANGE REQUEST

Mr. Ewart stated that he had been requested by the Executive Director to change the requested action for the item to an informational item.

Mr. Eck announced that staff had attended a public meeting held by the North Delta Water Agency on March 2, 2016 at which Delta and Solano County interests discussed their approach to SGMA compliance. Mr. Eck reported that staff was surprised to hear that North Delta Water Agency no longer had strong interest in pursuing groundwater management or GSA formation in the Delta. Mr. Eck then stated that other conversations a group called the Local Agencies of the North Delta (LAND) did indicate a strong interest in GSA formation and support of a boundary line adjustment as discussed but that the group had other items on its agenda that did not necessarily support a boundary line adjustment at the current time. Mr. Eck reported that one of the major issues with LAND was that it was not organized under a unifying document such as an MOU rather it was largely an loose coalition of Reclamation Districts. Mr. Eck then reported that in conversations with the Solano County Water Agency and Solano County it was suggested that the current time was not the time to pursue a boundary modification. Mr. Eck said that staff then spoke with legal counsel and State DWR and determined that pursuing a boundary modification at the current time was not feasible. Mr. Eck stated that staff would continue pursuit of an Alternative Plan absent a basin boundary modification and would continue to have discussions with North Delta, LAND, State DWR, and the Water Forum throughout the process.

Mr. Werder asked what downside there was to using the Bulletin 118 boundary as opposed to modifying the boundary at Interstate 5. Mr. Eck replied that the current SCGA boundary was determined as a part of the Water Forum process and that it was recognized that the nature of groundwater in the Delta was different than that area to the east of Interstate 5 and that those interests in the Delta should not have to pay for management activities related to declining groundwater levels and other issues that had no relevancy within the Delta.

Mr. Nelson stated that he understood that there would be additional opportunities to request a basin boundary modification at a later date. Mr. Eck concurred and stated that the next likely opportunity would be during the update to Bulletin 118 in 2017.

Mike Eaton asked if the issues of recharge into the Central basin from the Delta would be addressed as a part of the Alternative Plan process. Mr. Eck replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Schubert asked if an action needed to be taken to modify the agenda to reflect that the item being discussed was informational. Ms. Britton replied that it was not necessary but that the board could choose to do so.

Motion/Second/Carried – Mr. Schubert moved, seconded by Mr. Williams, the motion carried unanimously to modify Agenda Item #6 that originally called for an action by the board to an informational item.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF A STORMWATER RESOURCE PLAN FOR THE AMERICAN RIVER BASIN

Mr. Eck introduced Maureen Kerner from the Sacramento State - Office of Water Programs to give a presentation (*Note: Ms. Kerner's presentation can be viewed on the Authority's website for the March 9, 2016 meeting date*).

Barbara Washburn from the Sacramento State - Office of Water Programs commented that the reason why groundwater interests should support the plan was that one of its key focuses was groundwater-surface water interaction and investigating stormwater runoff as a source of groundwater recharge. Ms. Washburn stated that it would be vital to have groundwater folks at the table during plan development to assist in coming up with good projects and criteria for project evaluation.

Mr. Schubert asked how the Stormwater Resource Plan would be distinct from those projects within the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). Rob Swartz replied that it was a separate legislative requirement as defined under SB 985 and that it was a requirement that it be accepted by the IRWMP. Mr. Swartz then stated that it was important that the region become compliant with the law as it would affect the region's eligibility for future grant funding opportunities involving groundwater recharge projects or other State mandated recharge opportunities. Mr. Swartz finished by stating that it was a positive development to have the Office of Water Programs lead the effort as it was fully capable and had the resources to do so.

Sarah Britton stated that she had been contacted by Mr. Werder notifying her that he had been attending events related to the development of the Stormwater Resource Plan but that he had done so of his own personal time. Ms. Britton remarked that she was under the assumption that Mr. Nelson had discussed the issue with FRCD's counsel and that she would be contacting both Mr. Werder and Mr. Nelson to discuss appropriate measures with respect to remaining Brown Act compliant on behalf of SCGA. Ms. Britton also stated that the SCGA board had not yet taken formal action to support or otherwise designate funding or in-kind services for the project.

Mr. Ewart inquired about the nature of the support that was being asked for specifically was it to be collaboration and staff time or was there a financial or cost share component. Mr. Eck replied that it would be a letter of support with a commitment to a designated amount of staff time.

Mr. Nelson stated that he felt that it was a good opportunity to support the project as a board but encouraged individual agencies to also participate. Mr. Nelson stated that time spent in support of the project could be counted as financial support and that FRCD had committed sixty hours of his time plus sixty hours from another board member and one-twenty hours of time from Bruce Kamilos.

Mr. Eck requested that any coordination relative to the plan on behalf of SCGA be done through him.

Motion/Second/Carried – Mr. Schubert moved, seconded by Mr. Werder, the motion carried unanimously to direct the Executive Director to provide a letter of support and authorize the provision of in-kind services as appropriate.

8. GROUNDWATER PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Eck introduced Ping Chen, SCGA staff member, as the presenter (*Note: Mr. Chen's presentation can be viewed on the Authority's website for the March 9, 2016 meeting date*). Mr. Chen presented a set of hydrographs derived from wells in SCGA's CASGEM program and selected to represent each of the following SCGA management zones for the years 2011-2015: Sacramento River, Confluence, American River, Inter-Riverine, and Upper Cosumnes River. Mr. Chen reported that the hydrographs displayed generally level trends and stated that there was no indication of significant decline in groundwater levels in response to the drought conditions.

Mr. Schubert observed that there was a general decline of two to five feet over the period of the hydrographs. Mr. Eck remarked that the observed decline was consistent with what might be expected given the drought conditions.

Mr. Werder requested that the hydrographs be displayed with the same scale during future presentations.

Mr. Mahon asked if the well measurements were taken with the wells pumps running or shutoff. Ramon Roybal, SCGA staff member, replied they were taken with the wells shutoff. Mr. Eck added that the well measurements were taken following a standard protocol described by the CASGEM plan.

Mr. Goetz commented that the draft GSP regulations were made public and open for comment and that the idea of management zones and reporting of groundwater elevations as detailed in Mr. Chen's presentation were consistent with what was described in the GSP regulations although it was expected that that the level of monitoring would need to be increased specifically as it related to groundwater-surface water interaction. Mr. Ewart asked if the increase in monitoring would involve frequency of data collection or monitoring locations. Mr. Goetz replied that both would apply. Mr. Eck added that under SGMA the determination of undesirable results specific to a basin would drive much of decisions regarding monitoring activity.

Mr. Schubert asked purveyor pumping data from 2015 had been requested and received and that he would be interested in seeing an analysis of demand relative to supply.

Mr. Werder asked if other monitoring data was available for additional wells in the region. Mr. Eck replied that all of the data was available via the State DWR CASGEM website and that SCGA CASGEM monitoring wells could be identified in SCGA's CASGEM plan.

Mr. Eaton commented on the importance of placing the monitoring data within the proper context so that it has more meaning. Mr. Eaton explained that as an example, data from well adjacent to a river could have a different meaning and significance if analyzed within the context of the dynamics of groundwater under and adjacent to a river system.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Eck reminded that Board that the Sacramento Groundwater Authority was the recognized GSA for the Sacramento County portion of the North American Subbasin. Mr. Eck then announced that the Omochumne- Hartnell WD had a scheduled public hearing for GSA formation at 6 pm on March 14, 2016 at Cosumnes Elementary School followed by a

regular meeting of the OHWD board on March 15th at 10 am, then a special meeting on March 18th at 10 am at the Rancho Murieta CSD Board Room, in conjunction with the Sloughhouse RCD, to present the jurisdictional and scientific justifications of their proposed Bulletin 118 basin boundary modification. Mr. Eck announced that on February 24, 2106 the Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority voted to support OHWD's proposed basin boundary modification. Mr. Eck stated that the Sloughhouse RCD had voted the previous day to file a Notice of Formation for an area it refers to as Area 1. Mr. Eck reported that on March 2, 2016 the North Delta Water Agency voted at its SGMA Subcommittee to recommend that the Agency not become the GSA for the Sacramento County portion of the Solano Subbasin. Mr. Eck reported that LAND continued to express an interest in GSA formation and the creation of an independent Delta groundwater subbasin but that as a group, LAND is not currently prepared to act in a unified manner to form a governance structure or a GSA. Mr. Eck reported that some individual reclamation districts in that region had indicated an interest to form independent GSA's and that there was a potential for ten or more GSA's to form in that portion of Sacramento County. Mr. Eck announced that Yolo County was continuing to move forward with their proposal to draw groundwater subbasin boundaries based on the County's jurisdictional boundary and that Solano County and the Solano County Water Agency continue to have disagreements on SGMA implementation.

Mr. Eck reminded that Board that the next regular SCGA meeting would be held on April 20th rather than the regular schedule of the second Wednesday of the month.

Mr. Eck reminded the Board that Statement of Economic Interests Form 700 were due by April 1, 2016. Mr. Eck stated that he had spoken to administrative staff who told him that the annual audit report for the past year contained a 'significant deficiency' in that three board members had not filed a Form 700 during the previous year. Mr. Eck asked board members in attendance to relay the message to those board members from their respective agencies in addition to staff's attempts to communicate the reminder. Mr. Eck stated that before the audit report could be released that corrective action needed to be determined and that staff would adopt the Fair Political Practices prescription for handling submission of delinquent Form 700's as the corrective action.

Mr. Nelson asked if alternates were required to file a Form 700. Mr. Eck replied in the affirmative. Mr. Eck also clarified that a wet signature copy must be submitted to the Filing Officer for SCGA. Ms. Britton clarified that SCGA was a separate legal entity with its own adopted Conflict of Interest Code and thus its own Filing Officer and thus it board members were obligated to file a separate Form 700 specifically for SCGA.

Jay Schneider with the Sloughhouse RCD provided comments regarding actions related to GSA formation in the Cosumnes Subbasin by Sloughhouse RCD, Clay WD, and Galt ID.

Mr. Eck provided an advisory to the board, for those members who planned to attend the March 18th OHWD special meeting, on measures to remain Brown Act compliant.

10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Mahon requested to participate on the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget Subcommittee.

Mr. Schubert stated that he would be interested in having SCGA utilize the mediation services referenced during Tom Gohring's presentation to help facilitate SCGA through the SGMA process. Mr. Schubert expressed a concern that SCGA should be further along in the SGMA implantation process given its status as an established groundwater management entity. Mr. Ewart suggested that the SGMA Subcommittee could discuss the issue of Water Forum led mediation services and make a recommendation to the board.

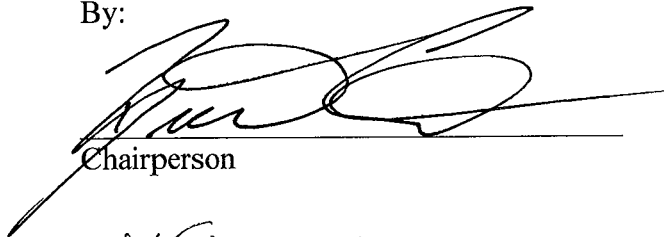
ADJOURNMENT

Brett Ewart adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming Meetings –

Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 9 am; 10060 Goethe Road, South Conference Room No. 1207 (Valley Oak).

By:



Chairperson

4/20/16

Date

Vicki Brennan

4/20/16

Date

