

**SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)  
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Sub-Committee Meeting  
Final Minutes  
July 20, 2016**

**LOCATION:** 10060 Goethe Road, Room 1213  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**MINUTES:**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Paul Schubert called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members:

Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company  
Tom Nelson, FRCD/EGWD  
Rick Bettis, Conservation Landowners  
Tom Mahon, Agricultural Interests  
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento  
Forrest Williams, County of Sacramento

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck, SCGA  
Lisa Travis, Legal Counsel  
Ping Chen, SCGA  
Ramon Roybal, SCGA

Others in Attendance:

Mark Madison, FRCD/EGWD  
Bruce Kamilos, FRCD/EGWD  
Jonathan Goetz, GEI  
Rodney Fricke, GEI  
Jay Schneider, Sloughhouse RCD  
Wyatt Arnold, State DWR  
Amanda Bishop, Sacramento County Clerk's Office  
Stephanie Studdert, Sacramento County Clerk's Office

**2. Public Comment**

Jay Schneider spoke as a land owner regarding the boundary line adjustment stating that they would appreciate SCGA working with Omochumne-Hartnell and Sloughhouse RCD to agree on a boundary adjustment and spend the resources of the representative groups to

define an area of overlap where there is reason for both water basins and watersheds to agree to coordinate on the SGMA restrictions and uses and best management practices within that area. Mr. Schneider elaborated that the local representatives would represent the land owners in the Cosumnes basin and SCGA would represent those residents on the west side of the Cosumnes basin as set forth in the boundary line adjustment and thus all other the resources would be much better spent.

Mark Madison asked about the status of Rancho Murieta CSD and what was being done to keep them with SCGA. Mr. Eck replied that he would be coordinating a meeting with Rancho Murieta CSD to discuss the issues and to try and convince them to reconsider.

Mr. Nelson announced that FRCD would be holding its regular meeting the next Wednesday with an item to consider forming a GSA and that his recommendation would likely be to not proceed with GSA formation.

Mr. Williams reported that he had attended the most recent Sloughhouse RCD board meeting where that board took an action to file for a GSA that would overlap with Omochochumne-Hartnell WD's GSA. Mr. Williams then said he attended a following OHWD board meeting where they expressed some discomfort over Sloughhouse's action but did not make any decision to object to it and that the concept was that both parties would be protecting each other at the negotiating table. Mr. Schneider clarified that the area of Sloughhouse's overlap with OHWD was just that area where SCGA also overlapped.

### **3. Update on Alternative Plan Submittal**

Jon Goetz and Rodney Fricke with GEI provided a presentation (*Note: the presentation given by Mr. Goetz and Mr. Fricke can be viewed on the Authority's website for the July 20, 2016 meeting date*). The presentation covered the following topics:

- Questions being asked in Public Meetings
- State DWR Basin Boundary Modification Public Workshop
- State Board Letter
- State DWR Best Management Practices Website and Survey
- Approach to Alternative Submittal
- Delta Outreach

Mr. Williams asked if the Alternative Plan submittal was bypassing CEQA. Mr. Goetz replied in the negative. Mr. Williams followed up by stating that it was being presented to Omochochumne and Sloughhouse that the Alternative Plan process was somehow bypassing CEQA and that he wanted it to be on the record that it was not.

Mr. Williams asked for clarification on where the Alternative Plan would apply. Mr. Fricke responded that it would only cover the South American Subbasin.

In response to Mr. Goetz's discussion of questions being asked about SCGA's SGMA compliance actions, Mr. Ewart recalled that he had expressed a desire to provide a

definitive written response to the questions concerning the Alternative Submittal and the boundaries of the Alternative. Mr. Williams concurred.

Mr. Goetz distributed a letter authored by the State Water Resources Control Board in 2015 in response to the San Louis Obispo County Public Works Director who had asked what would happen if the State Board were to step in and enforce non-compliance. Mr. Goetz stated that the letter served to provide an understanding of the measures the State Board might take in a situation of non-compliance and would be valuable to consider when making decisions regarding SGMA compliance.

Mr. Schneider commented as a constituent of Omochumne-Hartnell and Sloughhouse RCD that he was under the impression that a GSA with a GSP would be exempt from CEQA but that an Alternative Plan was not exempt because it would be considered a project due to the enforcement of existing restrictions that would have been responsible for a sustainable basin. Mr. Schneider then commented on the possible intervention by the Water Board in response to non-compliance stating that groundwater pumpers were going to be metered and thus it was not going to be a burden on any agricultural water pumper. Mr. Schneider then said that the other onerous regulations would have a disastrous political impact as the home owners in those areas would want to know why and who obstructed the local groups from becoming a GSA. Mr. Schneider then said that he thought there would be a CEQA requirement that would have been avoidable like all the other things that could have been negotiated if SCGA would have gone to the table. Mr. Schneider then stated that his observation of the presentation demonstrated that the SCGA area consisted of all urban water use while in his area they were all agriculture and individually maintained wells and septic systems. Mr. Schneider said that they had water available to use along the Cosumnes River with a little infrastructure improvement to use in-lieu of groundwater when available and they also have past experience with using the Folsom South Canal to get surface water down to the Arnold area that was discussed during the presentation. Mr. Schneider added that the plumbing system existed to get surface water to that area if they could just move forward. Mr. Schneider commented that the decision by DWR to deny the basin boundary modification seemed like it was done to give the County more time to come up with a reason and that it just delayed the process of formulating a GSP for the Cosumnes basin because they would not want their local districts to waste money by starting to develop a plan on one side of the river that would not apply to the same farmers and ranchers on the other side of the river.

#### **4. Action Items/Next Steps Assignments**

Next SGMA Subcommittee meeting scheduled for August 18, 2016 at 1 pm.

Follow up with JPA signatories regarding recommended JPA amendment. Mr. Schubert suggested providing some standard language that could be used as part of a board package to help facilitate the process.

Further discussion about the 5-year plan addressing data gaps, future actions and improvements, finance, and governance to occur at future SGMA Subcommittee meeting.

Distribute SCGA comments regarding of GSP Best Management Practices. Wyatt Arnold from State DWR commented that the solicitation of comments regarding BMPs was intended to facilitate prioritization of the BMPs.


**ADJOURNMENT**

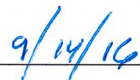
Mr. Schubert adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm

**Upcoming meetings –**

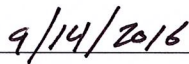
**Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting** – Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 9:00 am;  
SASD South Conference Room 1212 Sunset Maple.

By:

  
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Chairperson

  
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Date

  
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Chairperson

  
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Date

