

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)

Governing Board Meeting

Final Minutes

March 11, 2009

LOCATION: 10545 Armstrong Avenue, Suite 101
Mather, CA 95655
9:00 a.m. to 9:49 a.m.

MINUTES:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Alternate Walt Sadler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members (Primary Rep):

Stuart Helfand, Agricultural Residential
Rick Bettis, Conservation Landowners
Edwin Smith, Public Agencies Self-Supplied
Ron Lowry, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Ed Crouse, Rancho Murieta Community Services District
Andy Soulé, California-American Water Company
Ruben Robles, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Board Members (Alternate Rep):

Clarence Korhonen, City of Elk Grove
Walt Sadler, City of Folsom
Herb Niederberger, Sacramento County Water Agency
Leo Havener, Elk Grove Water Service
Jose Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck, Executive Director, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
Heather Hawke, Clerk, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
Ping Chen, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
Brian Gallucci, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority

Others in Attendance:

Rodney Fricke, Aerojet
Jon Goetz, MWH
Ali Taghavi, WRIME

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Fricke asked when the February 11, 2009 meeting minutes would be posted on SCGA's website. Mr. Eck responded that they would be posted as soon as possible after approval by the Board. Mr. Fricke also commented that Curtis Hanford's presentation at last month's

Board meeting did not indicate exactly where the proposed groundwater recharge project would be located. Mr. Fricke indicated that he used Google Earth to locate the site and discovered that the property was located in the flood plain between Deer Creek and the Cosumnes River and that given the location said that significant recharge was already occurring in that area.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes of February 11, 2009 Board Meeting

Mr. Robles asked that Ken Payne's name be removed from the list of attendees as he did not attend the February Board meeting. Staff indicated that they would make the change. Mr. Sadler asked to approve the meeting minutes as amended.

Motion/Second/Carried - Mr. Niederberger moved and Mr. Bettis seconded and the motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

4. WESTERN PLACER COUNTY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTATION

Jon Goetz with MWH made a presentation on the Western Placer County Groundwater Management Plan (WPCGMP) prepared and adopted by a group of partner agencies that include the Cities of Lincoln and Roseville, Placer County Water Agency, and the California American Water Company. The presentation was designed to be part of the WPCGMP group's public outreach plan. Below are highlights from the presentation:

- The goal of the WPCGMP is to maintain the quality and ensure the long term reliability of the groundwater basin to meet backup, emergency, and peak demand without adversely affecting other groundwater uses within the WPCGMP area.
- Illustration of the USGS "pyramid" that describes the means for developing a better understanding of groundwater. These include; database development, conceptual geologic model development, conceptual hydrostratigraphic model development, numerical groundwater model development, and then ultimately the quantitative understanding of the groundwater system on the top.
- Projects identified in the WPCGMP (5-year plan) include:
 - Stakeholder Outreach
 - GW Monitoring Program (e.g., well inventory, partner data compilation, locating existing wells, installation of monitoring wells)
 - Resource Protection (e.g., recharge study, well abandonment outreach, well destruction)
 - Groundwater Sustainability (e.g., regional aquifer characterization)

- Groundwater modeling opportunity – MODFLOW development to track the movement of water particles in the basin, as a result of the implementation of Roseville’s ASR program.
- Overview of well inventory and plan partner reference material data compilation. Mr. Goetz emphasized that there is a need to have well reports to apply for grants in the future and the well inventory alone is not enough. He then described a web application for generating and storing electronic deliverables for the well inventory.

5. WELL PROTECTION PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Eck reported that staff has been working with counsel regarding the draft ordinance and nexus study content. Staff is waiting for final comments from counsel to complete the review process prior to submitting the documents to the various land use authorities for their consideration. Mr. Korhonen questioned that the estimated total of 300 building permits represented in the revenue projections shown in the draft Nexus Study for the City of Elk Grove seemed high given the present economy. Mr. Eck said that the numbers used in the study were based on a conservative expected rate of development within the Central Basin. Under current development conditions building permits, and projected revenue, are below what is represented in the draft Nexus Study.

Mr. Niederberger pointed out that the Sacramento County Water Agency has seen a decline in development of about 90 percent, thus any type of fee proposed to the Building Industry Association would likely be opposed. Additionally, Sacramento County is looking at proposals to defer fees, lower fees, and delay fees (anything to provide an incentive for builders to come back into the market). Several departments within Sacramento County have already deferred fee increases as an incentive to increase development.

6. AB 303 GRANT/WRIME CONTRACT

Mr. Eck mentioned that staff from State DWR have indicated that the State Department of Finance will go to the financial market this month in the hope that State bonds would rate favorably enough to generate some revenue for the State. Based on this expectation, funding of the AB 303 grant obligations should resume in about eight weeks according to DWR staff. However, according to the Local Groundwater Assistance website the availability of grant funds are not expected until “later in 2009.”

Given the prospect that grant funding could be delayed for up to a year, staff during the February 2009 Board meeting to work with the Authority’s consultant, WRIME, to develop an interim mid-year deliverable based on available funds in the Authority’s fund balance and provision of product that could benefit the Authority’s on-going basin management activities. Available funds in the Authority’s Fund Balance is approximately \$97,000.

Tasks for the mid-year deliverable are assumed to be completed by the end of the week of June 29, 2009. Work items would consist of:

- Complete Task 3 - acquisition evaluation and interpretation of groundwater pumping data;
- Complete Task 4 - acquisition evaluation and interpretation of groundwater elevation data;
- Partial completion (75 percent) of Task 5 - DMS data update; and
- Partial completion of Tasks 7, 8 and 9 - public outreach, report preparation, and project management.

There will be no work on Tasks 1 and 2 - evaluation and interpretation of the lithologic data and acquisition, evaluation and interpretation of groundwater quality data. The cost to provide the interim deliverable is approximately \$75,000, leaving a balance of \$22,000 in the Authority's Fund Balance. Completion of this interim deliverable will provide the Authority with a tool that will help in characterizing hydrologic conditions within the basin and assist in the development of the Authority's Basin Management Report.

Staff recommended approval by the Board to proceed in the interim deliverable with work resuming on the remainder of the project once grant funding is restored.

Mr. Niederberger asked Mr. Eck when the projected budget for the next fiscal year will be ready, because the effort on the interim project could potentially take the fund balance below the required reserve fund level of 20 percent. Mr. Eck responded that the draft budget will be completed in April/May and that maintenance of the reserve fund was taken into consideration when the interim deliverable was scoped.

Mr. Sadler asked for a motion. Motion/Second/Carried - Mr. Niederberger moved, seconded by all, the motion carried unanimously to proceed with the interim deliverable and to resume work on the remainder of the project once funding was restored.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Eck reminded the Board Members that annual groundwater pumping requests have been sent out and should be returned as soon as possible. Board members were also reminded that conflict of interest statements are due on March 13, 2009. The alternate representatives of the City of Elk Grove and Elk Grove Water Service were reminded that their respective Council and Board need to identify and appoint a primary representative to the Groundwater Authority Board.

8. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

None

Adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

By:

Wattersford
Chairperson

13 May 09
Date

Hester

13 May 09
Date

