

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)
Governing Board Meeting
Final Minutes
May 11, 2011

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

Paul Schubert acted as chair and called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Section 3.13(a) of the Authority's Policies and Procedures requires that a quorum be present in order to transact business. As a quorum was not present at this meeting the Board was unable to take any binding actions.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members (Alternate Rep):

Elizabeth Sparkman, City of Rancho Cordova
Rick Bettis, Conservation Land Owners
Edwin Smith, Public Agencies Self-Supplied
Andy Sole, California-American Water Company
Dave Ocenosak, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck, Executive Director
Heather Hawke, Board Clerk
Ping Chen
Ramon Roybal

Others in Attendance:

Jose Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Walt Sadler, City of Folsom
William Hughes, ACE Inc.
Doug Fortun, US Air Force
Brian Sytsma, Mather Restoration Advisory Board
Rodney Fricke, Aerojet Corporation
Jim Blanke, WRIME Inc.
Jon Goetz, MWH

Member Agencies Absent

City of Elk Grove

City of Folsom
City of Sacramento
County of Sacramento
Elk Grove Water District
Agricultural Interests
Agricultural-Residential
Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Rancho Murieta Community Services District

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Fricke announced that there was a meeting May 11, for the Sacramento branch of the Groundwater Resources Association at the Aviator's Restaurant located at the Executive Airport. The topic of discussion would be water quality and performance and improvements in water supply. The social hour was to begin at 6:00 PM, dinner at 7:00 PM., and discussion at 8:00 P.M.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Due to a lack of a quorum, approval of final minutes for the March 9, 2011 Board meeting and May 4, 2011 Budget Committee minutes will be postponed until the July 13, 2011 Board meeting.

4. UPDATE ON GROUNDWATER CLEANUP PROGRESS AT MATHER FIELD

Doug Fortun, Environmental Coordinator for United States Air Force (USAF) at Mather, and William Hughes, ASE Inc., gave a presentation on the history and progress of groundwater remediation efforts at the former Mather Air Force Base.

Mr. Fortun began the presentation by identifying the Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) as the entity responsible for environmental clean-up at Mather Field. Mr. Fortun then stated that the investigation of groundwater contamination began in 1982 with the sampling of wells for trichloroethylene (TCE) and that remediation of that contamination commenced in 1994. To date (end of 2010), there has been a total of ten billion gallons of groundwater treated and 4,000 pounds of solvents removed. Mr. Fotun added that this represented a long-term average pumping rate of 1,600 gallons per minute (gpm) with all but 100 gpm re-injected back into the aquifer. Mr. Hughes also mentioned that perchlorate (PCE) contamination was present at a slightly deeper aquifer level, and having originated from the Inactive Rancho Cordova Test Site. Mr. Hughes then discussed the four identified contaminant plumes underlying Mather.

1) Main Base/SAC Area Plume

This is the largest plume and has multiple sources throughout the flight line area where industrial operations occurred. Contamination is found up to 200 feet below sea level and predominantly consists of PCE, TCE, and carbon tetrachloride with some other minor solvents near the source areas. There are currently 24 extraction wells operating within the plume pumping a combined 1,600 gpm. All treated water is re-injected into a deeper aquifer zone.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board operated a monitoring program from 1979-1988 which identified several homes along Happy Lane and along a part of Old Placerville Road close to Mather that had contaminated wells. The USAF provided an alternate water supply to those properties and paid to have them connected to the Mather water system operated by SCWA. In 1997, well head treatment systems were installed at the Branch Center complex, juvenile hall, and the California American Moonbeam Drive well. The treatment system at the Moonbeam Drive well operated until last year. The USAF samples supply wells that feed into the distribution system on a quarterly basis and private wells monthly.

Mr. Schubert inquired as to the current level of remediation activity at the Moonbeam Drive well. Mr. Hughes replied that the action level required under Super Fund is half the MCL for both treatment and removal of the contaminant for an alternative water supply. Mr. Hughes also reported that contaminant concentrations influent to that treatment system have been below half the MCL since 2007.

2) Site 7 Plume

The Site 7 plume extends south of the base at a depth of about sixty feet below sea level. The main contaminants of concern are PCE and TCE. Two extraction wells have been operating since late 2006 pumping roughly 50 gpm. Treated water re-injected into the aquifer.

3) Aircraft Control & Warning (AC&W) Plume

The plume is named after a radar site that occupies the source area and is about 4,000 feet long and extends under the former family housing area at Mather (Independence at Mather). Mr. Hughes stated that the plume was unique in that it contains only TCE. Mr. Hughes reported that they were almost at the aquifer clean up level in the influent to the treatment plant, but still are finding measurements in the aquifer of up to 18 micro grams per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$); the goal for clean-up is five $\mu\text{g/l}$. Mr. Hughes estimated that it could take from 5-10 years to achieve that goal. Six extraction wells currently operate within the plume with a combined extraction rate of 106 gpm. Treated water is discharged to Mather Lake.

4) Northeast Plume

The origin of this plume was a series of landfills located in the northeast corner of the Mather facility site. Mr. Hughes described this as a relatively small plume, but at one time it was quite extensive as the underlying strata consists of a gravel horizon which allowed anything that percolated through the landfills to hit the water table and run laterally. Mr. Hughes went on to say that since groundwater levels have declined into the underlying silts, the plume has become more localized in areas close to sources of contamination causing contaminant concentrations to increase. Mr. Hughes stated that the remedy in this situation did not include an active treatment and pumping program, rather there is a monitoring program in conjunction with capping of

the landfill to try and reduce the amount of rainfall percolating into the ground through the landfills.

Mr. Sadler asked if the contents of the landfills were removed. Mr. Hughes replied that originally there were three landfills and that they have been consolidated into one and capped with a crown graded at 3%. Mr. Sadler asked if it was municipal waste. Mr. Hughes replied that it was a combination of municipal and some industrial waste, including household waste and some shop waste.

Mr. Sadler asked how current the maps of the plumes were. Mr. Hughes replied that they reflected data from the 2010 fourth quarter reports. Mr. Hughes further explained that groundwater reporting was done monthly for supply wells and quarterly for all 600 monitoring wells and extraction wells along with an evaluation conducted as part of an annual report that is available online.

Mr. Bettis asked if the highest concentrations within the contaminant plumes were stable with respect to movement and size. Mr. Hughes replied that if you look at plume interpretations over time, the overall extent of the plume seems to grow, mainly because the monitoring network was expanded. He further explained that the actual 'hot spot areas' at one time were continuous throughout the whole area but that through extraction mass removal, the boundaries of those 'hot spots' have been significantly reduced.

Ms. Sparkman asked if when they dug up and consolidated the old landfills, whether or not the consolidated site was lined with impermeable material or a wire shell. Mr. Hughes replied that to try and line it was not feasible and that instead the area was re-graded and fitted with an impermeable cap.

Mr. Goetz asked if there had been any discussion with other companies with respect to recharging treated water. Mr. Hughes said they had at one time talked about providing Granite and Teichert treated water for dust control, however, Morrison Creek proved to be a barrier because it was part of a protected habitat corridor and there were concerns about constructing any kind of water line over it. The current reclamation plan for Morrison Creek includes an emergent marsh though Morrison Creek is now channelized. Granite and Teichert currently divert water into the emergent marsh in order to create additional wetlands and the 55 gpm available from Mather has not been part of that discussion. Mr. Hughes then stated that more remediated water could be made available for use elsewhere, if water from the Main Base plant was diverted.

Mr. Sytsma, with the Air Force Real Property Agency, announced a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting scheduled for May 25th at 6pm at the Courtyard Sacramento located at 10683 White Rock Road. Primary topic of discussion was the shutdown of the RAB for Mather.

5. BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

As a quorum was not present the Board was unable to take action on the proposed budget as presented. Mr. Eck suggested that if there were no objections, the absent Board members could be contacted via e-mail to determine their position on the budget. Mr. Eck explained that the next Board meeting was not scheduled until after the beginning of the new fiscal year in July and that it was critical to at least have a sense as to whether the Board members supported the budget in principle. Mr. Schubert recommended a roll call vote to determine the support of those present. All Board members present supported the proposed budget and supported contacting the other Board members.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Eck reported on the status of the Restoration Advisory Board for Mather and referred to the letter attached to the board package which stated that there would be discussion of adjourning the RAB for Mather at its next meeting as mentioned previously by Mr. Sytsma.

Mr. Eck reported on DWR's update regarding the California State Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program (CASGEM) which indicated that the review process for agencies interested in acting as monitoring entities was still ongoing. DWR had also indicated that the website for submitting monitoring plans would be live by May 18th and that monitoring plans were to be submitted by summer 2011, with the first monitoring reports to be submitted by January 1, 2012. Mr. Eck reported that SCGA staff had been coordinating with staff representing Placer County and the Sacramento Groundwater Authority on submitting consistent monitoring plans. Mr. Schubert asked if it was still DWR policy not to include public water supply wells in the CASGEM program. Mr. Eck replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Eck reported that the Association of California Water Agencies had released a publication entitled, Sustainability from the Ground Up, Groundwater Management in California, A Framework, in April 2011. The Framework was developed to, "describe current groundwater management efforts and identify proactive steps to advance sustainable groundwater management as part of the state's overall water management portfolio." The Framework also emphasizes that the challenge of providing sustainable groundwater management, "must be met by local and regional agencies..." Mr. Eck added that the report seemingly acted as a counter balance to previous recommendations made by the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO).

Mr. Eck reported that the United States Geological Survey (USGS) had, in cooperation with the California State Water Resources Control Board, published a report on the status of groundwater quality in the Sacramento Valley. Staff will be reviewing the document to determine if there is any information that should be included in the HydroDMS.

Mr. Eck announced that the South Area Water Council (SAWC) had released a working draft of its South Basin Groundwater Management Plan and that the document would be the topic of discussion at the next scheduled SAWC meeting at 6:00 pm at the Sacramento County Farm Bureau, 8970 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk

Grove. Mr. Eck stated that some of the remaining issues associated with SAWC were finalization of the groundwater management plan and development and adoption of a governance structure.

Lastly, Mr. Eck reported that SCGA had been coordinating with the Sanitation District through the Sacramento Water Recycling Coalition. Mr. Eck reminded Board members that the Sanitation District had made a number of presentations outlining their proposed projects and that the Authority had agreed to be signatories to a letter supporting continued investigation of recycled water opportunities in Sacramento County. Mr. Eck provided the Board with the Sacramento Water Recycling Coalition web address.

7. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

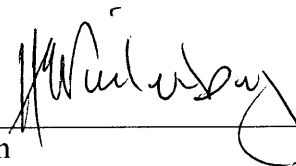
Mr. Bettis announced, on behalf of Rob Swartz from the Regional Water Authority, a solicitation for participants to attend a meeting regarding the Watershed Working Management Group to take place May 12, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings –

Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, July 13th, 2011. 10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA; SASD South Conference Room 1212 (Sunset Maple).

By:



Chairperson

July 13, 2011

Date



Date

07/13/11

Date

