

**SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)**  
**Governing Board Meeting**  
**Final Minutes**  
**January 12, 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**

Chair Ken Payne called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members (Alternate Rep):

Darren Wilson, City of Elk Grove

Ken Payne, City of Folsom

Elizabeth Sparkman, City of Rancho Cordova

Jim Peifer, City of Sacramento

Herb Niederberger, County of Sacramento

Rick Bettis, Conservation Land Owners

Ron Lowry, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District

Edwin Smith, Public Agencies Self-Supplied

Jose Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company

David Armand, California-American Water Company

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck, Executive Director

Heather Hawke, Clerk

Ping Chen

Ramon Roybal

Others in Attendance:

Rob Swartz, Sacramento Groundwater Authority

Keith Goodrich, County of Sacramento Waste Management & Recycling

Erik Vanderbilt, County of Sacramento Waste Management & Recycling

Rodney Fricke, Aerojet Corporation

Member Agencies Absent

*Elk Grove Water Service*

*Agricultural Interests*

*Agricultural Residential*

*Rancho Murieta Community Services District*

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Niederberger asked if anyone knew who the new General Manager of Elk Grove Water Service (EGWS) was and suggested that if there was one, that the Authority might do some outreach to the person as they may not be aware of their responsibility to the Authority. No one was able to provide clarification.

## **3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Three documents were reviewed for final approval, the draft meeting minutes for the regular board meeting held on November 10, 2010, the draft meeting minutes for Ag-Res Water Conservation Sub-Committee meeting on December 17, 2010, and a board letter regarding support of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District's formation of a Sacramento Water Recycling Coalition.

**Motion/Second/Carried** – Mr. Bettis moved, seconded by Mr. Peifer, the motion carried unanimously to approve all three documents.

## **4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Payne called for nominations of officers to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for 2011. Mr. Schubert nominated the 2010 Vice Chair, Herb Niederberger, for Chair and also nominated Golden State Water Company to serve as Vice Chair. Mr. Niederberger accepted the nomination. Mr. Payne then called for a vote on the nominees which were confirmed by unanimous affirmative vote by board members. The remainder of the meeting was chaired by Mr. Niederberger.

## **5. UPDATE ON GROUNDWATER CLEANUP PROGRESS AT KIEFER LANDFILL**

Mr. Eck stated that remediation of contaminated groundwater in and around the Kiefer Landfill had been important to the Groundwater Authority since the adoption of the Groundwater Management Plan in 2006. He then introduced Keith Goodrich and Eric Vanderbilt from the Sacramento County Department of Waste Management and Recycling who presented an update on the groundwater remediation effort in and around the Kiefer Landfill. Mr. Vanderbilt noted that Sacramento County began operation of Kiefer Landfill in 1967, that it currently occupies 302 acres with an ultimate design area of 660 acres, and that volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination of local groundwater was first detected in 1987. Mr. Vanderbilt stated that Kiefer Landfill sits atop a valley alluvium containing three water bearing zones organized into an upper Zone A (top of zone 30 ft MSL), middle Zone B (top of zone 0 to -50 ft MSL), and lower Zone C (top of zone -150 to -200 ft MSL). Mr. Vanderbilt further detailed that 90% of the contamination was contained in Zone A while

roughly 0% contamination is found in Zone C which is also the primary source from which drinking water is drawn in the region. Mr. Vanderbilt reported that during 2010, in the most impacted areas of Zone A, the total VOC levels were less than 20 parts per billion (ppb), while in Zone B the VOC levels were less than 5 ppb with 5 ppb representing the drinking water standard for the most commonly detected VOC's. Mr. Vanderbilt provided an estimate of the total VOC contamination for Zone A that showed a decline from 663 lbs in 1995, to 118 lbs in 2009, and that over the same period for Zone B, the VOC totals went from 54 lbs to 23 lbs. Mr. Vanderbilt described the remediation operations as consisting of 14 groundwater extraction wells, pumped to a central treatment plant where the VOC's are stripped then discharged to Deer Creek at a rate of 1,000 gallon per minute (gpm). The remediation project has been in operation for 15 years and will continue until the Regional Water Quality Control Board approves modification. Mr. Vanderbilt stated that the County will begin implementation of biological remediation techniques through the injection of a biological agent into the groundwater which will assist in the biological breakdown of contaminants before extraction and treatment. Mr. Vanderbilt announced that the contaminated groundwater is under hydraulic control and that no downstream users have been impacted.

Mr. Lowry asked if the agricultural-residential wells along Jackson Hwy were tested for contamination. Mr. Vanderbilt replied that those wells had been tested for a period of five years with zero positive tests so permission was requested and granted from the Water Board to cease monitoring on those wells.

Mr. Bettis asked what kind of chemicals would be injected as a part of the planned biological remediation process for 2011. Mr. Vanderbilt answered that a hydrogen release compound manufactured by a company named Regensis will be used. The premise behind it is that there are microbes in the sub surface and if you provide them food it will be digested and the process will create acids which have donor hydrogen atoms that are more freely available in the environment. Step by step, this process removes chlorines until benign products are present. Mr. Goodrich added that the process is designed to enhance a natural occurring process of microbial digestion.

Mrs. Sparkman inquired about the effect of landfill gas absorption into groundwater. Mr. Vanderbilt stated that over time landfill gas acts as the dominant transport mechanism for contaminants to groundwater explaining that as trash decomposes, it generates a tremendous amount of gas and pressure that push volatile organics into the surrounding environment. He continued stating that the County operates a landfill gas collection system in which perforated "straws" are drilled into the landfill mass and hooked up to fans which draw the landfill gas out, where it is incinerated and used to generate electricity which is then sold to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). Mr. Vanderbilt stated that gas is extracted at a rate of 5,000 cubic feet per second. Mr. Bettis inquired as to the generation capacity of the incinerated gas. Mr. Goodrich answered that it was 14 mega watts or enough to power about ten thousand homes. Mr. Ramirez asked if the gas was primarily methane. Mr. Goodrich responded that it was a mixture of 53% methane 46% carbon dioxide.

Mr. Bettis inquired about the Kiefer Landfill agreement to collect waste from the City of Sacramento and what the predicted height of the landfill would be as a result. Mr. Vanderbilt answered that they had received an expansion permit in 2005 which expanded capacity by 40-50 years and it was anticipated that waste received from the City would not significantly change that estimate.

Mr. Fricke commented on biological degradation of VOC contamination and alerted that often the natural bacteria does not have the ability to carry out complete degradation from the starting levels and that for such a situation, you would have to use a special bacteria. Mr. Vanderbilt replied with the methods that they are using to meet that challenge and acknowledged that managing bacteria was the essence of the matter.

Mr. Ramirez asked what type of material produced the methane gas. Mr. Vanderbilt said that it was mainly vegetative material that produced the methane. Mr. Ramirez mentioned that SRCSD had been in contact with SMUD and solid waste authorities regarding a pilot study to investigate direct injection of quick waste into the Kiefer's power generation plant thereby bypassing the need to dispose the waste into the landfill and ensuring levels of methane at the plant. Mr. Vanderbilt responded that they do not see a risk to the levels of methane produced by the landfill that would result in lower power plant production.

## **6. HYDRODMS ENHANCEMENTS**

Mr. Eck announced that during the development of the HydroDMS, it was recognized by staff and the Board that in order to have a more robust tool there was a need to incorporate groundwater data from the area north of the American River which is managed by the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA). Mr. Eck further explained that access to data from across the river would be important when having to conduct a regional analysis. It was also recognized that both SCGA and SGA will require unique access privileges to data in the two regions and that stakeholders within SCGA or within SGA, also required an appropriate level of access. Mr. Eck clarified that the work would be completed under the board approved open services contract with WRIME and that an authorization to spend \$15,000 to perform the enhancement of the HydroDMS was needed. Mr. Bettis wanted to know how long it would take to do the work and Mr. Eck replied that it would be about two months.

**Motion/Second/Carried** – Mr. Bettis moved, seconded by Mr. Schubert, the motion carried unanimously to authorize the Executive Director or his designee to issue a task order to WRIME to complete the necessary modifications to the HydroDMS addressing permission capabilities for an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

## **7. REPORT BACK ON WELL PROTECTION PROGRAM**

Mr. Eck reported that staff requested additional time, presumably until the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 board meeting, to complete work on the item. Mr. Eck reported that staff had been beta testing the HydroDMS to produce graphs and tables that would have been used to support the recommendations seen in the board package to postpone work on the WPP and that during this process a bug was found within the coding of the DMS. Mr. Eck stated that WRIME

was in the process of fixing the glitch and that it was expected that it would be resolved quickly. Mr. Niederberger then asked the Board if it was acceptable to move on the original recommendation by staff to postpone work on the WPP until such time as it was practical to proceed.

**Motion/Second/Carried** – Mr. Payne moved, seconded by Mr. Bettis, the motion carried unanimously to postpone work on the Well Protection Program (WPP) until such time as it is practical to proceed.

## **8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Agriculture-Residential Water Conservation Sub-Committee** – The first meeting of the Ag-Res Water Sub-committee was held on December 17, 2010. Initial discussion focused on the question of agriculture water conservation best management practices (BMPs). Even though discussion at the last Board meeting seemed to indicate that cost would drive the implementation of these BMPs it was recognized that some effort should be made to document the BMPs that are being used and then have the Board determine that they satisfy the requirements laid out in Section 3.2.4.1 of the GMP. Additional discussion focused on agriculture outreach and it was agreed that there are already organizations in place that could facilitate outreach as necessary.

In discussing ag-res BMPs it was determined that a significant amount of information is available, but it needs to be reviewed to determine whether it is applicable and appropriate for this area. Karen Buhr said that she would compile this information and make it available to the sub-committee for their review. The sub-committee would then reconvene to discuss the BMPs and determine outreach strategies.

**California State Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM)** – In accordance with Water Code Section 10928 the Groundwater Authority notified the State Department of Water Resources of their intent to be the local Monitoring Entity for the Central Basin. Additional information and/or requirements are still under development by DWR. What is certain is that the Groundwater Authority will need to submit a groundwater monitoring plan to DWR by July 1, 2011.

Mr. Payne asked what occurred that resulted in RWA not administering the monitoring program on a regional basis as was previously discussed. Mr. Schwartz answered that RWA found a problem with the fact that the guidelines produced by the State regarding the monitoring program were much different than the draft that was circulated. It was decided that the amount of work necessary to develop monitoring programs specific to each region was not reasonable given the short amount of time allotted by the State. Mr. Schwartz stated that in the future, once all the individual monitoring programs are determined, RWA could reapply to be the regional groundwater monitoring entity.

**SCGA Board Appointments** – Appointments for the Elk Grove Water District should be completed by the end of this month. SRCSD has completed their nomination process,

replacing Ruben Robles with David Ocenosak. Mr. Ocenosak's nomination will need to be confirmed by the County Board of Supervisors.

**AB 303 grant status** – Work on the AB 303 grant for updating the DMS is essentially complete. Items remaining include one outstanding invoice with DWR, submittal of the final invoice from WRIME, submittal of final invoice to DWR, and submittal of the final report.

**Conflict of Interest (Form 700)** – At the beginning of each year the State of California requires designated positions within the Authority to file Conflict of Interest Form 700 (see Authority Policy 100.2 for disclosure categories). These forms are to be submitted to the SCGA office by **April 1, 2011**. Please address them c/o Ramon Roybal, 827 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 301, Sacramento, CA 95814. Forms can be located online at: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/>.

## 9. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Peifer asked for clarification on whether the City of Sacramento would have to participate in the WPP given the City's plans to construct groundwater wells. Mr. Peifer mentioned a previous conversation with Mr. Eck regarding a certain threshold of pumping that would trigger the City's participation in the WPP. Mr. Eck replied that the Central Basin GMP and associated documentation had recognized that the City of Sacramento had no groundwater production. Mr. Eck continued that if there were plans for the City to move forward with a program that would contemplate using groundwater, then there would need to be a discussion as to the City's participation in the GMP's programs related to groundwater. Mr. Peifer mentioned that he thought there was a threshold of 5,000 acre feet of groundwater pumping and that the City of Sacramento does intend to increase groundwater production in the central basin but it would not exceed the 5,000 acre feet. Mr. Eck clarified that the 5,000 acre foot threshold was related to the annual contribution of groundwater pumpers to the SCGA budget. He further clarified that the entities first 5,000 acre feet are exempted from the charge of the annual contribution as prescribed by the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement. Mr. Eck stated that the Board would need to discuss the City of Sacramento's plan and what affects the plan would have on the general operation of the basin itself. Mr. Eck asked for clarification of the exact locations of the proposed wells. Mr. Peifer replied that one was to be located at Shasta Park in the southern part of the City and the other was to be located at the Fairbairn Water Treatment Plant property.

Mr. Bettis asked for an update regarding the Vineyard Surface Water Treatment Plant (VSWTP) and whether or not the operations of the treatment plant might be impaired by the requirements of the Habitat Conservation Plan. Mr. Niederberger said the VSWTP, which constituted the the final part of the Freeport Regional Water Project (FRWP), was scheduled to be completed in November of 2011. Mr. Niederberger continued explain that the hitch that Mr. Bettis brought up was related to the biological opinion for the FRWP which determined that no water would be used for new growth until the completion of the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) which had experienced a couple of delays. It was expected that the SSHCP would have been completed by now but now appears to be at least two years off while meetings are conducted with concerned land owners regarding the

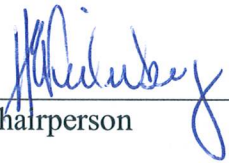
plan. Mr. Niederberger explained that an individual land owner could seek Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance which would enable them to proceed with receiving water from the Vineyard plant.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Upcoming Meetings –**

**Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting** – Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. 10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA; SASD South Conference Room 1212 (Sunset Maple).

By:

  
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Chairperson

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Date Mar 15, 2011

  
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Date 03/09/11

