

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)
Governing Board Meeting
Final Minutes
September 11, 2013

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 Jim Peifer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members (Primary Rep):

Tom Mahon, Agricultural Interests
Rick Bettis, Conservation Landowners
Christine Thompson, Public Agencies Self-Supplied
Ron Lowry, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Ed Crouse, Rancho Murieta Community Services District

Board Members (Alternate Rep):

Todd Eising, City of Folsom
Britton Snipes, City of Rancho Cordova
Jim Peifer, City of Sacramento
Bruce, Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District
José Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck, Executive Director SCGA
Heather Peek, Clerk, SCGA
Ping Chen, SCGA
Ramon Roybal, SCGA

Others in Attendance:

Mark Roberson, Water Forum
Rodney Fricke, Aerojet Corporation
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Ali Taghavi, RMC
Jonathan Goetz, GEI Consultants
Jafar Faghieh, HDR

Member Agencies Absent

City of Elk Grove

County of Sacramento/ Sacramento County Water Agency

Agricultural-Residential

Commercial/Industrial Self Supplied

California-American Water Company

Golden State Water Company

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rodney Fricke, Aerojet Corp., announced that a Groundwater Resources Association meeting would be held that evening at the Aviator Restaurant beginning with a 5:30 pm social hour followed by dinner. He then announced Dr. John Jansen as the key speaker on groundwater sustainability.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The draft meeting minutes for the July 10, 2013 Board meeting were reviewed for final approval.

Mr. Lowry suggested an edit to the minutes on page four, regarding agenda item five where a reference to the “American River” should have read “Cosumnes River” and further along finishing with a reference to the “American River” as the northern boundary of the Central Basin.

Motion/Second/Carried – Ms. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. Kamilos, the motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes.

4. SCGA AG WATER DEMAND EVALUATION AND 2011-2012 BIENNIAL BASIN MANAGEMENT REPORT CONTRACT

Mr. Eck reported that as part of the Groundwater Authority’s current budget, provisions were made to hire a consultant to assist staff in developing a methodology for estimating agricultural and ag/res groundwater demands on a regular basis so that the information could be used as part of the Authority’s Groundwater Accounting Program (currently under development), and in providing more accurate groundwater usage data in the Authority’s biennial reports. Mr. Eck then added that in addition to the work on agricultural water demands, staff would like the same consultant to prepare the Authority’s 2011-2012 Biennial Report. It was originally anticipated that staff would have sufficient time this fiscal year to complete the report but it is no longer the case. To address the problem staff proposed to take the \$20,000 previously allocated for staff to prepare the Biennial Report, and reallocate

it to consultant expenses. The reallocation would not change the total approved budget for the fiscal year.

Mr. Eck then reported that staff was currently reviewing proposals submitted by GEI Consultants, RMC, HDR, and MWH. Mr. Eck stated that staff anticipated completing a review of the proposals and selecting a consultant by September 20, 2013. Staff would then like to move forward with the process of placing the consultant under contract.

Mr. Eising asked who was involved in evaluating the proposals. Mr. Eck replied that staff was reviewing them along with Mark Roberson from the Water Forum. Mr. Eising then asked if typically anyone from the Board was involved in the process. Mr. Eck said not generally, however for projects of much greater magnitude Board members may be included in the selection process.

Motion/Second/Carried – Mr. Kamilos moved, seconded by Mr. Lowry, the motion carried unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with a consultant based on an evaluation of requests for proposals issued by the Groundwater Authority; contract amount not to exceed \$60,000.

5. REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Mr. Eck recalled that at the May 8, 2013 Board meeting, it was mentioned that a significant amount of time had passed since the Board had adopted the Policies and Procedures for the Groundwater Authority and that there should be a process that would provide for a regular assessment. Mr. Eck further recalled that at the July 10, 2013 Board meeting staff reviewed and received comments from the Board on Chapter 1 of the Rules of Procedure Governing the SCGA with the Board. Staff made the recommended changes to Chapter 1 and provided copies of both a strike out and final copy of the document as part of the Board package. Mr. Eck then stated the intent to review Chapter 2, Preliminary Matters, and Chapter 3, Board of Directors as an opportunity for Board members to become more familiar with the Rules of Procedure and to make recommendations for revisions as necessary.

Mr. Peifer asked for clarification as to why the Board was reviewing the policies and procedures. Mr. Eck's replied that it was in response to a request that came about by the Board to do so and that periodically issues come up and a reference is made to the requirements that are specified in the policies and procedures and so thus was a sense that there needed to be an opportunity to go through and review them. Mr. Eck stated that it was something that the Sacramento Groundwater Authority did on a regular basis. Mr. Eck pointed out that for the SCGA, the policies and procedures were approved six years previous and that there had some turn over in Board membership. Mr. Peifer asked if there were specific instances where the procedures were problematic for the Authority. Mr. Eck replied that there were a few edits recommended for chapter one however, chapters two and three appeared to mirror the language of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and unless there was a strong desire to also amend the JPA, it would be possible skip over those aspects of the

policies and procedures. It was decided to briefly review chapters two and three and to record any recommended changes suggested by the Board.

With respect to Section 3.11 Meeting Agendas, Mr. Peifer asked if it was legal counsel's opinion to have the meeting agenda posted at every member agency's location and if the Board could change that or not. Mr. Eck replied that the posting requirements were determined by the Brown Act and that it may be possible that allowances within those requirements do not require the broader postings. Mr. Peifer mentioned it did not seem as though it were a requirement for the Sacramento Groundwater Authority and that it would be his preference to post the agenda in just one location. Mr. Eising asked for clarification as to where it was expected for the agenda to be posted. Mr. Eck replied that the expectation was that it be posted at the offices of each of the JPA signatories. Mr. Eck then stated that he would look into whether the agenda had to be posted at each of those locations or if a single location would satisfy the Brown Act.

Mr. Eck asked if anyone had any additional questions. Mr. Crouse said from his perspective everything looked all right. Mr. Peifer asked if the Board needed to take an action on the item. Mr. Eck replied that it was informational and a way to get feedback from the Board.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a) Local Groundwater Assistance Grant – Mr. Eck announced that CA DWR had notified staff that SCGA would receive \$199,824 from a local groundwater assistance grant and that staff was working with DWR to prepare and approve the grant funding agreement after which the process of selecting a consultant would begin.
- b) Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2014 – Mr. Eck announced that the election of new chair positions would take place at the next meeting in November.
- c) New Board Members – Mr. Eck introduced Britton Snipes, with the City of Rancho Cordova who replaced Elizabeth Sparkman and Travis Anderson, with Golden State Water Company, who replaced Scott Fort.
- d) Questionnaire for the Groundwater Accounting Program (GAP) – Mr. Eck said the Board had established a subcommittee to talk about the creation of groundwater accounting program for the Groundwater Authority. The need for stakeholder feedback regarding the fundamental elements of a GAP had become apparent. Staff was working on a questionnaire that would assist in the development of the program. The questionnaire will be vetted through the GAP subcommittee in October.
- e) Boundary Change Question – Mr. Eck mentioned that at the July 10, 2013 Board meeting a question was raised regarding the boundary between the Central and South basins. The current boundary, as described in the Groundwater Management Plan and the JPA, was established by the Water Forum. There are several significant issues that would need to be addressed prior to making this consideration. First, what would be the benefit to the Central Basin in making this change? Second, what changes would be required in various documents that describe the Central Basin (e.g.,

the Water Forum Agreement, the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan, the Joint Powers Agreement, the CASGEM Monitoring Program, etc.)? Third, what would be the change to the sustainable yield and what would be the modeling requirements necessary to address that change? Fourth, what would be the cost and who would bear that cost? Mr. Eck called for the Board members to consider those factors if the issue was to be pursued further.

7. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Ms. Thompson expressed an interest in outreaching to other public agency self-supplied stakeholders to participate in SCGA.

Mr. Bettis inquired about the timeframe of when the ag demand estimate would be completed. Mr. Eck replied that the project was targeted to be completed four months after the award of the contract. Mr. Bettis then asked for an email/summary regarding the project goals of the upcoming local groundwater assistance grant project. Mr. Eck replied that staff would provide a summary as soon as the grant award process was finalized.

Mr. Lowry stated that he felt as though there should be Board member involvement in the consultant selection process for projects of a certain dollar amount. He stated that he was unsure of the threshold for the dollar amount but that it should trigger the formation of a subcommittee to review the staff's selection process and the committee would have final say in consultant selection. The topic was discussed by the Board with some members expressing a concern to not interfere with staff's ability to complete its tasks. Others expressed that staff reports its intentions to the Board and should be afforded the ability to choose consultants they feel will complete work with most effectively. The Board did agree that for very high dollar contracts, perhaps of \$100,000 or greater, as has been done in the past, a staff report be provided to the Board on the selection process and if the Board felt it necessary at that time, a sub-committee could be formed.

Mr. Kamilos related that the Florin Resource Conservation District (FRCD) had recently determined to incorporate groundwater banking opportunities as a part of its conservation management strategy. Mr. Kamilos reported that the FRCD General Manager was going to begin focusing on groundwater banking and would be interested in partnering up with other groups on those opportunities.

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings –

Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, November 13th, 2013. 10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA; SASD South Conference Room 1212 (Sunset Maple).

By:

B. M. Ocasio
Chairperson

11/13/2013
Date

Haider Puck

11/13/2013
Date