SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Sub-Committee Meeting
Final Minutes
Wednesday, September 16, 2015; 1:30 PM

Location: 10060 Goethe Road
Sacramento, CA 95827
SRCSD/SASD Office Building – Room 1213 Red Oak

Minutes:

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

Darrell Eck called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members:

Forrest Williams – Sacramento County
Tom Nelson – FRCD/EGWD
Tom Mahon – Agricultural Interests
Brett Ewart – City of Sacramento
Rick Bettis – Conservation Landowners

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck - SCGA
Sarah Britton – Legal Counsel
Ping Chen – SCGA
Ramon Roybal – SCGA

Others in Attendance:

Mark Madison – FRCD/EGWD
Bruce Kamilos – FRCD/EGWD
Jonathan Goetz – GEI

2. **Public Comment**

None

3. **SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 BOARD MEETING**

- Mr. Madison suggested that a letter should be sent to Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD) stating SCGA's position that it would oppose a modification to the Bulletin 118 boundary. Ms. Britton suggested sending OHWD a copy of the minutes from the September 9 board meeting.

- Mr. Ewart stated his opinion that the OHWD representatives drove the discussion and that the decisions and recommendations made by the SCGA SGMA subcommittee where not communicated as clearly as they could have been. Mr. Ewart recommended that a presentation be made at subsequent Board meetings to inform the Board of the risks and implications of decisions to be made regarding the path to SGMA compliance. Mr. Madison concurred and added that clear and concise recommendations need to be presented for the Board to act upon.
- Mr. Eck discussed the implications of SB13 which was signed by Governor Brown on September 3, 2015. The Bill would allow for a ninety day public comment period for the filing of a NOI for GSA formation and would allow for the filing of a competing GSA for the same area thus requiring the competing groups to negotiate a compromise. Mr. Eck stated that it would precipitate a reconciliation of OHWD's potential action to file as a separate GSA sooner rather than later.
- Mr. Nelson recommended that that Board should meet every month in order to keep the Board informed and fresh on the issues regarding SGMA compliance. Mr. Ewart and Mr. Williams concurred. Mr. Bettis said he would support it as long as progress was being made. Mr. Madison stated that a scheduled meeting could be cancelled if it was deemed unnecessary.
- Mr. Goetz communicated the importance of receiving a statement of assurances from OHWD, in a timely manner, regarding its intentions to form a separate GSA in order to avoid complications and potential delays for SCGA to move forward with its GSA formation and subsequent GSP development. Specifically, SCGA needs to make sure that OHWD follows through with its stated intention to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) for GSA formation to avoid being in a position where it has prepared an NOI that leaves a portion of the subbasin uncovered by a GSA.
- Needed assurances from OHWD: 1) Clearly defined boundary between SCGA and OHWD GSA's. 2) Defined milestones that would lead to OHWD's successful formation and development of their own GSA, necessary coordinating agreement including participation in development of a single GSP for the South American Subbasin.

4. NEIGHBORING BASIN ACTIVITIES

- Mr. Goetz gave a PowerPoint presentation addressing the scientific basis for why the Cosumnes River was a hydrogeoligic basin boundary and why it was important from SCGA's position as a management agency to maintain a certain level of control in that region.
    - Basins on both side of the river share responsibility of surface water/groundwater interaction.

  - Groundwater usage/management in the vicinity of the hydrogeologic boundary likely to affect the opposing side of the boundary in a significant way.
  - Important to consider potential future management actions by entities such as Sacramento County Water Agency, County of Sacramento, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, City of Elk Grove, etc. that may result in improved groundwater conditions underlying the OHWD area.

- Mr. Mahon pointed out that agricultural water use is a source of recharge for the Cosumnes River that has a significant effect on promoting wildlife diversity and creating a wildlife corridor between the foothills and the delta the benefit of which would have to be considered when determining a fee structure for GSP implementation.
- Mr. Ewart stated full cooperation between SCGA and OHWD that resulted in shared responsibility of GSP implementation would be an acceptable arrangement in terms of ensuring groundwater management in the vicinity of the Cosumnes River. It would require that the current Bulletin 118 boundary was recognized and that OHWD was committed to being a good faith actor in all aspects of coordinating management efforts including technical and financial obligations.
- Mr. Eck stated that it was important to get assurances from OHWD regarding its plan to pursue GSA application and follow up actions relative to SGMA compliance. Mr. Eck identified the need to know OHWD's timing for GSA application, its recognition of the current Bulletin 118 boundary, and the need to negotiate coordination agreements as the specific assurances.
- Mr. Nelson asked if all subcommittee members were in agreement that SCGA should take a firm position that the Bulletin 118 boundary should not be changed. All in attendance concurred.

5. NEIGHBORING BASIN ACTIVITIES

- Mr. Madison stated that it was too early to get into detailed discussion regarding public outreach rather, the issue of governance and the structure of the Joint Powers Authority needed to be addressed. Of specific concern was who would be signatory to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) under a GSA structure and how would the JPA be designed in order to facilitate compliance with SGMA.
- Mr. Nelson mentioned that he would need a clearer understanding of his role in relation to the JPA in order to be able to explain what an SCGA GSA would mean to those that he would outreach to.
- Mr. Eck stated that it may be helpful to review how the current JPA was developed and the powers that it currently contained and how it would apply under SGMA. Mr. Eck then mentioned that the Sacramento Groundwater

Authority had a JPA that was very similar in structure to SCGA's and that they had determined that significant changes were not necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings –

Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 9 am; 10060 Goethe Road, South Conference Room No. 1212 (Sunset Maple).

By:

Chairperson

11/4/15
Date

11/4/15
Date