

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)
Governing Board Meeting
Final Minutes
May 13, 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

Vice-Chair 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
Ed Crouse, Rancho Murieta Community Services District

Board Members (Alternate Rep):

Albert Stricker, City of Rancho Cordova
Clarence Korhonen, City of Elk Grove
Walt Sadler, City of Folsom
Herb Niederberger, Sacramento County Water Agency
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
Ali Taghavi, WRIME
Mark Salmon

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes of March 11, 2009 Board Meeting

Mr. Sadler asked if there were any questions or comments on the March 11, 2009 meeting minutes. Being none, Mr. Sadler called for a motion to approve the consent calendar items. Motion/Second/Carried - Mr. Niederberger moved and Mr. Bettis seconded and the motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes.

4. **WELL PROTECTION PROGRAM UPDATE**

- **Status of draft ordinance and nexus study**

The Board was reminded that at the March 2009 Board meeting Stuart Helfand had recommended that activities on the Well Protection Program be put on hold until the housing market turns around. At that time Herb Niederberger also mentioned that his discussions with the BIA indicated that they wouldn't be receptive to any increases in fees at this time. The Board concurred with this recommendation and directed staff to continue working with Counsel on their comments to the draft Nexus Study and ordinance recommendations.

These documents are now complete and staff would like to provide copies to the Board and more particularly to land use authorities for their consideration. Because of the size of the draft Nexus Study staff would like to make these documents available to the Board through SCGA's website. If any of the Board members would like the document on a CD, it will be available upon request. This recommendation was approved by the Board.

5. **BUDGET**

- Budget Status

Staff was unable to provide an update on the current budget as the Financial Status report was unavailable at this time.

- Request for Contribution

Staff will be sending out requests for contributions to the various agencies for fiscal year 2009-2010 about the middle of June.

Staff requested that the Board appoint a Budget Committee to prepare a budget recommendation for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Mr. Sadler called for volunteers to serve on the Committee. Herb Niederberger, Ed Crouse, and Walt Sadler volunteered. Staff will schedule the Committee meeting later in the month.

6. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Status of AB 303 Grant/WRIME Contract

According to State DWR there is no official word on when the AB 303 grant money will be available. It is important to note that Budget Letter 09-09 states that, “the State eventually intends to pay the costs to which it has committed through a valid agreement...”

Work on the midyear deliverable is continuing and should be completed on time and on budget around July 1, 2009.

- Basin bi-annual report

Staff has developed the first Central Basin Bi-Annual Report. The report is currently under review and is expected to be released in July 2009.

- Annual Groundwater Pumping Requests

Staff is waiting for groundwater pumping information from California American Water Company. All the other groundwater pumping data has been received. Staff has contacted Cal-Am several times and has not received this information yet. With the upcoming Budget Committee meeting it is important to have this information in order to complete the budget. Herb Niederberger said that he would contact Cal-Am.

- Groundwater Banking Proposals

Update on the various ground water banking proposals in the Central Basin.

- Curtis Hanford
 - Made presentation to the Board in March 2009.
 - Proposal involves a for profit project that would sell banked water to an interested municipal water purveyor.
 - Board direction was for staff to coordinate as necessary. As of this date staff has not heard back from Mr. Hanford.
- Curtis Hanford's Sister
 - Sent out numerous letters/e-mails in April 2009 indicating an interest in receiving proposals from interested parties in developing a groundwater banking project on her property.
- Groundwater Banking Pilot Project
 - Proposal by Stuart Robertson of RBI made to the Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Groundwater Authority, EBMUD, and SCWA.
 - Wanted to take advantage of available stimulus money – application deadline May 22, 2009.
 - Project required cost share of \$5.0M and completion by September 2011.
 - It was ultimately agreed by all parties that if was infeasible to do everything that needed to be done in order to submit an application within a couple of weeks.

- It was also agreed that a number of feasibility studies would need to be done prior to committing to any capital project.
- EBMUD 2040 Water Plan
 - Contains a proposal to bank water in the Central Basin.
- SCWA
 - Looking at groundwater banking as a means to meet the demands of new development described in the County's draft General Plan update. One area being considered are Teichert's Aspen gravel pits.
- NHI
 - After a lot of initial activity this discussion has gone cold and there hasn't been any discussion or contact with the NHI representative.

SCGA staff will remain in contact with these interests and continue to monitor their activities and proposals. Of particular interest:

- What is the nature of the groundwater banking and exchange program being proposed?
- What is the best way to proceed with studies, feasibility reports, etc?
- What is the appropriate timing to move forward?
- How these studies would be funded?

Board members also discussed groundwater recharge methods: spreading basin versus injection wells. All felt that there are a lot of moving parts and challenges. Mr. Niederberger pointed out that SGA is currently struggling setting up a water accounting framework in the North Basin and that there are a lot of issues that need to be resolved between the various members; he suggested that SCGA should wait until SGA has worked out all of the bugs.

- Public Outreach

Mr. Eck reported that he is going to make a presentation to the Elk Grove leadership group about programs and activities of both SCGA and SCWA on May 14, 2009.

- Letter of Support for SCWA's water meter installation

Mr. Eck said that SCWA is working on submitting an application to Reclamation for a grant to install water meters in the Vineyard and Laguna service areas of Zone 40. He said that SCWA would like a letter of support from the Authority to accompany the application. He asked the Board to authorize staff to draft the letter of support.

Motion/Second/Carried - Mr. Sadler moved and Mr. Bettis seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

7. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

- Herb Niederberger: Andy Soule has been appointed General Manager of Cal American Water Company.

By:

Scott D. Fort
Chairperson

6/10/09
Date

Heather Hale

06/10/09
Date

