

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)

Governing Board Meeting

Final Minutes

March 10, 2010

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 Walt Sadler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members (Primary Rep):

Anthony van Steyn, Agricultural Interests
Stuart Helfand, Agricultural Residential
Scott Fort, Golden State Water Company
Ed Crouse, Rancho Murieta Community Services District
Rick Bettis, Conservation Land Owners
Ron Lowry, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Ruben Robles, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Edwin Smith, Public Agencies Self-Supplied

Board Members (Alternate Rep):

Clarence Korhonen, City of Elk Grove
Walt Sadler, City of Folsom
Albert Stricker, City of Rancho Cordova
Jim Peifer, City of Sacramento
Herb Niederberger, County of Sacramento

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
Ping Chen, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
Ramon Roybal, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
Heather Hawke, Clerk, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority

Others in Attendance:

Rodney Fricke, Aerojet
Jim Blanke, WRIME Inc.
Jeanna Long, WRIME Inc.
Saqib Najmus, WRIME, Inc.
Rob Swartz, SGA
Ken Payne, City of Folsom
Cathy Lee, City of Roseville
Alex Vdovichenko, California Department of Water Resources
Mark Roberson, Sacramento Regional Water Forum
Frank Bradham, City of Lincoln
Martin Steinpress, Brown and Caldwell

Others in Attendance (cont):

Brent Cain, Brown and Caldwell

Member Agencies Absent

Commercial/Industrial Self-Supplied (vacant)

California – American Water Company

Elk Grove Water Service

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The draft meeting minutes for the meeting held on January 13, 2009 were reviewed for final approval.

Motion/Second/Carried - Mr. Fort moved, seconded by Mr. Bettis, the motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes.

4. STATUS REPORT ON THE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

In November 2008, the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) entered into an agreement with the consulting firm, Water Resources and Information Management Engineering (WRIME) to complete an update of groundwater of the data management systems. A status report was given by WRIME staff members Jim Blanke and Jeanna Long to provide an update on progress for the completion of that project.

After the presentation, Mr. Sadler asked the Board if there were any questions. Mr. Bettis was curious if any agencies have water quality data other than the Department of Health (DPH), the Regional Board Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), or the Sacramento County of Environmental Management Department (EMD). Mrs. Long indicated some water quality data had been received from some of these agencies. The issue with the DPH data is that it is difficult to match with the data that is already in the DMS; what WRIME needs is information from DPH to make this match. Mr. Blanke said that while DPH will give you all the water quality data on a CD they will not release well location information without a nondisclosure agreement. Mr. Niederberger also indicated that EMD isn't a source for comprehensive water quality data. Mr. Robles then asked if the Regional Board would have data on groundwater contamination and remediation sites and wanted to know if that would be brought into the DMS. Mr. Fricke responded that the Regional Board uses a Geo Tracker System to track their water quality data. Mr. Robles asked if data from the Geo Tracker System was included in the DMS. Mrs. Long indicated that she didn't think it was at this time but would check with WRIME's data collection person.

Mr. Niederberger asked how SCGA's DMS was going to talk to the Sacramento Groundwater Authority's (SGA) DMS. Mrs. Long responded that the question had been raised previously but that a decision had not yet been made. If the SCGA and SGA DMS' are maintained as two separate databases they will not be able to "talk" to each other but it won't prevent data from either database to be displayed in the Integrated Water Resources Information System (IWRIS). Mr. Sadler wondered if it would be a policy decision on the part of both Boards to put data from both basins in one common database. Mr. Robles asked what the benefits were of combining the two databases. Mrs. Long said the primary benefit would be the ability to conduct a higher level of technical analysis on the data. Mr. Sadler asked if a Board action was required to integrate the two databases. Mr. Niederberger thought it would be a good idea.

Mr. Niederberger asked what the contamination fate and transport model work that is currently under development by SGA would accomplish. Mr. Blanke said the purpose of the model was to organize and analyze data so that potential threats to existing water supplies could be identified in a way that would provide time to respond to said threat.

Mr. Eck stated that it was important to recognize that the DMS is going to be able to improve the Authority's ability to make comparisons of critical groundwater data. This need was demonstrated in the Authority's bi-annual report as staff was hampered to a certain extent in trying to make some of the comparisons since some of the tools that would be found in the DMS were not available to make those analyses.

5. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Eck stated that at the last Board meeting there was a discussion regarding opportunities for another Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA) grant and that there were many questions on what the focus of an application from SCGA would be. Mr. Eck stated that from observation of the meeting minutes it was apparent that there needed to be additional discussion on the subject. Mr. Eck reiterated that the grant proposal was to be based on requirements weighed out in both the SCGA Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) and recommendations that were identified in the 2007/2008 SCGA Basin Management Report. Mr. Eck reminded the Board that the GMP charges the SCGA with five basin management objectives (BMO) which include, maintaining the long term sustainable yield of basin, maintaining specific groundwater elevations, subsidence, adverse impact of surface water and water quality. Mr. Eck continued by stating that the GMP recognized that in order to accomplish the BMO's a more detailed monitoring management plan would need to be developed and that the Authority had acted upon this through the update of the DMS. The proposed grant application would provide for identification of additional monitoring wells and other data gaps that may exist. Mr. Eck stated that as an example, the Nature Conservancy owns monitoring wells along the Consumnes River which along with Aerojet monitoring wells, and other as yet identified existing monitoring wells, could be incorporated into the DMS monitoring grid. In addition to monitoring wells, as stated by Mr. Eck, the aggregation of polygons contained in the

Central basin polygon grid, as described in Appendix B of the GMP, would represent significant additional work to aid in the development of a monitoring network. Mr. Eck further explained that according to Appendix B, the aggregation of the polygon grid was critical because from an analytical perspective, not every grid required a dedicated monitoring well in order to accurately characterize the basin and that furthermore, to attempt to place a monitoring well in each grid would be cost prohibitive. Mr. Eck then stated that another potential task to be included in an LGA grant proposal would be the prioritization of new monitoring wells to be constructed by SCGA. Mr. Eck finished by stating that the continued development of SCGA monitoring network was important in order to provide future recording and policy decision capabilities such as those that are recommended in the current bi-annual report.

6. REGIONAL CONTAMINATION MODEL

Mr. Eck reported that the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) had secured a Local Groundwater Assistance grant to develop a regional contamination model designed to identify potential threats from contaminant plumes to current production wells north of the American River. Mr. Eck reported that an opportunity existed to expand the scope of the model to include areas south of the American River within the Central Basin. Mr. Eck continued to describe specific tasks of the modeling work to include; simulation of the movement of contamination in the groundwater basin based on a flow system developed using the SacIGSM, simulation of the conditions at the planned 2030 level of development assuming that the basin maximizes current plans for operating conjunctive use; and a brief memorandum describing the results of the modeling scenarios.

Mr. Eck stated that support of the modeling effort for analysis within the Central Basin would be consistent with Section 3.2.3.5, Control of the Migration and Remediation of Contaminated Groundwater, of the Groundwater Management Plan. Mr. Eck reported that the Groundwater Authority currently has \$28,000 available in the budget for consultant expenses and that is was staff's recommendation that the Board authorize the Executive Director to expend up to \$15,000 to support the development of a regional contamination model in conjunction with the Sacramento Groundwater Authority .

Mr. Swartz clarified that it was a misnomer to call SGA's modeling effort a regional contamination model as contamination modeling was only one aspect of the overall project. Mr. Swartz stated that SGA is taking a comprehensive look at the various threats to the sustainability of the water quality in the North Basin. He continued by stating that there are a series of contamination plumes that SGA is aware of within the North Basin along with ongoing point source issues, and that SGA wanted to investigate and demonstrate the dynamics of point-source contamination and the factors contributing to the movement of the contamination plumes. Mr. Swartz explained that, as an example, the model would look at simple flow run over a simulation period of a hundred years and its resultant effect within the aquifer system to demonstrate the relationship say, of one party attempting to capture a contaminant plume, and the other party, say a public water supplier, drawing water for public supply. Part of this effort would be to locate the plumes. Mr. Swartz stated that the

model would be run under multiple scenarios to account for such factors as conjunctive use or non-conjunctive use in order to demonstrate the effects or potential benefits of varied management strategies. It was also proposed that the executive directors with SCGA and SGA meet on a regular basis.

Motion/Second/Carried - Mr. Helfand moved, seconded by Mr. Niederberger, the motion carried unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to expend up to \$15,000 to support the development of a regional contamination model in conjunction with the Sacramento Groundwater Authority.

7. GROUNDWATER MODEL EVALUATION PROPOSAL

Mr. Eck began by stating that although the Sacramento Integrated Groundwater Surface Water (SacIGSM) model had been integral to water supply planning in the region for over 20 years, the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) had identified in their 2008 Groundwater Management Plan the need to review long-term modeling needs in the region and recognized that conducting this type a review should be conducted through a coordinated approach. Mr. Eck then introduced Mr. Swartz from SGA for a discussion on a coordinated groundwater model evaluation. Mr. Swartz stated that the process would begin in the late spring or early summer to communicate with all of the regional interests to find out their modeling needs. He stated that when the idea was brought before the SGA Board, the recommendation was to first outreach to the SCGA to gauge its interest in collaborating on the project since both historically relied on the same modeling technology and to maintain continuity in the communication between each region's modeling efforts. Mr. Swartz suggested going through a process of identifying what SCGA's modeling needs and objectives are and then look at the state of the tools that are available and what the Authority's needs going forward may be. Mr. Swartz then related some of the factors SGA was considering such as the current state of water modeling technology and whether the different packages of say ModFlow seamlessly link or are there still manual processes involved. Mr. Sadler asked if there would be an outside consultant brought in with the experience to help make a determination. Mr. Robles asked Mr. Swartz to clarify the difference between the models previously discussed and the current model proposal. Mr. Swartz explained that the evaluation process was still in the initial phases and that the general approach was to gauge interest in a regional collaborative effort, then to determine needs and objectives, then identify the potential tools and discuss in detail the best options.

8. FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011 BUDGET

Mr. Eck stated that staff recommended the appointment of a budget committee to prepare recommendations to the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year. Mr. Sadler asked if there were any volunteers. Mr. Niederberger, Mr. Fort, Mr. Crouse and Mr. Sadler all volunteered.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Eck provided an update regarding the financial status of the Groundwater Authority reminding the Board that the approved budget for the current the fiscal year 2009-2010 was \$284,003 and that the expenditures to date were \$130,628, constituting 46% of the budget with 67% of the year gone by as of March 1st.

Mr. Eck then reported that the financial audit conducted by Vavrinek, Trine, Day and Company, was completed and will be released pending approval of an amendment to the County of Sacramento's contract with the firm and that results and recommendations should be available at the May 12, 2010 Board meeting.

Mr. Eck then addressed the status of the Well Protection Program (WPP) stating that there had been questions concerning the next steps required for moving the program forward. Mr. Eck reminded everyone that at the January 13, 2010 Board meeting it was decided that the representatives of the signatories to the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) would consult with their staff, management, and various governing bodies regarding the WPP and the Review and Authorization to Proceed (RAP) package and take the necessary steps to adopt a resolution that commits them moving forward with the well protection program process. Mr. Sadler commented that he thought it might be good to have SCGA track the number of building permits in the area and then notify the land-use agencies once they are over 800 annually (number identified in the Nexus Study for WPP). Mr. Eck thought it would be helpful if the agencies would provide that information. Mr. Sadler then said that for his agency (City of Folsom) the process to secure a resolution would involve two steps; first he would present a staff report to his City Council as a means to inform them of the process, the he would go out and finalize the details before going back to his City Council for final approval. Mr. Eck then reiterated that there needed to be a mutual understanding of how the process will work and reminded the Board that per previous discussion, it was recommended that the resolution process be completed by June 30, 2010. Mr. Eck stated that staff was available to provide assistance with the process.

Mr. Eck announced that the South Area Water Council has resumed meetings to develop their groundwater management plan with the first meeting held on February 22, 2010 that reoriented participants to the process after a year long hiatus. He stated that the next meeting was scheduled for March 15, 2010 and would be focused on development of the basin management objectives for the South Basin. Mr. Lowry then added that the South Area Water Council was set to meet on March 16, 2010 for a vote on a Notice of Intent to the State alerting them of their intent to develop a GMP.

10. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Niederberger suggested arranging a tour to view the facility at the Freeport Regional Water Project intake structure as it was virtually completed.

Mr. Sadler asked to have the Board authorize Mr. Eck to attend the SGA meetings to improve coordination between the two agencies and to look for other opportunities that SCGA may benefit from.

ADJOURNMENT

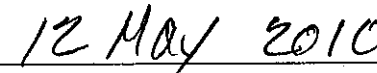
Upcoming Meetings –

Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, May 12th, 2010. 10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA; SASD South Conference Room 1212 (Sunset Maple).

By:




Chairperson



Date





Date