

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)

Governing Board Meeting

Final Minutes

May 12, 2010

LOCATION: 10060 Goethe Road, Room 1212
Sacramento, CA 95827
9:00 a.m. to 9:45 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 (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
Rick Bettis, Conservation Land Owners
Edwin Smith, Public Agencies Self-Supplied
Ron Lowry, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Ed Crouse, Rancho Murieta Community Services District
David Armand, California-American Water Company
Jose Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Scott Fort, Golden State Water Company

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
Ali Taghavi, WRIME Inc.

Member Agencies Absent

Elk Grove Water Service

Agricultural Interests

Agricultural-Residential

Commercial/Industrial Self-Supplied (Vacant)

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The draft meeting minutes for the meeting held on March 10, 2009 were reviewed for final approval.

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

4. BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Eck stated that the proposed 2010-11 fiscal year budget for the Groundwater Authority was developed based on the program requirements described in the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP). The budget also provides for overhead expenses including the Executive Director, administrative support, Legal Counsel, and financial support. Additionally, the proposed budget also included funding for consultant services and provides limited staff support for activities related to the Well Protection Program (WPP). Funding from all sources is \$268,461.62; the means of financing is estimated at \$376,508; and recommended expenditures for fiscal year 2010-11 are \$308,300. It is not expected that the WPP will be implemented this year.

Mr. Eck explained that the proposed budget for the Groundwater Authority and WPP were presented, discussed, and approval recommended by the budget committee on April 12, 2010. Budget committee members included Ed Crouse, Scott Fort, Herb Niederberger and Walt Sadler. Staff recommended that the Board approve the resolution adopting the fiscal year 2010-11 budget recommendation for the Groundwater Authority.

Mr. Korhonen asked for more information regarding the consultant and JPA expenses. Mr. Korhonen requested an explanation of the distinction between the work to be completed by the consultant and that to be done by staff. Mr. Eck replied that consultant expenses would go toward applying for local groundwater assistance grants that may arise throughout the fiscal year, or for maintaining the DMS in the event that any new data is acquired after the current DMS project is completed. Mr. Korhonen asked if the only consultant related expense currently committed from the budget is for preparation of the AB303 grant. Mr. Eck responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Bettis commented that groundwater levels are in some cases 10-15 feet below the minimum thresholds set by the Water Forum. He went on to say that Mr. Taghavi had at one time suggested that once the DMS was up and running, it would not be difficult to redefine the minimum thresholds. Mr. Bettis suggested that such a project might be worth funding. Mr. Bettis then referred to page 3-20 of the GMP regarding demand reduction. Mr. Bettis stated that he did not feel that the Groundwater Authority was doing enough to address this issue. He mentioned that there are existing programs designed to address demand reduction for Ag, Ag-Res, and self-supplied users that may be applicable in the Central Basin but that either way, the issue needed to be addressed by the Groundwater Authority.

Mr. Korhonen asked about the intent of the \$50,000 marked for the Well Protection Program on Attachment D of the Staff Report. Mr. Eck replied that it was to fund staff time to assist the Cities of Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, and Folsom, and the County of Sacramento, to move forward with development of the necessary tools needed to develop and implement the WPP within their respective jurisdictions.

Mr. Crouse asked when the Groundwater Authority would be approaching the five year update requirement for the GMP. Mr. Eck indicated that the need would be assessed as part of the upcoming biennial report (due at the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year) and would be addressed during the 2011-12 fiscal year, if necessary.

Motion/Second/Carried - Mr. Niederberger moved, seconded by Mr. Sadler, the motion carried unanimously to approve Resolution 2010-01 adopting the Fiscal Year 2010/2011 budget recommendation for SCGA.

5. SERVICES CONTRACT

Mr. Eck stated that in order to fully implement programs outlined in the GMP, the Groundwater Authority has determined a need for water resources planning and information management services. Previously, WRIME has been selected to provide these services based on its unique qualifications and experience in performing this specialized work. Mr. Eck recalled that on January 13, 2010, the Board had authorized the Executive Director to enter into a contract with WRIME to prepare an application for a local groundwater assistance grant (AB303). On March 10, 2010, the Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into a contract with WRIME to support development of the regional contamination model in the Central Basin in conjunction with efforts already underway in the North Basin by the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA). Mr. Eck stated that it was expected there would be a need for additional support services from WRIME in the future on various projects and that in order to better manage these tasks, staff would like to establish a services contract with WRIME that is similar in nature to the services contract that has been set up by SGA. Mr. Eck further stated that the scope of services to be provided under the contract would be set forth in written task orders agreed to in writing by the Groundwater Authority and WRIME. WRIME would initiate task orders only with written authorization from the Groundwater Authority. The task orders would only be for those tasks identified through the budgeting process or other tasks identified from time to time based on discussion with the Board. Mr. Eck concluded by stating that it was staff's recommendation that the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a services contract with WRIME.

Motion/Second/Carried - Mr. Fort moved, seconded by Mr. Lowry, the motion carried unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a services contract with WRIME.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Local Groundwater Assistance Grant

Mr. Eck stated that the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) has announced that the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for AB303 grants will not be released until the October or November 2010 timeframe.

Legislative Analyst Office Report

Mr. Eck then announced that included the Board Package was a copy of the Legislative Analyst Office's (LAO) report on improving management of the state's groundwater resources (released March 24, 2010). Mr. Eck explained that the report further defined recommendations outlined in a previous October 2008 LAO report entitled: LAO Report – California's Water: An LAO Primer. The report included recommendations to the Legislature for improving statewide management of groundwater resources, including phasing in a statewide permitting system for groundwater. Mr. Sadler commented that anyone with surface water facilities may want to look at the original report from 2008 because it contained recommendations on water rights.

Well Protection Program Update

Mr. Eck announced that Mr. Sadler was coordinating with the Building Industry Association (BIA) to set up a meeting to discuss the status of the program and to establish a contact within their office. Mr. Sadler added that if anyone was interested in participating in the meeting, to let him know via e-mail and he would coordinate accordingly.

Legislative/Regulatory Update

Mr. Eck provided the following update regarding legislative and regulatory issues:

The state of California passed a package of water bills in 2009, one of which in SBX7 6. This bill requires the monitoring of groundwater levels in all basins and sub-basins throughout the state. Areas that do not comply with these monitoring requirements would be ineligible for water related grant funding. Entities that seek to undertake the required monitoring must notify DWR by January 1, 2011. DWR is currently developing guidelines for the program (according to DWR staff these guidelines are expected to be released by mid-summer). Water level monitoring in the Central Basin is primarily conducted by SCWA and DWR. Staff will coordinate with DWR to determine if the present mode of monitoring will satisfy requirements established in the legislation or if some modification is required. Regional Water Authority staff is tracking a number of bills in the current legislative session (see attached). Of note is AB 2304 which is related to groundwater; the bill adds a coordination component to groundwater management plans to develop and implement land use strategies that protect priority recharge areas with local planning agencies.

Mr. Fricke mentioned that he had heard about the state changing its policy regarding driller's logs. He wanted to know if the Groundwater Authority had an opinion or

policy regarding such an action. Mr. Sadler asked if that would be a DWR policy change or if it was in the Water Code. Mr. Niederberger replied that he believed such an action to be covered within the California Constitution and that it would require an amendment and a two thirds vote, which probably wouldn't happen. He asked if it were an Assembly Bill or a Senate Bill. Mr. Fricke responded that he had heard about it at a groundwater resources association meeting. Mr. Sadler asked if he could confirm and relay the information. Mr. Taghavi said that he thought it was related to the Water Code as an Assembly Bill but not positive.

SCGA Board Appointments

Mr. Eck announced that the term of office for those Board members appointed by the Cities of Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento will be expiring in August 2010. According to the SCGA JPA, the term of office for each member of the governing board of the authority shall be for a period of four years. Mr. Eck asked that those Board members send a written request on their agency's letterhead to the SCGA office as soon as possible so this item can be placed on the respective agency's agenda for action.

7. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Korhonen asked if there was a process of support for the WPP Resolution. He mentioned that there will be a meeting of the Elk Grove City Council on June 9, 2010. Mr. Korhonen announced that there will be a resolution to seek permission from the City Council to allow the Public Works Director to name the appointees to the SCGA Board.

Mr. Smith mentioned two bills currently going through the Assembly and Senate one pertaining to the bankruptcy of a public entity and a second pertaining to liability for architects and designers.

Mr. Bettis said, in looking at the LAO report, they're recommending substantial increases in expenditures in groundwater management.

Mr. Peifer mentioned that the City of Sacramento was preparing a Master Plan update and that as part of the update, the City was exploring an increase in the use of groundwater in order to meet future demands. Mr. Peifer stated that the City currently extracts between a thousand to two thousand acre feet a year of groundwater from the Central Basin.

Mr. Niederberger announced that the ribbon cutting for the Freeport Regional Water Project intake structure occurred on April 8, 2010.

Mr. Armand announced that Cal-Am had brought a new treatment plant online in their Rosemont system with a 1,600 gpm capacity.

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings –

Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, July 14th, 2010. 10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA; SASD South Conference Room 1212 (Sunset Maple).

By:

Watters/Adler
Chairperson

9-8-10
Date

Neeko ZH

9-8-10
Date

