

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)
Agricultural-Residential Water Conservation Sub-Committee Meeting
Final Minutes
December 17, 2010

LOCATION: 827 7th Street, Room 301
Sacramento, CA 95814
2:45 p.m.

MINUTES:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting commenced at 2:50 p.m.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members (Primary Rep.)

Rick Bettis, Conservation Landowners
Ron Lowry, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District

Staff Members

Darrell Eck, Executive Director, SCGA
Ramón Roybal, SCGA
Ping Chen, SCGA

Others in Attendance

Karen Buhr, Executive Director, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
Jessica Aviña, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
Mark Roberson, Water Forum

2. Public Comment

None

3. Central Basin Groundwater Management Plan Directive

- Discussion of Agricultural BMP's:

Mr. Eck asked the group for ideas related to satisfying the groundwater management plan's (GMP) requirements regarding agricultural (Ag) best management practices (BMP's). Mr. Lowry suggested that the Authority at least document the AG BMP's that are already being implemented in the region. Ms. Buhr suggested making available the information and services offered through the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) though it would require sifting through the large amount of material they house in order to find relevant practices for the Sacramento

region. She elaborated that the NRCS has staff that may be available for technical assistance.

Mr. Bettis expressed a concern regarding outreach, specifically as to how to reach the most amount of farmers and whether or not there existed a database that tracked farming operations. He suggested the possibility of going through SMUD as farmers pay a unique Ag-rate. Ms. Buhr stated that her organization was already involved in outreach to the Ag community and that the Ag community is familiar with receiving correspondence from the Resource Conservation District and accustomed to the correspondence being of an educational nature. Mr. Roberson suggested the Delta Water Quality Coalition as a possible source for Ag contact as all producers are required to participate either individually or collectively.

- Discussion of Outreach to Ag-Res Community:

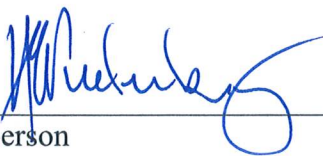
Ms. Buhr expressed her belief that outreach through existing community networks is the most effective as the constituents that are concerned are the ones who will participate while those that are not as concerned would be less likely to accept the message.

Mr. Roberson asked if the number of Ag vs. Ag-Res users was known and suggested using satellite imagery to determine land use types. Mr. Lowry suggested looking at land use zoning designations. Mr. Lowry then asked if there were existing BMP's for Ag-Res users. Ms. Buhr responded that she had already compiled a list of practices from different sources but that much of the information varies from region to region and thus needs to be sorted out. Ms. Buhr mentioned the Sierra Nevada Alliance, Native Plant Society, and River Friendly landscaping effort, as specific examples. She went on to mention that the next step might be to format or formalize the information that has been gathered into a more presentable and cohesive presentation and then to hold community level workshops in partnership with such entities as local fire departments in addition to distributing material at feed stores or other locations where Ag-Res customers may shop. Ms. Buhr stated that she could provide a BMP sheet and informal packet of other information for use by the sub-committee to determine a relevant list of BMP's for use in the central basin but would need assistance to get the information distributed.

4. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss meeting adjourns at 3:50 p.m.

By:



Chairperson

1/12/11

Date

Attest:



1/12/11

Date

