

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)
Governing Board Meeting
Final Minutes
January 11, 2012

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

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members (Primary Rep.)

Stuart Helfand, Agricultural-Residential
Rick Bettis, Conservation Landowners
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
Dave Ocenosak, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Board Members (Alternate Rep.)

Darren Wilson, City of Elk Grove
Todd Eising, City of Folsom
Elizabeth Sparkman, City of Rancho Cordova
Jim Peifer, City of Sacramento
Herb Niederberger, Sacramento County Water Agency
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
Jose Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Staff Members

Darrell Eck, Executive Director
Heather Peek, Board Clerk
Ping Chen
Ramon Roybal

Others in Attendance

Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District
Mark Roberson, Water Forum
Rob Swartz, Sacramento Groundwater Authority
Rodney Fricke, Aerojet Corporation

Member Agencies Absent

Agricultural Interests

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The draft meeting minutes for the SCGA Board Meeting held on November 9, 2011 were considered for approval.

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

4. 2009 – 2010 BASIN MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Eck presented the 2009-2010 Basin Management Report while stating that the intent of the report was to document basin wide hydrologic conditions and management activities in an effort to help ensure the long-term sustainability of the region's groundwater resources. Mr. Eck discussed some of the highlights from the report such as a decline in total groundwater pumping since 2007, a general increase in groundwater elevation levels, completion of the HydroDMS, enhanced reporting of groundwater quality, postponement of the Well Protection Program, establishment of the Agriculture/Agriculture Residential Water Conservation Subcommittee, coordination efforts with regulatory agencies and various responsible parties on groundwater remediation efforts, and development of a groundwater level monitoring plan according to CASGEM requirements. Mr. Eck then outlined the recommendations made in the report which included, moving forward with the development of a water accounting framework, to build on the existing measuring and monitoring program, to maintain and build upon the HydroDMS, to periodically review the GMP and update if necessary, to continue coordinating efforts with regulatory agencies and responsible parties on clean-up activities in the Basin, and to continue efforts with the Agriculture/Agriculture Residential Water Conservation Subcommittee .

Mr. Peifer asked for more information regarding the water accounting framework. Mr. Eck responded that during previous Board meetings there had been a lot of discussion as far as potential groundwater banking activities within the basin and also about a water accounting framework that could move forward in a way that would provide the maximum benefit to the Central Basin. Mr. Eck further stated that as part of the current fiscal year budget, the Board had authorized some money to move forward with the selecting a consultant to start laying the ground work for a water accounting framework within the Central Basin. Mr. Peifer asked if the consultant had already been selected. Mr. Eck said that consultant had not been selected because the primary focus had been on development and completion of the CASGEM monitoring plan per State requirements. Mr. Peifer inquired as to the preliminary direction that a consultant would be charged with in terms of developing a water accounting framework. Mr. Eck replied that the initial scope would primarily consist of brain storming sessions to analyze the situation in the Central Basin in order to develop a direction for a program and provide recommendations for consideration by the Board. Mr. Peifer asked if the brain storming sessions with would be held with basin stakeholders or primarily conducted with staff. Mr. Eck replied that it would be with Authority staff and that certainly, if there were others who would like to participate, they would be entirely welcome.

Mr. Bettis inquired about access to the data management system (HDMS). Mr. Eck replied that it was his recollection that the website address for access to the HDMS had previously been provided and that interested individuals could inquire with staff in order to be given the proper level of access.

Mr. Bettis then asked if there was any active groundwater banking occurring within the Central Basin. Mr. Eck replied in the negative but added that there were on-going discussions of banking projects such as the Sacramento County Water Agency's (SCWA) grant to look into the feasibility of using gravel mines though the process was in the initial stages. Mr. Bettis asked if there were private land owners still interested or engaged in banking opportunities. Mr. Eck recalled the presentation given to the Board by Curtis Hanford (February 2009) for a potential project located adjacent to the Cosumnes River which had since seen no additional response from Mr. Hanford addressing the institutional and logistical hurdles to move the project further. Mr. Eck then mentioned the development of a potential groundwater banking project between Omochumne-Hartnell WD and Rancho Murieta CSD. Mr. Lowry replied that Omochumne-Hartnell WD had a \$1 million grant that created an opportunity for Omochumne-Hartnell WD to bank surplus water from Rancho Murieta CSD along the north side of the Cosumnes River.

Mr. Niederberger recalled that during the Sacramento Groundwater Authority's (SGA) development of a water accounting framework, a consultant gave a presentation that evaluated most of the State's major water banks. Mr. Niederberger suggested that it might be advantageous for a similar presentation to be made for those interested on the SCGA Board in order to gain a better perspective on the subject and to see the variety of applications of banking projects based on the unique conditions found throughout the State. Mr. Schubert asked if it was something to put on a future Board agenda. Mr. Eck said that it could be something useful in order to generate feedback to aid in the planned brainstorming sessions. Mr. Niederberger stated that there were probably several opportunities for banking in the Central Basin and that the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) had expressed interest in using the Central Basin as a groundwater bank. Mr. Eck confirmed Mr. Niederberger's statement while citing that the City of Folsom had also expressed interest.

Mr. Schubert made a call to receive and file the suggestion to host a presentation on groundwater banking projects throughout the State.

5. 2011 – 2012 BUDGET STATUS

Mr. Eck provided a brief update of the current fiscal year budget. He reminded everyone the total budget that was approved by the Authority was for \$264,000 and that, as of the end of December, which represented the halfway point of the budget year, thirty-eight percent of the budget or \$101,144 had been spent. Mr. Bettis asked if there were un-committed monies at the present time. Mr. Eck replied in the affirmative and further explained that there was a balance in the reserve account and that it was available as necessary. Mr. Schubert inquired as to the projection of spending through the end of the fiscal year and whether or not it would be in the vicinity of one hundred percent. Mr. Eck replied that would be close to one hundred percent.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Eck reported on the following:

- a) **California State Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM)** – On December 20, 2010, the Authority submitted a statement to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) expressing interest in being designated as monitoring entity for the South American Subbasin for the recently created CASGEM program. After collaborating with DWR, the Authority submitted a groundwater monitoring plan on December 16, 2011 that met all requirements set forth in CASGEM guidelines. In advance of the January 1, 2012 deadline, the authority submitted their first monitoring report under the program on December 28, 2011. DWR provided notification on January, 2012 that the Authority had been designated as the monitoring entity in the South American Subbasin. Formal notification has been received that the Authority is the official monitoring entity. A copy of the monitoring plan is posted on the Authority's website.
- b) **Audit Report** – The report for the last fiscal year will be available for review and discussion at the March 14 Board meeting.
- c) **Grant Update** – The State of California plans to release Revised Draft Guidelines and PSP for Local Groundwater Assistance Grants (AB 303) for public review and comment in January 2012. The release of Final Guidelines and PSP along with the application due date is expected in the spring of 2012. Approximately \$4.7 million will be made available through Proposition 84 to fund these grants. Staff will be meeting with WRIME later this month to discuss the Authority's approach on the upcoming application. Mr. Eck recalled that potential work to be requested for funding under AB303 were discussed at the November 2010 Board meeting and included additional tools for the HDMS, BMO threshold development, reconciliation of data overlap areas between SGA and SCGA, development of the ability to input surface water data and additional hydrological data, and also maintenance and online user support.
- d) **South Area Water Council** – The Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority is considering revising their JPA to establish a governance body to adopt and implement the South Basin groundwater management plan. Other participants in the expanded JPA potentially include the County of Sacramento, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District, the City of Galt, and Rancho Murieta Community Services District. The County met with a representative of the Ag Water Authority on December 5, 2011 to discuss their "intent and expectation" for being a part of the expanded JPA. Follow-up meetings involving the various parties have not yet been scheduled. A copy of the South Area Water Council's draft groundwater management plan can be found at the website cited in the Board package.
- e) **Form 700** – Reminder the State of California requires designated positions within the Authority to file Conflict of Interest Form 700 by April 1. Please send to Ramon Roybal.

7. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Helfand asked if the Vineyard Surface Water project was preparing for further development in the vicinity of Sunrise Boulevard and Douglas Road. Mr. Niederberger clarified that Mr. Helfand was referring to SCWA's plans for a North Service Area (NSA) pipeline and that the pipeline was supposed run from the Vineyard Surface Water Treatment Plant up Sunrise Boulevard to the Sunrise-Douglas planning area. Mr. Niederberger stated that it was a seventy million dollar project and that currently there was no need for that infrastructure due to capacity available via the Anatolia Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Niederberger stated that the pipeline had been delayed until 2021 and reminded that at one time, the Anatolia development was scheduled to be build out by now.

Mr. Niederberger mentioned that a settlement had been reached between the County of Sacramento and Aerojet-Boeing Corporation for damage to SCWA's Sunrise Douglas system.

Mr. Peifer announced that the City of Sacramento would begin soliciting for statements of qualification for the design of two groundwater wells for construction with the next year and which were to be located south of the American River.

Mr. Armand announced that the California American Water Company was preparing to submit their permit for consolidation of the Rosemont and Suburban systems. They're going to move forward with performance testing of the pump station within the next month pending department approval.

Mr. Schubert announced that Golden State Water Company offices would be relocating within the next couple of months.

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings –

Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, March 14th, 2012. 10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA; SASD South Conference Room 1212 (Sunset Maple).

By:



Chairperson

3/14/12

Date



3/14/12

Date