

**SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)**  
**Governing Board Meeting**  
**Final Minutes**  
**March 13, 2013**

**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 Jim Peifer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members (Primary Rep):

Tom Mahon, Agricultural Interests  
Rick Bettis, Conservation Landowners  
Christine Thompson, Public Agencies Self-Supplied  
Ed Crouse, Rancho Murieta Community Services District  
Dave Ocenosak, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Board Members (Alternate Rep):

Bruce, Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District  
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company  
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District  
Elk Grove Water District  
Darren Wilson, City of Elk Grove  
Todd Eising, City of Folsom  
Jim Peifer, City of Sacramento  
Ward Winchell, Public Agencies Self-Supplied  
José Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Staff Members:

Heather Peek, Clerk, SCGA  
Ping Chen, SCGA  
Ramon Roybal, SCGA

Others in Attendance:

Rodney Fricke, Aerojet Corporation  
David Beauchamp, Atkins North America Inc.  
Derrick Williams  
Alex Peterson, Kennedy Jenks

Mark Roberson, Water Forum  
Nels Ruud, Fugro  
Jafar Faghieh, HDR  
Ali Taghavi, RMC

*Member Agencies Absent*

*City of Rancho Cordova  
County of Sacramento/ Sacramento County Water Agency  
Agricultural-Residential  
Omochumne-Hartnell Water District  
California-American Water Company*

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rodney Fricke with the Aerojet Corporation announced a meeting that would be held March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at the Executive Airport hosted by the Groundwater Resources Association addressing groundwater law.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

The draft meeting minutes for the January 9, 2013 Board meeting were reviewed for final approval.

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

**4. 2011 – AUDIT REPORT**

Bill Konigsmark, SCWA Accounting Manager, provided a detailed summary of the auditor's report.

*Action: Receive and file.*

**5. FISCAL YEAR 2013/2014 BUDGET**

Mr. Roybal requested that Board appoint a budget committee that would work with staff to develop a budget recommendation for the Fiscal Year 2013/2014. Mr. Roybal stated that the budget committee would work to have a recommendation prepared in time for the Board to approve a budget at the May 8, 2013 meeting. Additionally, water purveyors were expected to submit groundwater pumping data for 2012 in order to facilitate calculation of their annual contributions. Mr. Peifer then asked for budget committee volunteers. Mr. Schubert, Mr. Bettis and Mr. Kamilos all volunteered to assist on the budget committee.

**6. GROUNDWATER BANKING PROJECTS**

Mr. Roybal started with a brief summary of previous presentations delivered to the Board regarding examples of groundwater banking programs throughout the State, as well as potential groundwater banking opportunities within the central basin, and the development of a water accounting framework in the north basin. Mr. Roybal then introduced Dan Wendell from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), who provided a PowerPoint presentation titled “Multi-Benefit Conjunctive Use Concepts for South and Central Sacramento County” which addressed the TNC’s concerns and objectives concerning groundwater and surface water interactions, particularly as it affected the riparian forest, floodplain, wetlands and vernal habitats of the Cosumnes River Preserve. Also covered were potential solutions to improve the current state of groundwater to surface water interactions in order to raise groundwater levels and increase fall flows during the salmon run via regional water banking operations such as in-lieu pumping or direct recharge. Mr. Wendell then reviewed a groundwater contour map of Sacramento County from the Spring of 2003 along with graphs comparing simulated aquifer elevations to stream bed elevations by hydrologic year type. Mr. Wendell stated that there was a risk of groundwater levels further detaching from the stream bed, which he asserted, if it occurred along the Cosumnes River Preserve, would result in catastrophic effects on the eco system. Mr. Wendell stated that TNC had analyzed the potential to implement an in-lieu recharge program at two locations along the Cosumnes River, one being along the preserve, and the other in the Elk Grove/Galt area. The source of the in-lieu water would be the Oroville Reservoir which they determined would be subject to re-operation criteria of the reservoir in addition to other rules which would result in very restricted implementation. Therefore the analysis was very conservative. Mr. Wendell explained that for the in-lieu recharge scenario near the preserve, the analysis assumed a maximum single year diversion of 25,000 acre-feet (AF) and a 6,500 AF average net. The source of the diversion operation would be flood flows. Expected aquifer recovery would be 10-20 feet.

Mr. Schubert asked if the twenty foot groundwater level increase was on an average annual basis or total over a specific time period. Ali Taghavi responded that it was the latter.

Mr. Wendell then explained that for the in-lieu recharge scenario in the Elk Grove/Galt area they assumed a 25,000 AF maximum and 8,000AF average net recharge. The main benefit would be centered on the cone of depression with an expected recovery of 15-20 feet over a ten to twenty year period. Mr. Wendell stated that expected recovery in the Galt area would be less, on the order of five feet due to less municipal pumping when compared to Elk Grove. Mr. Wendell stated that another institutional issue would be that the analyzed source of in-lieu water would need to be treated as the analysis assumed that water would be used for municipal purposes and thus would have to meet certain water quality standards.

Mr. Bettis inquired about storage of the in-lieu source. Mr. Taghavi clarified that the scenario of in-lieu water delivery to the urban areas was originally conducted as a request from Ron Lowry on behalf of the South County Ag Council. Mr. Taghavi explained that it was analyzed mainly from a hydrologic and hydraulic standpoint and not for the cost of the required facilities for conveyance, treatment, and storage.

Two direct recharge scenarios were also analyzed, one for a gravel pit that is located between the Cosumnes River and Deer Creek and the other being the flooding of agricultural lands also located between the Cosumnes River and Deer Creek.

Mr. Wendell stated that gravel pit analyzed for direct recharge was located on the Hanford property near Wilton. Mr. Wendell said that the recharge pit was set up and ready for use but that it was small in size. The analysis demonstrated the potential to percolate 2,900 AFY with a recharge benefit of twenty feet adjacent to the river and declining at greater distances from the river. Mr. Wendell then pointed out that this scenario did not provide much significant benefit for the preserve area. Mr. Wendell then described direct recharge via seasonal flood irrigation on agricultural lands. It was determined that the soils in between Deer Creek and the Cosumnes River were the best suited for percolation. Similar to the in-lieu scenario, a maximum of 25,000 AFY recharge rate was assumed along with an annual average net of 6,800 AF. The expected groundwater level improvement was ten feet.

Mr. Wendell expressed TNC's desire to partner with SCGA to accomplish the goal of increase groundwater levels along the Cosumnes River while also having the members of SCGA derive benefits. Mr. Wendell identified the next steps as identifying other potential water sources and to identify interested parties. There would need to be a feasibility study to address key issues to move forward such as institutional, financial and legal.

Mr. Schubert asked if the water in wet years from Freeport that was analyzed, accounted for East Bay Municipal Utility District's (EBMUD) capacity. Mr. Taghavi replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Eising asked if the reimbursement cost of utilizing the Freeport pipeline was accounted for. Mr. Wendell replied that it was not due to the level of uncertainty of what would be expected from all the partners and that mainly capital facility improvements were calculated.

Mr. Mahon wanted to know if the agricultural land flooding would be a continuous flooding during winter months or repetitious. Mr. Taghavi's response was they looked at flooding during the non-irrigation season, November, December, January.

Mr. Mahon then asked if it would be more economical to pump it directly out of the river and spread it out over a wider area. Mr. Wendell replied that the natural flows in terms of recharge are already fairly heavy but that it is another potential water source. Mr. Mahon then state that he has a ranch between Deer Creek and Cosumnes River and did not see why there would be an issue with irrigating the land during high flow times through the existing pipelines. Mr. Wendell responded that TNC is looking to support that type of project to demonstrate how it might work.

Mr. Bettis said that previously, pre-wetting water was received from SMUD and whether that was still the case. Mr. Wendell replied that the focus of the presented analysis was on the rehabilitating the preserve area and that pre-wetting conditions are a separate issue which is driven by the natural habits of the salmon.

Mr. Ocenosak asked if the benefit being discussed was limited to the ecology of the Cosumnes River habitat or if they were looking to bank groundwater for other uses. Mr. Wendell said from TNC's perspective, it was entirely about looking at the benefiting the

Cosumnes River preserve. Mr. Taghavi said TNC has attempted to identify the technical feasibility of banking water in the central/south basin and who the potential partners may be and how the groundwater banking could be implemented in a way that would be a benefit to water users and the ecology of the Cosumnes River area.

## 7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a) **Hydrologic Modeling Tools Evaluation** – RWA has finalized an agreement with the California Water Foundation for a grant to help identify information and analytical tools needs in the region, which would support Integrated Regional Water Management for the lower American River Basin. The grant funds an effort led by RWA, with SGA, SCGA, and Placer Groundwater Management Group representatives serving as a steering committee, to identify regional informational and analytical tool needs, evaluate and recommend enhancements to existing tools, and to potentially implement some of the recommended enhancements. The initial steering committee meeting was held on January 31, 2013 with a follow-up meeting held March 4, 2013. This effort is scheduled for completion in 2013.

A follow-up process in 2014 would look at implementing recommendations from the previous evaluation including: developing partnering agreements to identify roles and responsibilities for long-term management and maintenance of analytical tools, implementation of recommended upgrades of analytical tools, and documentation of those upgrades.

- b) **Local Groundwater Assistance Grant** – Ninety-eight grant applications were submitted for a 2012 Local Groundwater Assistance Grant. Total funds requested were \$23.6 million; total grant funds available is approximately \$4.7 million. On February 15, 2013 the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the preliminary scoring for the 98 grant applications. According to this preliminary scoring the Groundwater Authority scored 39 out of 40 points awarded. On February 27, 2013 DWR held a Technical Advisory Panel/Public Meeting to discuss the scoring process and to receive public comments. Comment period closed on March 6, 2013 and a final decision is expected in May 2013. Grant agreements are tentatively scheduled to be executed in July 2013.
- c) **Form 700** – At the beginning of each year the State of California requires designated positions within the Authority to file Conflict of Interest Form 700 (see Authority Policy 100.2 for disclosure categories). These forms are to be submitted to the SCGA office no later than April 1, 2013. Please address them c/o Ramon Roybal, 827 Seventh Street, Room 301, Sacramento, CA 95814. Forms can be located online at:

<http://www.fppc.ca.gov/index.php?id=500/>

- d) **Nominations and Appointments to the SCGA Board** – The following is a status report on nominations and appointments to the Board.
- Appointments that are complete:
    - Agriculture – Tom Mahon (Board member) and Charlotte Mitchell (Alternate)
    - Public Agencies Self-Supplied – Christine Thompson (Board member)
  - Pending Nominations
    - Ag-Res – expired September 30, 2012

Those who have not submitted nomination letters are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

- e) **HydroDMS Data Requirements** – In order to continue to provide high quality information and analysis on the condition and management of the groundwater basin it is important to have as complete as possible data information on groundwater levels, quality, and pumping. The availability of this information is reliant on the efforts of individual water purveyor stakeholders. Staff recognizes that each purveyor has important tasks to complete as part of their business and that time is short; please consider the submission of this information to the Groundwater Authority in a timely manner as part of that business.

## 8. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Schubert commented on the Water Accounting Framework (WAF) kick off meeting was and went through an outline of what the issues are and how they are similar and differ with the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) framework. Mr. Schubert then recommended that the WAF committee meet on a regularly reoccurring basis on the second Wednesday of the alternate months that the SCGA Board does not meet.

**Motion/Second/Carried** – Mr. Schubert moved, seconded by Mr. Kamilos, the motion carried unanimously to schedule the water accounting framework meetings on the second Wednesday of the alternate months that the SCGA Board does not meet.

Mr. Schubert requested a copy of the insurance requirement letter from the audit report.

Mr. Ocenosak announced that SRCSD had preliminarily selected MWH for consulting services for the South County Ag and SMUD co-generation facility to provide a ten percent design and environmental studies.

Mr. Kamilos reported that the General Manager of the Elk Grove Water District had met with Sacramento County regarding Sacramento County Environmental Management District's release of well drilling permits for properties the "triangle" area of Elk Grove, east of Bradshaw Road, west of Grantline Road, south of Bond Road, and north of Elk Grove Blvd.

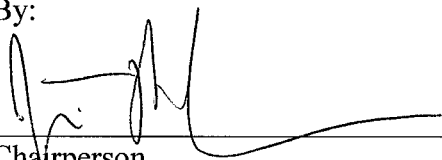
Mr. Kamilos stated that the area contained properties of one acre and under and that the area is set up for municipal water connection from the EGWD. Mr. Kamilos reported that there were now ten properties in the area with private wells. Mr. Kamilos stated that the EGWD was of the opinion that the issuance of well permits in that area was in direct conflict with Sacramento County Ordinance SCC1217 which addresses the issuing drilling permits. Mr. Kamilos further reported that it was EGWD's objective to put measures in place to stop the issuance of those permits. Mr. Eising asked if the properties in question were zoned agricultural residential and if so, it may be difficult to stop the issuance of well drilling permits on those properties due to the ag component of their land-use designation. Mr. Kamilos replied that he did not believe they were but could not say for certain. Mr. Wilson asked if the properties in question were approved for domestic use and then flopped and consequently approved private wells. Mr. Kamilos replied that he was not aware if they were.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Upcoming Meetings –

**Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting** – Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013. 10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA; SASD South Conference Room 1212 (Sunset Maple).

By:

  
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Chairperson

5/28/2013  
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Date

  
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05-08-13  
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Date

