



Sacramento Groundwater Authority
Managing Groundwater Resources
in Northern Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Regular Board Meeting
Final Minutes
October 8, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schubert called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Regional Water Authority/Sacramento Groundwater Authority office. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Board Members

Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company (Chair)
Andy Soule', California American Water
Sandy Kozlen, Carmichael Water District
Chuck Rose, Citrus Heights Water District
Al Dains, Citrus Heights Water District
Walt Sadler, City of Folsom
Herb Niederberger, County of Sacramento
Rich Allen, Del Paso Manor Water District
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District
David Simpson, Orange Vale Water Company
Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta CWD
Neil Schild, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District
Jack DeWit, Agriculture
Rink Sanford, Self Supplied Industry

Staff Members

John Woodling, Rob Donlan (Legal Counsel), Nancy Marrier, Rob Swartz, and Cecilia Partridge.

Others in Attendance

Mark Salmon, John Ayres, Jafar Faghieh, Ed Formosa, Alan Driscoll, Jim Peifer, Tom Gray, Richard Shatz, Sharon Wilcox, Debra Sedwick, Greg Young and Shauna Lorance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The minutes of the August 13, 2009 meeting.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Kozlen moved, with a second by Ms. Tobin, that the consent calendar items be approved.

4. GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

In December 2008, the SGA Board adopted a revised Groundwater Management Plan. The adopted plan includes 79 specific actions to guide staff in implementing the plan. Mr. Woodling reviewed the actions by staff since the last SGA Board meeting related to implementing the GMP. These included:

- Convened the Regional Contamination Issues Committee on August 27 and September 24, and developed comments on Aerojet Operating Unit 5 Proposed Plan for cleanup
- Attended September 9 Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority meeting
- Received briefing on October 25 from City of Roseville on development of a regional groundwater model
- Met with modeling consultant to scope out work on particle tracking exercise for regional contamination study and conjunctive use exercise for investigating groundwater banking losses
- Participated in September 23 meeting facilitated by DWR regarding a 2010 Drought Water Bank
- Measured water elevations at SGA monitoring wells on September 1 and October 1 in support of 2009 state drought water bank activities
- Requested fall water level measurements from member agencies
- Met with Kennedy/Jenks (one of our consultants on regional contamination study) to begin discussing analysis methodologies for assessing threats to groundwater quality sustainability
- Convened a conference session on groundwater quantity and quality at the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists Annual Meeting
- Participated on the planning committee and attended the Biennial Groundwater Conference in Sacramento on October 6-7

There was discussion related to a regional groundwater model application being developed by the City of Roseville and its relationship to the existing regional groundwater model used by SGA and others in Sacramento County. Staff reminded the Board that one of the action items in the SGA GMP is to convene a committee to evaluate several model applications and their features. The purpose is to identify the most effective tools to meet our current and future modeling needs. One aspect of this will be data

management. Staff expects to address this issue in early 2010 following efforts to complete the Water Accounting Framework.

5. WATER ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK UPDATE

In June 2007, the SGA Board adopted Phase II of the Water Accounting Framework and directed staff to develop a Model Groundwater Banking Program Element for member agencies interested in implementing a groundwater banking and exchange program. The intent of the Model Groundwater Banking Program is to encourage agencies to implement conjunctive use programs, while ensuring sustainability of the underlying groundwater basin. Staff has been coordinating with the California Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation to develop monitoring and reporting requirements for implementing a program. This is important because banking operations would likely rely on state or federal facilities for completion.

At the direction of the Board at its August 13 meeting, staff convened the Model Groundwater Banking Program Oversight Committee on September 14, 2009 to discuss considerations for those that have applied banking and those that may do so in the future. The committee met again on October 5 to continue discussing the Model Groundwater Banking Program. Mr. Woodling reported on these meetings, and the progress of development of the Banking Program. The progress of the future meetings scheduled by the committee will be reported to the Board.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **SGA Financial Report** – A financial report for the first two months of the year showed that all budget categories were within expected levels.
- **Proposed Plan for Cleanup of Aerojet Perimeter Groundwater Operable Unit (OU)** – U.S. EPA recently released a Proposed Plan for cleanup of OU 5, the perimeter groundwater OU. OU-5 includes plumes of contaminated groundwater on the north and south of the Aerojet property. Groundwater contamination from the west side of the property is included in OU-3, for which a proposed plan was developed in 2002. SGA staff and members discussed the proposed plan at the Regional Contamination Issues Committee meeting on September 24th, and SGA sent comments to U.S. EPA.
- **Delta Legislation Update** – At the end of the legislative session on September 11th, lawmakers worked feverishly to put together a Delta and water package. The five bills from conference committee were consolidated into SB 68 and a companion financing bill, proposing \$12 billion in general obligation bonds was contained in AB 893. Although the

effort fell short, discussions are ongoing, and action may occur when legislators return on October 13th. Regional Water Authority staff and members are following the legislation closely, as it would have potentially major impacts on water supplies and agency costs. RWA signed a letter, with a coalition of other upstream water users, laying out some of our concerns regarding water rights. The current version of the legislation maintains language from AB 49, which would require a reduction in per capita water use of 20% by 2020.

The legislation would require that water levels in all groundwater basins in the state be monitored, and would allow various local entities to assume responsibility for the monitoring with the approval of the Department of Water Resources. SGA's monitoring program would likely meet the requirements in the bill.

- **Grant Funding Update** – SGA received notice to proceed with the first \$100,000 of our AB 303 grant to study the potential future impacts of contaminants on our groundwater supplies. Staff is meeting with the consultants to begin scoping the groundwater modeling effort. The remaining \$150,000 is expected to be authorized pending the completion of state bond sales in October/November, 2009.
- **RWA/SGA Holiday Social** – The annual RWA/SGA Holiday Social and Awards Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2009. Thanks to Paul Bartkiewicz, the guest speaker is confirmed. Jim Mayer is executive director of California Forward, a nonpartisan initiative seeking fundamental reforms to state government. Mr. Mayer was previously executive director of the Little Hoover Commission. He spent more than 12 years as a newspaper journalist in Sacramento, Bakersfield, and Placer County. Mr. Mayer serves on the board of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Mr. Schubert appointed the following members to the 2010 Officer Nominating Committee: Paul Schubert, Pam Tobin, Mary Harris, and Herb Niederberger. Voting will take place at the December board meeting

7. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

None.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Schubert adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Nancy Marrier, Finance and Administrative Services Officer