



SACRAMENTO GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Regular Board Meeting
Final Minutes
October 14, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sadler 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

Walt Sadler, City of Folsom, (Chair)
Sandy Kozlen, Carmichael Water District
Chuck Rose, Citrus Heights Water District
Jim Peifer, City of Sacramento
Herb Niederberger, County of Sacramento
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District (Vice Chair)
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
David Simpson, Orange Vale Water Company
Neil Schild, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District
Rink Sanford, Self Supplied Industry

Staff Members

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

Others in Attendance

Ken Smarkel, Mary Hall, Karl Brustad, Tom Gray, Keith Durkin, Debra Sedwick, Darrell Eck, Bob Churchill, Alan Driscoll, Sharon Wilcox, Shauna Lorange, Chris Petersen, Steve Dalrymple, Rob Roscoe and Rick Hydrick.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kozlen commented that he had attended the Groundwater Resources Association meeting on modeling of the San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Kozlen believes that SGA appears to be a step ahead of the modeling program and that staff deserves kudos for an amazing job.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The minutes of the August 12, 2010 minutes.

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

4. APPOINTMENT OF 2010 OFFICER NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair Sadler appointed the following members to the 2010 Officer Nominations Committee: Pam Tobin, Herb Niederberger and Walt Sadler. Voting will take place at the December board meeting.

5. UPDATE ON GROUNDWATER CLEANUP PROGRESS AT MCCLELLAN

Cleanup of contaminated groundwater at the former McClellan Air Force Base has been a top priority of SGA since adoption of our initial Groundwater Management Plan in 2003. SGA has coordinated closely with the Air Force Real Property Agency (responsible for cleanup) for several years. Several important milestones have been reached over the past few years, and cleanup is progressing very well.

Ken Smarkel, a consultant to AFRPA and the groundwater cleanup program manager, provided an update on the groundwater cleanup progress. He stated that cleanup has been ongoing since the mid 1980s. Mr. Smarkel talked about 1) how groundwater is categorized by depth zones; 2) the volatile organic compounds (VOC) in groundwater; 3) the methods used for VOC groundwater cleanup; and 4) the cleanup status by groundwater zone. He also described how VOCs and non-VOCs differ, the contaminants of concern and cleanup remedies. Mr. Smarkel described how contaminated property can be cleaned and approved for ownership transfer by demonstrating that the cleanup method is operating properly and successfully. McClellan's groundwater cleanup programs will continue until they are complete, which could take approximately 50 years.

There was discussion about the level of concern over what the remaining contaminants are, the level of contaminants and whether the Air Force and Department of Defense still hold responsibility as the funding source for Mather and Aerojet.

6. AMERICAN RIVER BASIN INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Regional Water Authority adopted the initial American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) in May 2006. There is a strong relationship between the activities of SGA and key IRWMP elements. In July 2010, California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released revised guidelines for IRWMPs. Staff has recently developed a comprehensive scope of work for a proposed update of the IRWMP, and will provide an overview of expected activities to complete an IRWMP that is compliant with DWR criteria

Mr. Woodling reported that we recently received a \$134,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to help with this work and a grant has been submitted to DWR for planning grant funds to assist with other portions of the IRWM. Mr. Woodling gave a brief history of the IRWM and talked about some of the benefits. The IRWM fosters partnerships and resolves conflicts and helps to reduce costs by maximizing value. He explained that the State's IRWM program objectives attempt to 1) improve water supply reliability; 2) protect and improve water quality; 3) ensure sustainability through environmental stewardship; 4) promote multiple benefits from project investments; and 5) promote integration and regional planning through financial incentives. Mr. Woodling explained that the way the money is split up under Prop. 84 is different than the way it was split up under Prop. 50. The \$1 billion through Prop. 84 is split up geographically – not statewide. They gave \$25 million dollars to each region and the remainder is allocated by population. The Sacramento River Watershed has a relatively small amount of money because of its small population. We will continue to compete for grant money within a \$73 million pot of money for this hydrologic region.

Mr. Swartz explained that the IRWM is not a funding mechanism specifically; it is a vehicle for stakeholders to identify what their issues and interests are and potentially pursue funding opportunities and partnerships as a group or on their own. There has been significant additional stakeholder outreach through the update. There are 100 additional stakeholders involved in the process. Additionally, there has been 1) upper/lower basin coordination; 2) development of a governance structure; 3) continuation of objectives and goals; 4) assessing the impacts of climate change; 5) development of a web-based IRWM interface; and 6) a comprehensive update of projects.

Mr. Swartz reported that we have received the final contract from Reclamation for the first \$134,000. We have applied to DWR for a \$400,000 planning grant and expect the initial results in November. If we are successful, we will be authorized to proceed in January 2011 and should conclude around December 2012.

There was discussion related to concerns that the projects could affect quality of life and community planning. It was suggested that as an outreach tool a survey be available on our website allowing comments on goals, etc. Mr. Woodling mentioned that the federal authorizing legislation for grants does not reflect the nature of regional planning. Eligible entities are water suppliers; RWA is not a water supplier. Mr. Woodling continues to work with Congresswoman Matsui's staff to change that paradigm to artificially create the structure so that one of the water suppliers does not have to apply for the funds and contract back to RWA to manage the project.

Mr. Woodling added that we want to keep the IRWM focused on water and land use planning. The sustainable environment concept needs to include a vibrant economy, quality of life and recreational opportunities.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SBX7 6 Implementation Update – DWR indicated at the ACWA Groundwater Committee meeting on September 29th that it is still working on guidelines for monitoring requirements. The guidelines are under DWR management review, and no date for their release was given. Staff held a meeting with representatives of the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority, Sacramento County Water Agency, cities of Roseville and Lincoln, and Placer County Water Agency to discuss coordinated reporting to DWR. There was consensus that we should consider an approach whereby each entity conducts monitoring, but Regional Water Authority consolidates the information and reports to DWR for the entire groundwater basin in Sacramento and Placer Counties. Mr. Woodling asked for feedback from the board whether SGA desires to be a part of the RWA effort to be the monitoring entity.

Government Affairs Update – The legislative session closed at the end of August, and the deadline for the governor to sign or veto bills has passed. SGA took positions on two bills, and staff managed to secure suitable amendments. SB 1173 (Wolk), which would have expanded requirements for using recycled water, and AB 2304 (Huffman), which required mapping of groundwater recharge areas were both vetoed. The veto message on AB 2304, which SGA supported, is below:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2304 without my signature. This bill requires local water agencies to map the recharge areas that substantially contribute to the replenishment of a groundwater basin. The bill also requires the agencies to submit these maps to local planning agencies and expand public notification when preparing and approving groundwater plans. I am concerned about the impact this bill could have on privately-owned properties, both those currently used as recharge areas and those that might be used in the future. Once mapped and those maps are provided to local governments, the bill intends that these lands will be rezoned to restrict their use to being a groundwater recharge area. Property law in California already allows landowners and water districts to work outside of the watchful eye of government and come to a private agreement about how they can manage both their land and water resources. Although not perfect, maintaining this current system allows them to work together to develop solutions. An area that serves as a recharge basin today probably isn't the only place that can be used to

recharge a groundwater basin. And areas that are currently used for this purpose might be better put to some other use in the future. Unfortunately, this bill would eliminate this type of flexibility and negotiation between a landowner and a water district. For this reason, I am unable sign this bill. Sincerely, Arnold Schwarzenegger

DWR has completed the development of technical methodologies for implementation of SX7 7. These methodologies will guide urban water suppliers in development of their plan for compliance with the 20x2020 legislation. The methodologies are available at:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/sb7/committees/urban/u3/>.

The Little Hoover Commission released a report on water governance in California. The report is available at: <http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/201/Report201.pdf>.

Among other things, it recommends that the State Water Project be separated from DWR and be operated as a separate utility, and that the planning functions of DWR and the Division of Water Rights in the SWRCB be combined into a Department of Water Management.

Regional Contamination Issues Committee Update – The Committee meets on the 4th Thursday of the month on a quarterly basis (Jan, Apr, Jul, and Oct). The October 28th meeting may conflict with the Regional Facilities Tour arranged by RWA and the Water Forum. Staff is looking into whether an alternative date is needed for the meeting.

SGA Financial Update – A financial report for SGA through September 30, 2010 was included in the packet. Staff is in the process of preparing for the FY10 audit, which is scheduled to begin in October.

RWA/SGA Holiday Social – The Holiday Social is scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 2010. We will return to the North Ridge Country Club for the event.

On October 28th there will be a bus tour of water issues in the region with a reception following the bus tour marking the 10th anniversary of the Water Forum. Invitations for the bus tour have been sent to a number of staff to local, state and federal elected officials; state and federal agency staff; local media and members of other Water Forum caucuses. Agency staff and board members are welcome to participate. A list of participating sponsors for these events was included in the packet.

8. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Niederberger commented that the language of AB2092, which the County of Sacramento originally supported, was changed at the end of the legislative session to read the opposite of what the initial language stated. This indicates how important it is to keep track of legislation.

Mr. Sadler reported that at the recent AWWA conference Mr. Dan Wendell gave a presentation that showed a historical overview of the operation of aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects. The presentation gave interesting data and conclusions on how to operate and optimize ASR projects. Mr. Sadler suggested a similar presentation for the SGA board in the future.

Mr. Schild thanked staff for presentations, which he thought were timely and relevant.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Sadler adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Nancy Marrier, Finance and Administrative Services Officer