



**SACRAMENTO GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Final Minutes**  
**February 12, 2009**

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**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  
Rich Allen, Del Paso manor Water District  
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District  
David Simpson, Orange Vale Water Company  
Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District  
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), Nancy Marrier and Cecilia Partridge.

Others in Attendance

Al Dains (Citrus Heights Water District alternate), Sharon Wilcox, Dan Sherry, Trevor Joseph, Shauna Lorange, Rob Roscoe, Bob Churchill, Alan Driscoll, Tom Gray, Bori Touray, Steve Nugent, Mark Salmon and Ali Taghavi.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### 3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes of the December 11, 2008 meeting.

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

### 4. SGA AD HOC BUDGET COMMITTEE

Chair Schubert appointed the 2009 SGA Ad Hoc Budget Committee to include Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District, Dan Sherry, City of Sacramento, Neil Schild, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Walt Sadler, City of Folsom, Chuck Rose, Citrus Heights Water District, Sandy Kozlen, Carmichael Water District and Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company.

### 5. GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

**Groundwater Management Plan update** – Following adoption of the GMP objectives and actions by the SGA Board in December 2008, staff and MWH continued updating the remaining components of the GMP. The GMP Implementation Committee reviewed the draft document in early February. Copies of the finalized plan were handed out to board members.

**Water Accounting Framework** – Staff has coordinated with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for both the 2009 Groundwater Substitution Transfers Program and a more permanent groundwater banking and exchange program. The intent of this coordination is to incorporate elements of these programs into the SGA Model Banking Program to ensure compatibility with federal or state criteria; this is important given that exchanges would likely be completed through federal or state facilities. Additionally, staff has begun working with WRIME, Inc. to develop a scope of work to use the SGA groundwater model to estimate potential losses associated with performing banking and exchange operations in the basin.

**Groundwater Quality Risks Study** – In mid-January, SGA was notified that the state has suspended all reimbursements from general obligation bonds including the recently received Local Groundwater Assistance Grant from DWR. This is the only source of funding for the study, so commencement of the work is being deferred at this time. Staff will report back to the Board at its April, 2009 meeting.

## 6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **SGA Financial Report** – A financial report for SGA for the period July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 was included in the packet. All budget categories are within expectations for midyear.
- **ACWA JPIA Insured Program Awards** – SGA has received the ACWA JPIA President's Special Recognition Award for achieving a low ratio of "Paid Claims and Case Reserves" to "Deposit Premiums" in the Liability and Property Insurance Programs.
- **SGA Regional Contamination Issues Committee (RCIC)** – The RCIC will meet on February 26, 2009 at 9 a.m. at Sacramento Suburban Water District. Among the topics discussed will be an update from the Air Force Real Property Agency on the effectiveness of recent groundwater remediation efforts.
- **State Water Resources Control Board periodic review of anti-degradation policy** – In October 2008, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued a notice that it is conducting a periodic review of the "Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Water in California" (Anti-degradation Policy) SWRCB Resolution 68-16. Of particular interest to SGA is that the SWRCB is considering whether this policy should be revised as it applied to groundwater. At the direction of the SGA Board, staff has been following policies that could affect aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) as a means of implementing conjunctive use operations within the SGA area in the future. Staff believed that the policy has been a significant impediment to employing ASR as a means of conjunctive use in the Central Valley and that the SWRCB could give special consideration to ASR programs that fit appropriate criteria and brought the issue to the Board at its December 11, 2008 meeting. After receiving input from board members, staff sent a comment letter to the State Board on December 16, 2008.
- **ACWA Groundwater Policy Principles** – For the past several months, the ACWA Groundwater Committee has been developing a set of principles designed to provide input to policy discussions on groundwater issues. Staff has been engaged in the committee's effort to finalize the principles. Mr. Roscoe noted that the ACWA position on groundwater has changed and they now appear to recognize that groundwater needs to be managed. Mr. Kozlen commented that there needs to be competent groundwater reporting for all water users.
- **Water Conditions Update** – The initial CVP allocation announcement will be Friday, February 20, 2009 by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). Folsom Reservoir is at approximately ¼ of storage

capacity, or slightly over 40% of normal for this time of year. DWR completed its February 1<sup>st</sup> snow survey and reported the snowpack at 61% of normal. La Nina conditions continue in the Pacific. These cool ocean temperatures oftentimes signal a dry spring for Northern California.

DWR Director Lester Snow called on all Californians to conserve water immediately at home and in their businesses, saying, “we may be at the start of the worst California drought in modern history.” In the Sacramento region, water supply conditions vary for each water purveyor; however, groundwater extraction in the SGA area could increase this year. The investments we have made in regional conjunctive use will lessen the impact of these dry conditions on the groundwater basin and our customers.

Mr. Woodling commented that RWA is working on regional talking points and press releases on this issue. There was discussion on where the districts are with their water supplies going into a year of drought. Water conservation efforts need to be at the forefront to indicate Northern California’s consistent efforts. Reflecting on how low Folsom Lake is, it was suggested that members would benefit by obtaining information from hydrologists from the Bureau on how the American River is operated.

- **Legislation Update** – There are a number of bills and proposals that SGA staff is tracking. Most notable are AB 39, a Delta Vision implementation bill and AB 49, an implementation bill for 20x2020 water conservation. Also of note, Senator Steinberg has put Senator Florez on point to develop a water bond in the first 120 days of the legislative session.

AB 28 proposes to prohibit air quality management districts from restricting the use of natural gas powered generators for emergency water operations. At the January RWA Board meeting, there was a request to develop comments on the legislation to extend it to all fossil fuel powered emergency equipment, and to extend the coverage to investor owned utilities. A letter to the bill’s author, Assemblyman Jeffries, was approved by the RWA membership.

## **7. DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS**

Sandy Kozlen reported that Carmichael Water District’s groundwater treatment facility received a merit award by the American Council of Engineering Companies of California in the 2009 Engineering Excellence Award Competition.

## Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Schubert adjourned the meeting at 9:41a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Nancy Marrier, Finance and Administrative Services Officer