



1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sheehan 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

John Wallace, Carmichael Water District
Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District
Al Dains, Citrus Heights Water District
Kerri Howell, City of Folsom
Darrell Eck, County of Sacramento
Rich Allen, Del Paso Manor Water District
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District
Brett Gray, Natomas Central Mutual Water Company
Craig Davis, Orange Vale Water Company
Paul Green, 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 Swartz, Nancy Marrier, Monica Garcia and Chris Sanders, legal counsel.

Others in Attendance

Keith Durkin, Bob Churchill, Mike O'Hagan, Bob Kunz, Sharon Wilcox, Joe Duran, Vanessa Nishikawa, Hilary Straus, David Gordon, Brian Hensley, Rob Roscoe, Mary Henrici, Tom Gray and Jose Ramirez.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) The minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Tobin moved, with a second by Mr. Schild, that the December 10, 2015 SGA Board minutes be approved.

4. APPOINT A BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 – 2017

Chair Sheehan appointed the following individuals to the FY 2016-2017 SGA budget subcommittee: Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District; Rich Allen, Del Paso Manor Water District; Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District; Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District; and Neil Schild, Sacramento Suburban Water District.

5. GROUNDWATER PROGRAM UPDATE

Rob Swartz, Manager of Technical Services, gave an update on the Groundwater Program. Staff continues to work on the following groundwater management priority areas: 1) the study of the occurrence of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contamination in the California American Water Lincoln Oaks Service Area; 2) the effort to further characterize what would be considered a “normal” expected concentration of hexavalent chromium (CrVI) in the central portion of the SGA area in light of the recent health-based standard for CrVI; and 3) continued monthly monitoring of groundwater elevations in response to drought conditions.

For the PCE study, staff is working closely with California American Water (Cal Am) to identify data gaps with respect to available PCE information. The SGA portion of the PCE study is funded largely through a local groundwater assistance grant from the Department of Water Resources (DWR). SGA has successfully worked with DWR to extend the term of the grant to a completion date of June 30, 2016. This will provide the time needed to collect and interpret additional data.

For the CrVI study, data was collected from 15 monitoring wells, two shallow domestic wells and one shallow agricultural well in October 2015. Mr. Swartz said that there remains a theory of the possibility of CrVI being naturally occurring. Mr. Swartz gave an example of a process in which ammonium fertilizer could ultimately result in the occurrence of elevated CrVI under certain conditions. He indicated that the possibility remains that such a process could release it from accumulation on clays and put it into an aquifer system, which could at least partially explain some of the elevated CrVI concentrations.

Mr. Swartz said that staff is having conversations with representatives from the former McClellan Air Force Base to see how we could best work together in this area to determine if there is a relationship between the former known plating shops at McClellan and the presence of elevated CrVI in the aquifer.

Staff continues to monitor several wells on a monthly basis as the statewide drought declaration continues. Water levels are continuing to recover modestly in these wells as we progress toward winter. The key indicator for long-term conditions in the groundwater basin will be the spring elevations taken in the March/April timeframe of 2016. Staff provided updated hydrographs for the wells to the SGA Board.

Mr. Woodling said that State Prop 1 funding has restrictions, whether naturally occurring or caused by human activities. Cleaning something up that was a

released as a contaminant is different than treating water that naturally exceeds standards.

6. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA) IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

As directed by the SGA Board of Directors, staff submitted a letter of intent to become the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for our jurisdictional area within the North American Groundwater Subbasin. After a 90-day public notice period, SGA was identified by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as the exclusive GSA for our portion of the North American Subbasin. No GSAs have yet been defined for the rest of the subbasin.

SGA shares the North American Subbasin with parts of Placer and Sutter Counties. SGA staff continues to convene quarterly meetings of parties pursuing SGMA implementation in Sacramento, Placer, and Sutter Counties to begin the required coordination and collaboration. The most recent meeting was held January 27, 2016. For the areas where an overlap has occurred, SB13 says that no one is the GSA. DWR and the State Water Board expect the entire basin to be covered by GSAs by July 2017. If an overlap occurs then you are required to go back to the beginning to determine how to have a GSA covering an entire basin or subbasin without an overlap. Staff is working with Placer and Sutter Counties to assure that they get GSAs established, so that everyone in the subbasin doesn't end up in the probationary designation together.

Staff has met with DWR on a number of occasions regarding the development of regulations for the evaluation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans. There are questions regarding the requirements for the coordination agreements among GSAs in the same basin. There will be comments when the status of the regulations is presented to the California Water Commission, which must approve the regulations. DWR expects to release the draft regulations sometime in early February.

DWR has been leaning towards encouraging people towards one GSP for a basin. Mr. Woodling suggested that agencies review the regulations and comment on them as quickly as possible, as they are to be completed by June 1st.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Government Affairs Update – The Legislative session for 2016 is underway. RWA staff is tracking the introduction of new bills and the status of two-year bills from last year. AB 647, dealing with groundwater recharge, is a priority. The deadline for the introduction of bills is February 19th.

The State Water Resources Control Board met February 2, 2016 to consider the adoption of modified emergency regulations for water conservation. The State Board approved minor changes, including an adjustment for climate, and adjustment for growth since the 2013 baseline, and an adjustment for drought-proof supplies

brought on since 2013. All water providers in the RWA area will get a 3% reduction in the conservation target based on the climate adjustment. The new regulation will be effective March through October, 2016.

Staff and SGA agencies lobbied for recognition of the sustainable groundwater supplies that were developed over the last two decades to serve the region's needs during dry years. While no adjustment was adopted, the Board directed their staff to go back and consider how such a credit could be included later in the year.

Drought Update – Water in storage in Folsom Reservoir reached its lowest recorded level in history in early December, dropping below 136 thousand acre-feet (TAF) on December 3, 2015. After a series of storms, Folsom storage is at 558 TAF on February 2, 2016, having added 300 TAF over the last month, and 150 TAF in the last week, and is now above average for this date. Similarly, storage in Shasta and Oroville has increased more than 1.5 million acre-feet in the last month. DWR reported the snowpack at 130% of average for the Phillips station in the American River watershed on February 2, 2016. While the Governor's Executive Order extended the drought emergency through October of 2016, water conditions in Northern California are far better than the previous two years.

There was discussion on determining priorities for messaging for 2016. If RWA will be a part of the messaging, how would the messaging be delivered to rate payers? With the mandatory conservation measures in place how do we explain water being let out of Folsom Dam? For the past two years the focus has been on conservation messaging and meeting targets. There needs to be a discussion with the RWA Executive Committee to decide what the regional message is this year while meeting the targets that have been assigned.

Ms. Tobin said that she will be attending the ACWA Federal Affairs Conference at the end of February. ACWA has requested input from agencies defining what their priorities are on a federal level. Ms. Tobin offered any agency who knows what their priorities are to email them to her and she will take them with her to the conference.

Mr. Woodling announced that the RWA is celebrating their 15th anniversary this year with umbrellas with the RWA 15 year logo on them. The umbrellas were given to all RWA and SGA Board Members and meeting attendees.

8. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Ms. Tobin said that they will be attending the ACWA Federal Affairs Conference February 23rd through the 25th in Washington, DC. Anyone who needs her email should contact her or the SGA office.

Mr. Wallace thanked the SGA staff for all their work in becoming a GSA. He announced that Carmichael Water District celebrated their 100th anniversary on February 8, 2016; 100 years to the day that the first Director's meeting for Carmichael Water District was held.

Ms. Sheehan commended RWA and SGA on their efforts to make the State Board realize that one size does not fit all. Being able to factor in the climate issue, a 3% reduction is small, but not insignificant.

9. CLOSED SESSION UNDER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 54954.5(C) AND 54956.9(D) – UPDATE ON CALPERS AUDIT OF RWA AND CALPERS CONTINUED OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE PENSION BENEFITS TO RWA EMPLOYEES.

It was determined that there was no need for a closed session.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Sheehan adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Nancy Marrier, Finance and Administrative Services Manager