



## **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

S. Audie Foster, California American Water  
Mark Emmerson, Carmichael Water District  
Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District  
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom  
Noelle Mattock, City of Sacramento  
Darrell Eck, County of Sacramento  
Rich Allen, Del Paso Manor Water District  
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District  
Travis Anderson, Golden State Water Company  
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

### Staff Members

John Woodling, Rob Swartz, Nancy Marrier, Cecilia Partridge, Monica Garcia and Rob Donlan, legal counsel.

### Others in Attendance

Kevin Thomas, Shauna Lorange, Keith Durkin, Charles Duncan, Abigail Madrone, Lisa Beutler, Mike O'Hagan, Jim Gibson, Mary Henrici, Ralph Felix, Jim Ray, Ali Taghavi, Robert Matteoli, Dan York, Brian Hensley, Hilary Straus, Al Dains, Bob Churchill, George Dellwo, Julie Newton, Todd Smith, Tom Gray, Michael Winn, Bruce Kamilos, Ted Costa, Hugh Klein and Rob Roscoe.

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

The minutes of the June 9, 2016 meeting

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Tobin moved, with a second by Mr. Foster, that the June 9, 2016 SGA Board minutes be approved. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

#### **4. SECTION 218 AGREEMENT FOR THE FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY ACT**

John Woodling, Executive Director, reminded members that in early 2013, CalPERS' Office of Audit Services (OAS) audited the Regional Water Authority (RWA). In July 2013, OAS issued a draft report finding that five out of six RWA employees work only part time for RWA on the basis that those employees also provide services to the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA). The findings required that SGA be recognized as an employer, but also allowed SGA to apply for CalPERS membership. SGA submitted a new agency application to CalPERS on February 2, 2015 and the contract became effective July 1, 2016.

Given that the employees have been paying into Social Security through RWA, SGA needs to establish its own contract that mirrors RWA's contract. SGA has to adopt a Section 218 agreement between the state and federal government that ensures the SGA positions are covered for Social Security and Medicare. This process is anticipated to take 12 to 18 months to complete. RWA can continue to function as the payer/agent for SGA.

Resolution 2016-04 (SOC-40R) requesting permission to conduct a referendum among all "eligible employees" for the Federal Social Security Act was included in the packet. Once the resolution is accepted by CalPERS, State and Federal laws require that not less than ninety days' notice will be given to the employees to vote on whether they want to participate or not. The vote will be by majority vote, but the coverage will be given on an "all or none" basis. Once the employee voting has been completed, the application and agreement will be submitted to the Social Security Administration for their approval; this will take 6 to 12 months to complete.

M/S/C Ms. Tobin moved, with a second by Mr. Schild, to adopt Resolution 2016-04 for the Section 218 Agreement for the Federal Social Security Act. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

#### **5. GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Rob Swartz, Manager of Technical Services gave a brief update on groundwater management program activities including groundwater elevation monitoring and groundwater quality issues. Staff continues to monitor over 20 wells on a monthly basis between SGA, Sacramento Suburban Water District and the Department of Water Resources. As previously reported, the seasonal highs in 2016 were higher

than in 2015 indicating that the groundwater basin has begun recovering due to the wet winter conditions in the region. The seasonal lows generally occur in September and we don't know at this time what that will look like. Staff is preparing a basin management report that covers the years 2013 through 2015 that is expected to be completed by the end of August. Staff is wrapping up the study of the PCE contamination in the north county. Completion of the study was delayed slightly because there was an opportunity to sample one of the potential source areas providing some interesting data that will be incorporated into the study.

## **6. FINDING OF CONSISTENCY RELATIVE TO CONDITION PF-8 OF THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY ELVERTA SPECIFIC PLAN**

John Woodling gave some background information on PF-8 noting that this has been an ongoing issue about for 17 years. In April 1999, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors adopted Board Resolution No. 99-0493 that resulted in an amendment to County Policy PF-8 specific to the Rio Linda and Elverta Community Plan area. As a result of PF-8, the Sacramento County Planning Department indicated that it would look to SGA to reach a conclusion on the consistency of any proposed water supply for comprehensively planned development areas in Rio Linda and Elverta with the SGA groundwater management program.

One plan development area that is subject to the PF-8 requirement is known as the Elverta Specific Plan (ESP) area. In late April 2016, SGA staff was contacted by Sacramento County staff to review the Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District Elverta Specific Plan Water Supply Strategy for consistency with the SGA groundwater management program. Staff provided an overview of its understanding of the water supply strategy and sought direction from the SGA Board in responding to Sacramento County's request for a finding of consistency.

County staff has requested an SGA opinion that the water supply plan for the Elverta Specific Plan area developed by Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District is subject to and consistent with our groundwater management program. The plan consists of Rio Linda continuing to serve both existing and future customers on groundwater and also to develop a surface water supply for their own needs. They are proposing to practice conjunctive use throughout their service area when a surface water supply comes online. Staff is of the opinion that groundwater use by Rio Linda in the future would be subject to our groundwater management program and the conjunctive use element of the water supply plan is consistent with the intent of our groundwater management program.

Mr. Green said that Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District is in contact with the developers and they don't foresee any problems with the direction they are headed. It has been determined that there are not any water quality issues at this location and customer demands will be met.

The water supply plan anticipates either a partnership with multiple other agencies to develop a surface water project off of the Sacramento River or that Rio Linda will proceed forward on its own with a smaller scale surface water project. Either way it is covered under this plan for the review of the SGA Board.

It is anticipated that the Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District will serve the entire specific plan area with 100% groundwater until a new surface water plant is constructed. The District is set up financially to build the facility themselves. They will present their financial plan and request adoption of connection fees at their Monday board meeting.

SGA is being asked to consider this specific water supply plan, which includes bringing in a surface water supply for consistency with our groundwater management program; it is the County's decision to evaluate any uncertainty related to the feasibility of developing a surface water supply in approving the entitlements. SGA is just looking at the proposed plan as described. The water accounting framework contemplates that we have to consider when new growth occurs what the appropriate balance for that part of the basin will be. The groundwater is subject to the jurisdiction of SGA just like the rest of the municipal groundwater users.

After discussion it was agreed that the proposed plan is subject to and consistent with SGA's adopted groundwater program.

M/S/C Ms. Tobin moved, with a second by Mr. Green, to direct staff on the submission of a finding of consistency letter to the Sacramento County Planning Department. The motion was amended to adopt the language in the draft letter to the Sacramento County Planning Department. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

## 7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Government Affairs Update** – The legislature was on recess during the month of July. A summary of legislation being tracked by RWA is available at [rwah2o.org](http://rwah2o.org). SB 1317 (Wolk), which would have required well permitting agencies (such as Sacramento County) to have a process for well permit approval that considers whether a new well would impact the sustainability of groundwater, died in committee in the Assembly. RWA opposed the bill arguing that the requirement was premature and burdensome in light of the SGMA requirements to develop a groundwater sustainability plan by 2022.

Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-37-16 updating the state's drought emergency. In response, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted revised emergency regulation for water conservation that provided the option for local water suppliers to self-certify their water supplies over the next three years. If water suppliers identify a potential shortage, the amount of that shortfall would become a mandatory conservation percentage to be enforced by the SWRCB. All Sacramento

County water suppliers have certified an adequate water supply so that no mandatory conservation is required. A number of agencies are requiring voluntary water conservation standards.

The State Water Resources Control Board is in the process of developing a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for 1,2,3-trichloropropane (TCP). Existing data for the Sacramento Region has not indicated the widespread presence of the compound; however, the proposed standard (50 parts per trillion) is lower than the detection level of some of the past monitoring efforts.

There was discussion on the process of determining contaminants and a possible improved system to determine contaminant standards for compliance.

**SGA Outreach** – SGA and RWA staff have been popular speakers at a number of venues of late. Our success in groundwater management is highly regarded throughout the state. Most notably, Mr. Woodling was invited to speak on the successes of our region’s conjunctive use program at the National Water Resources Association’s Western Water Seminar on August 4, 2016. Mr. Woodling is chair of the ACWA Groundwater Committee that is scheduled to meet on September 14, in San Joaquin Valley, the location to be determined.

**SGMA Implementation** – SGA staff continues to lead in implementation of SGMA. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup> that will include information on the progress of the GSA formation. Staff attended a meeting of the Practitioner Advisory Panel to advise DWR on development of the Best Management Practices and the Water Available for the Replenishment report. Within the North American Subbasin, we continue to meet with other entities from the basin. SGA staff met with DWR staff to discuss the potential for an “alternative” to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), which would need to be submitted by the end of the calendar year. The prospects are not promising, however staff continues to evaluate the potential cost and opportunity for success of this approach.

## **8. DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS**

Mr. Schild said that he has participated in the “Save Our Water” webcasts. They have held four meetings up and down the state and their take of those meetings is that the reduced water supply is the new normal. We keep thinking that it may come back, but the feedback from the people who participate in these meetings is that they don’t think it will.

Mr. Green introduced Ralph Felix as the new General Manager for Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Sheehan adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Nancy Marrier, Finance and Administrative Services Manager