



## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Tobin 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

Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District  
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom  
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento  
Linda Dorn, County of Sacramento  
Robert Matteoli, Del Paso Manor Water District  
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District  
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company  
John Wingerter, Orange Vale Water Company  
Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District  
Dave Jones, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District  
Mike DeWit, Agriculture

### Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Rob Swartz, Nancy Marrier, Cecilia Partridge, Monica Garcia and Chris Sanders, legal counsel

### Others in Attendance

Dan York, Joe Duran, Kevin Kennedy, Richard Shatz, Tom Gray, José Ramirez, Matti Siltanen, Susan Talwar and N.C. Doyel

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

The minutes of the June 13, 2019 meeting

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Harris moved, with a second by Mr. Schubert, to approve the June 13, 2019 Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) Board minutes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present, with the exception of Ms. Harris who abstained.

#### **4. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT AND GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Rob Swartz, Manager of Technical Services, reported that on July 17, 2019 the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released its recommendations and reviews for 15 Alternatives to Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) that were submitted prior to January 1, 2017. DWR recommended approval of nine of the plans. With the recommendations, DWR released detailed reviews of the Alternative GSPs. Staff expects to review these to gain insight on the expectations of our own GSP.

Progress continues on activities related to developing a GSP for the North American Subbasin (NASb). A summary table of activities related to the scope of work for the NASb relative to the DWR Proposition Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) grant was included in the packet. Also included was a summary of the budget with respect to the NASb SGWP grant activities. Mr. Swartz will meet with the new DWR SGWP grant manager that has been assigned in the near future.

There were two deep monitoring wells constructed in Placer and Sutter Counties. Mr. Swartz described the differences found when testing the wells. One of the wells required a special cap seal as the well water contains methane gas. The wells will be monitored and the data will provide useful information. Construction is expected to begin on four shallow monitoring wells mainly along the Bear and Feather Rivers. Under SGMA, we are required to address the relationship between the surface water systems and the groundwater systems. A draft model grid has been completed. There is an opportunity through RWA to get the funding together to also develop the model for the South American Subbasin. Mr. Swartz reported that a better model will result when both models are developed at the same time.

Mr. Swartz gave an overview of the Prop 1 SGWP Budget. SGA has made their full contribution of \$262,700 to the effort. The first grant reimbursement has been received from DWR in the amount of \$50,912. Total funds collected to date are \$475,791. After expenses the current cash balance is \$114,555.

#### **5: GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Mr. Swartz said that staff is continuing to monitor groundwater elevations on a monthly basis in several monitoring wells. He provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the Groundwater Management Program including groundwater level monitoring and groundwater quality issues. He said that data indicates that groundwater continues recovering since the most recent drought. He provided information and data on various wells through the region showing water levels, drawdown and recovery.

The SGA Regional Contamination Issues Committee met on July 25, 2019. Issues discussed included an update on the hexavalent chromium (CrVI) maximum contaminant level (MCL) setting process. The committee was formed in 2004 in response to additional discovery of Aerojet contamination north of the American River. There are claims by McClellan that recovery of groundwater levels due to conjunctive use were interfering with the remediation timetable. The committee

includes representatives of impacted water suppliers, regulators overseeing sites and responsible parties. The intent of the committee is to find areas of common interest to improve efficiency for all participants and to identify emerging regional water quality concerns as early as possible.

Mr. Swartz reported that at a July 19, 2019 State Water Board (SWB) Division of Drinking Water Advisory Group meeting on hexavalent chromium, it was reported that an economic feasibility white paper and public workshops are expected in October or November. Informal rulemaking on maximum contaminant level is expected in late 2019 or early 2020 with formal rulemaking in late 2020 or early 2021.

Mr. Swartz reported that an MCL for 1,2,3 Trichloropropane (TCP) was established by the SWB in December 2017. As a result of the MCL, sampling was required of public water systems through 2018. The results indicate that there are two occurrences of MCL exceedances in the SGA area, and there are two exceedances to the south of the SGA.

The SWB has ordered additional sampling for PFAS in water systems that have had previous detections of PFAS or are near potential source activities. This included 32 wells in Sacramento County. While there is no MCL for PFAS, the State Water Board is considering lowering the notification levels and action levels for certain PFAS compounds, which could have ramifications in the region. Several thousand PFAS compounds exist and are used to make materials resistant to stains, water-proof and non-stick items and are contained in fire-fighting foam. The compounds are extremely persistent and resistant to typical environmental breakdown accumulating in the air, soil and water as well as in the human body.

Mr. DeWit exited the meeting.

PFASs that are of current concern include Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). There is no current drinking water standard but US EPA established a lifetime Health Advisory Level (HAL) for PFOA and PFOS of 70 nanograms/liter (or parts per trillion). The SWB adopted the US EPA HAL as the California Response Level (RL). When the RL is exceeded, and concentrations cannot be reduced below the RL, DDW recommends removing the source from service.

The SWB established Notification Levels for PFOA and PFOS in 2018. When NLs are exceeded, the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) recommends the source be removed from service and treated. SWB has ordered additional sampling for drinking water wells within two miles of an airport, one mile of a municipal landfill or one mile of a well with a UCMR3 detection. Thirty-two wells in Sacramento County were ordered to test with results expected within the next few months.

Mr. Peifer added that we don't want regulatory action that punishes the water purveyors for PFAS. Other states are making progress to make sure regulatory and any legal efforts that come up punish the makers of PFAS and help to offset the costs to water agencies.

Chair Tobin said that she has been in meetings with Mr. Swartz and Mr. Peifer to discuss the direction for SGA to continue improving the effectiveness of the organization. It was suggested that a workshop be held to familiarize new members with the history and future goals of SGA. Mr. Peifer said that a workshop would provide historical context of the SGA and future potential, to build members understanding of the SGA. Regulatory and technical issues would also be addressed. Members were asked to email any topics or clarification on issues that they would like to see covered at a workshop to Chair Tobin, Mr. Peifer or Ms. Partridge.

## 6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Finance and Administrative Services Manager Recruitment** – Staff is advertising for a Finance and Administrative Services Manager to fill the vacancy when Nancy Marrier retires. Ms. Marrier will be retiring from public service on December 3, 2019. There will be an overlap time so the new candidate has an opportunity to learn the functions of the position.

**SGA Outreach** – Mr. Swartz will present to the Groundwater Resources Association of California's Second Annual Groundwater Congress, which will take place September 17-19, 2019 in Sacramento. He will speak on expanding conjunctive use through creation of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank.

**Legislative Update** – Funding for safe drinking water has been resolved through SB 200 (Monning). The solution provides for \$130 million annually and comes primarily from Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF) with a backstop from the General Fund.

With the passage of SB 200, much of the work on implementation will shift over to the State Water Board and the regulatory realm. The State Water Board had previously begun work on a safe drinking water needs assessment and water affordability. Regional Water Authority (RWA) staff has been engaged in those processes and has submitted comment letters into both of those proceedings remaining engaged as they, and others work on safe drinking water.

**Water Resilience Portfolio Initiative** – On April 29, 2019, Governor Newsom signed an executive order directing his administration to develop a comprehensive strategy to build a climate-resilient water system. The order directs the secretaries of the California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to identify and assess a suite of complementary actions to ensure safe and resilient water supplies, flood protection and healthy waterways for the state's communities, economy and environment.

The RWA will be developing a set of recommendations to inform the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio initiative, which will partly focus on successful groundwater management and future opportunities resulting from it, such as the Sacramento Regional Water Bank.

**Water Forum Update** – Water Forum staff continue to provide support to the Voluntary Agreement (VA) effort. The VAs would provide an alternative to the SWRCB staff proposed update to the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan, which would substantially modify flows into the Delta. The VAs will provide flow and habitat, and for this region, a version of the American River Flow Management Standard. The VA proposal is currently being evaluated by the SWRCB to determine if it provides equivalent benefits to the staff proposal.

Other efforts include facilitation of SGMA efforts in south Sacramento County and the planning/permitting of habitat projects.

**SGA Financial reports** – The financial reports for the period ending on June 30, 2019 were included in the packet.

## **7. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Ewart reported that during a 2018 water transfer the City of Sacramento received groundwater from Sacramento Suburban Water District. The City is now transferring surface water back into Sacramento Suburban Water District's system.

Mr. Schubert said that Golden State Water will have their system online for fluoridation at their Arden facility by September.

Ms. Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District, thanked Mr. Swartz for his Groundwater Management Program Update presentation.

Mr. Yasutake said that City of Folsom is close to finishing up their intertie project with Golden State Water Company under a drought grant. On August 27<sup>th</sup> the City of Folsom will be hosting a rate study public workshop. The city has received approval from the Bureau of Reclamation to expand their water place of use for their Central Valley Project water service contract. This allows the city to use water anywhere within the city limits.

Ms. Dorn, County of Sacramento, announced a public workshop on geophysical techniques hosted by the Consumnes Work Group on August 21<sup>st</sup> in the City of Galt. Additional information is available on the Water Forum website.

Ms. Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, said that with the Safe Drinking Water Act, the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water is developing an entire branch to handle this matter by hiring 26 new employees to work in the new branch. They are working on getting the program up and operational.

Mr. Gray said that the Fair Oaks Water District is in the process of planning for the construction of two new wells. The board will be considering one well as an ASR project. Their board acquired almost one acre for a new three-million-gallon water storage tank.

## Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, Chair Tobin adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Nancy Marrier, Finance and Administrative Services Manager