



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

George Leidy, Carmichael Water District
Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Linda Dorn, County of Sacramento
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
Brett Gray, Natomas Central Mutual Water Company
Craig Davis, Orange Vale Water Company
Robert Reisig, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District
Dave Jones, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District
Rink Sanford, Self-Supplied Industry

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Rob Swartz, Josette Reina-Luken, Cecilia Partridge, Monica Garcia and Chris Sanders, legal counsel

Others in Attendance

Trevor Joseph, David Gordon, Matti Siltanen, Alan Vail, Michael Johnson, Greg Zlotnick, and Hilary Straus. Nicole Krotoski participated via conference phone

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. Board secretary appointment

Appoint Josette Reina-Luken as the SGA Board Secretary

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Mr. Jones, to appoint Josette Reina-Luken as the SGA Board Secretary. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The minutes of the August 8, 2019 and October 10, 2019 meetings.

M/S/C Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Mr. Jones, to approve the August 8, 2019 and October 10, 2019 Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) Board minutes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

5. WATER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS PILOT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Rob Swartz, Manager of Technical Services, noted that this item was presented to the SGA Board in October 2019. No action was taken at that meeting, as there was not a quorum of the Board present.

In July 2019, the Regional Water Authority (RWA) adopted a Regional Water Reliability Plan (RWRP). Among the recommendations of the RWRP was to develop the Sacramento Regional Water Bank (Water Bank) as a means of expanding conjunctive use operations in the region to improve water supply reliability. A copy of the RWRP is available at <https://rwah2o.org/regional-water-reliability-and-drought-contingency-plan/>. RWA is still in the planning phases of the proposed Water Bank, with a goal of having federal recognition by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) by 2022.

An objective of the Water Bank is to store and recover federal Central Valley Project (CVP) water supply. As a result, the USBR would like us to work with them to come up with appropriate storage and recovery parameters. There is a model to use called CALSIM 3 that allows for simulation of CVP operations. Related to planning for the Water Bank, RWA successfully applied for funding assistance through the USBR's Basin Study – Water Management Options Pilot Program. RWA has been awarded \$650,400 that will be used to conduct operations modeling with USBR to ensure that the Water Bank does not impact CVP operations. The operations model is for surface water operations related to reservoirs and rivers, and it would need to be linked to the regional integrated water flow model (IWFM) groundwater model currently being developed in the region to evaluate the Water Bank. The IWFM model development is being used to meet the local cost share requirement for the Reclamation funding support. Because SGA is managing the development of the IWFM model for the North American Subbasin (NASb), SGA would need to be a part of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) currently being developed between RWA and USBR. This would allow the funds being used for the NASb IWFM to be counted as local cost share. Staff requested that the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into the MOA with RWA and USBR upon its completion. There is no fiscal impact to SGA through the MOA. A copy of the MOA template was included in the packet.

M/S/C Mr. Leidy moved, with a second by Mr. Gray to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Water Management Options Pilot Memorandum of Agreement with the Regional Water Authority and United States Bureau of Reclamation. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

6: ELECTION OF 2019 SGA OFFICERS

The SGA Board elects a chairperson and vice-chair annually at its December meeting. The Chair appointed a nominating committee including Paul Schubert, Marcus Yasutake and Pam Tobin.

Nominations from the committee were for Caryl Sheehan as 2020 SGA Chair and Brett Ewart as 2020 SGA Vice Chair.

M/S/C Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Mr. Gray, to elect Caryl Sheehan as 2020 SGA chair and Brett Ewart as 2020 SGA vice chair. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

7. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Rob Swartz reported that after spending much of 2018 and 2019 assembling existing information and developing new data for the North American Subbasin (NASb), we are now ready to begin developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) document. GSP development is expected to be completed in mid-2021. Staff recently reached out to 10 individuals that had expressed an interest in development of the GSP. This outreach is required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Staff proposes to use the regular SGA Board meetings as an appropriate forum for interested parties to participate in development of the GSP. Throughout 2020, staff will provide presentations to the Board on the six sustainability indicators required in a GSP under SGMA. In mid-2020, we expect to have initial modeling results that will give insight on a comprehensive water budget for the NASb. Throughout the remainder of GSP development, the Board may notice increased public participation in meetings as a result of interest from the party outreach.

8. AN OVERVIEW OF THE SACRAMENTO GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Jim Peifer, Executive Director, said that SGA Chair Tobin and Vice Chair Sheehan requested a presentation on the background and formation of SGA and the historical development over time providing educational information as a refresher for SGA members as well as for new members on the SGA Board. Throughout 2020, staff will give presentations on various GSP-related issues to the Board.

Mr. Swartz said that as discussed under agenda Item 7, Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development is commencing. A common understanding of SGA's activities will be helpful as we begin development of the GSP. The purpose of

forming SGA was to maintain the long-term sustainable yield of the North Area Basin, to facilitate implementation of an appropriate conjunctive use program by water purveyors, to devise and implement strategies to safeguard groundwater quality, and to work collaboratively with other entities to promote coordination of policies and activities throughout the region. Mr. Swartz explained that SGA possesses broad powers to ensure groundwater sustainability. SGA has maintained a small staff that is shared through an agreement with the Regional Water Authority. SGA has maintained a sustainable funding formula to date with two primary components, groundwater extraction fee and base administrative fee. A progressive groundwater management program has been maintained, focusing on where any problems were to address groundwater quantity. Each agency voluntarily accepted a pumping target in the Central Area of SGA. Practicing conjunctive use is key to sustainable groundwater quantity. SGA also focuses on groundwater quality by establishing a regional contamination issues committee, evaluating the potential movement of known plumes, and evaluating emerging issues of regional concern.

9. SGA FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET REALLOCATION

Mr. Peifer said that on three past occasions, the Regional Water Authority (RWA) has employed CALPERS retirees as a Retired Annuitant (Annuitant). Such employment is on a temporary basis to assist in completion of specific work for which the Annuitant possesses specialized knowledge or experience. For one of the previous engagements, RWA hired an Annuitant to assist the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) in completing its 2014 Groundwater Management Plan. SGA funded the position.

SGA staff has identified the need for assistance to complete the state-mandated Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), which is due by January 31, 2022. Among other requirements, preparation of the GSP will include a detailed analysis of groundwater level data and trends to assess basin health from a quantity perspective, a relationship between groundwater and surface water and detailed analysis of groundwater quality data and trends to characterize basin health from a quality perspective.

Staff has identified Barbara Houghton as an Annuitant with the experience to assist with this work. Ms. Houghton is a California Professional Geologist and Certified Hydrogeologist with more than 25 years of private and public sector experience in groundwater. Most recently, Ms. Houghton was a manager with the El Dorado County Environmental Management Department where she had oversight of multiple programs including the Hazardous Materials Program (underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, incident response), Solid Waste Program (illegal dumping, litter), Water Program (small water systems and wells), and Liquid Waste Program (septic systems). Ms. Houghton retired from this position in December 2018 and is eligible to be employed as an Annuitant.

Staff is proposing to work with RWA and SGA legal counsel to develop a temporary employment contract with Ms. Houghton for the period January 1, 2020 through January 31, 2022. Staff will be seeking authorization from the RWA Executive Committee on December 11, 2019 to enter into this agreement upon its completion. To fully authorize the proposed employment action through the remainder of the current fiscal year, SGA staff is seeking approval of the SGA Board to fund the temporary staff position. To do so, staff is requesting concurrence to reallocate \$30,000 from the SGA “Professional Fees” budget category in the adopted fiscal year 2020 (FY20) budget to the “Staff Expenses” budget category. Staff has identified available funds from the FY20 budget in the “SGA Consultants – Program Management,” which is a sub-category of the Professional Fees budget category. This sub-category was approved for \$60,000 in FY20, and there are currently no other projected expenses for the entirety of FY20. Additionally, the proposed Annuitant work is consistent with the planned use of these funds. Funding for the Annuitant beyond FY20 would be subject to approval of the SGA Board during its annual budget process.

M/S/C Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Mr. Leidy, to reallocate \$30,000 from the SGA Professional Fees Budget Category to the Staff Expenses Budget Category. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

SGA Outreach – Jim Peifer gave a presentation on Groundwater Management to the Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission on November 6th. Darrell Eck, Executive Director for the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA), Linda Dorn, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dave Underwood were present for the presentation.

Mr. Peifer attended the fall ACWA Conference in San Diego from December 3rd to December 5th. Meetings were held to discuss the Sacramento Regional Water Bank, the Resiliency Portfolio and the Voluntary Agreements with a few managers from the American River Region and representatives from other regions around the State.

Also at ACWA, Mr. Peifer attended the Groundwater Committee on December 3rd. Presentations were given by the State Water Resources Control Board on the new streamlined permitting for capturing high flow events for the purpose of recharging groundwater. The Department of Water Resources gave an update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Mr. Peifer gave a presentation to the SCGA Board on December 11th on the current relationship between the Regional Water Authority and SGA. SCGA is considering how they will staff their agency in the future.

Water Resilience Portfolio Initiative –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 Resiliency Portfolio report is expected to be released this month but the precise date is not certain. Staff will be reviewing the document upon its release and providing comments.

Mr. Peifer reminded everyone of the Annual Holiday Social this evening beginning with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. at North Ridge Country Club. Monica Woods will be the featured speaker.

11. DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Leidy invited everyone to an open house retirement celebration for Steve Nugent at the Carmichael Water District office on December 27th.

Mr. Schubert wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He thanked Chair Tobin for her services as 2019 SGA Chair and congratulated her on her new role as ACWA Vice Chair.

Mr. Ewart said that over the next year an initial study will begin for the systematic replacement of aging wells within the City of Sacramento service area.

Mr. Sanford thanked Mr. Swartz for his presentation on the history of SGA. It was beneficial for seasoned members as well as a refresher for new members.

Vice Chair Sheehan said that she looks forward to hearing more about the climate change issue.

Mr. Peifer mentioned that a letter was sent to the state earlier this year that outlined things which might be helpful from the state on the climate change issue. The letter was generally to leverage opportunities for the relationships within our region including the RWA and SGA. There are also some signature projects that would be helpful for adapting to climate change. We would prefer to not see a check list of one size fits all for everyone in the state.

Ms. Tobin said that as ACWA Vice Chair she has an open-door policy and invites anyone who has needs or concerns to reach out to her. She asked that everyone support Mr. Peifer as the fairly new Executive Director.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the board, Chair Tobin adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Finance and Administrative Services Manager