



1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sheehan called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. as a teleconference meeting. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Board Members

Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento
Linda Dorn, County of Sacramento
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
Brett Gray, Natomas Central Mutual Water Company
Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District
Bob Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Ted Costa, San Juan Water District
Mike DeWit, Agriculture

Staff Members

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

Others in Attendance

Robert Reisig, Dave Jones, Jose Ramirez, Bob Wichert, Tim Shaw, Kevin Thomas, Dan York, Alan Driscoll, Greg Zlotnick, Paul Helliker, Alan Vail, Jeff Harris, John Woodling, Cathy Lee, Jafar Faghih, Hilary Strauss, Brian Hensley, David Gordon and Chris Petersen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the minutes from the December 12, 2019 and April 9, 2020 Board meetings. It was noted that the April 9, 2020 minutes should reflect Bob Wichert approving the consent calendar for Sacramento Suburban Water District.

Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Harris moved, with a second by Mr. Wichert, to approve the December 12, 2019 and April 9, 2020 SGA Board meeting minutes with the noted amendment. Caryl

Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Linda Dorn, County of Sacramento, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Brett Gray, Natomas Central MWC, Bob Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Ted Costa, San Juan Water District and Mike DeWit, Agriculture voted yes. Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta CWD abstained on the December 12, 2019 minutes and voted yes on the April 9, 2020 minutes. The motion carried by a majority vote of all directors present.

4. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Ryan Ojakian, Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Manager, continues to monitor all bills related to COVID 19 and water issues. All signs are that the state budget will be passed by the deadline. There is an ongoing debate on how to fill the budget gap with the hope of federal funding materializing. At this time both the administration and the legislature continue to fund the Sacramento Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation and SGMA is moving forward. It does not appear that there are any substantive changes to the implementation of SGMA that we can expect coming out of any actions from the water board. The budget situation has significant ramifications for any potential bond. There was an idea that the legislature would pass a climate resilient bond that would have had funding for groundwater related infrastructure. We could see additional action or requirements from a regulatory standpoint with the Governor's Executive Orders. The Governor has expansive authority in an emergency and the COVID 19 situation is considered a state of emergency. Three of the Governor's Executive Orders were included in the packet including orders that prohibit shutting off of water by water agencies and a workers' comp issue for public agencies that states that if an employee contracts COVID 19 while working in an office, then the employer is responsible.

5. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Peifer said that there has been initial discussion regarding Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) interest in having the Regional Water Authority (RWA) provide staffing services for them similar to how RWA provides staffing services to SGA. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was included in the packet for a 3 x 3 ad hoc committee to set up further discussions on this issue. The 3 x 3 committee members would consist of three people from each of the authorities, RWA, SGA and SCGA including the Chair, Vice Chair and one additional representative from the agency. The additional representative can only have membership in one of the three agencies.

Mr. Peifer said that this will be a standing item on the SGA board meeting agendas until we come to a resolution. There will be continuous briefings from the Ad Hoc Committee. There needs to be discussion on the needs of the three organizations on how to best achieve staffing services and understand and represent the interests

of the three agencies. The SGA policies allow the Chair to make the appointments to the ad hoc committee.

Mr. Sanders clarified that the persons appointed to the ad hoc committee, absent an objection from the majority of the board, will continue in their appointed position for the duration of the ad hoc committee. The provision that gives the chair the authority to do this is in SGA Policy 200.1 section 3.06. Ms. Harris requested to be on the ad hoc committee.

Mr. Woodling said that he has recently taken on the role as Interim Executive Director for the SCGA. The premise of the MOU is to begin to discuss a solution for administrative and governance relationships with RWA, working collectively to figure out what will provide additional benefit and value to all the organizations.

Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Harris moved, with a second by Mr. Schubert, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Development of a Strategy for Shared Operations of the RWA, SGA and SCGA. Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Linda Dorn, County of Sacramento, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Brett Gray, Natomas Central MWC, Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta CWD, Bob Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Ted Costa, San Juan Water District and Mike DeWit, Agriculture voted yes. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of all directors present.

6. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA) – RELATED AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

Mr. Swartz provided information on the progress of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The groundwater model calibration is nearing completion. A couple of areas in the model are proving to be a challenge to match up with the computer data and information we have through real monitoring. Determining the groundwater budget and other information is being discussed so we can continue working on the sustainable management criteria. We have an amendment to the grant agreement with the Department of Water Resources. We are developing a web-based portal to receive public comment on the GSP as draft portions are available which will make the review process more efficient. An analysis is being performed on groundwater dependent ecosystems in areas where we experience shallow groundwater that could support habitat.

The Regional Contamination Issues Committee was established in 2004 through SGA and our groundwater management activity includes representatives from regulators, responsible parties and agencies that have been impacted. Some consultants who have expertise in the region and members of the public are involved with this committee. Mr. Swartz noted that while SGA helped form the committee, it is not a standing committee of the SGA.

Mr. Swartz gave updates on hydrographs as we begin to understand and define the current hydrologic conditions. Staff is developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan as surface water and groundwater are closely related. When we experience dry years, the rule is that we use more groundwater; leaving more surface water in the system to benefit the environment as part of the Water Forum Agreement. He presented a hydrograph that showed our shallow monitoring wells that are along the American River. There is a strong relationship between the flow in the river and the adjacent groundwater basin in the shallow monitoring wells. Staff continues monthly monitoring of the wells. We are likely to see flows in the American River increasing for supply purposes with the Bureau of Reclamation releasing water down river from Folsom Reservoir.

7. 2020 GROUNDWATER SUBSTITUTION TRANSFERS

Mr. Swartz gave an update on groundwater substitution transfers. Included in the packet was a regionally coordinated description of the proposed groundwater substitution transfers for 2020. The 2018 groundwater substitution transfers consisted of agencies exclusively in the SGA area and was helpful in understanding the transfer process, what is required to complete the transfers, and what happens in the basin when we do transfers. In dry conditions when we move to groundwater, it creates opportunities by operating constructively for temporary transfers. The only agencies that can enter directly into contracts for these transfers with the State Department of Water Resources are those that have surface water rights to transfer. We are expanding what was done in 2018 to include additional agencies in the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority area that have taken actions to implement conjunctive use programs.

Mr. Swartz then described some of the participating agencies. Golden State Water Company is proposing to transfer additional surface water by pumping groundwater; taking significant actions to reduce groundwater production from the Cordova Service area. With the completion of the American River Pipeline Project, they are now able to take treated remediated water from Aerojet that is released into the American River and taken off by Carmichael Water District, sent through a water treatment plant then through a pipeline underneath the river to Golden State Water Company. Carmichael Water District will be pumping their own groundwater and freeing up a portion of their surface water. At the same time, Fair Oaks Water District will be pumping from their wells and sending water through to Carmichael Water District which then becomes a supply for Carmichael Water District customers. The City of Sacramento is transferring surface water by increasing overlying groundwater and then sending it to Sacramento Suburban Water District. This becomes a supply for the City's residents that frees up surface water. All the components are an opportunity to see what we can do on the recovery side of a water bank and to have some direct observations through ground monitoring that takes a detailed look at how the basin responds and recovers.

The transfers are judged by SGA based on the Water Accounting Framework that was adopted in 2010 and became active in 2012. Staff will continue to brief the board through the process as data is collected.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer participated in a Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) meeting to discuss Central Valley project (CVP) Water Transfers. PPIC's goal for the meeting was to learn from CVP stakeholders about their experience with CVP trading and banking approval processes, including the updated 2019 CVP groundwater banking guidelines.

The Water Forum has begun the process of renegotiating the Water Forum Agreement. This is important for the SGA to track because the Water Forum Agreement signed in 2000 had a Groundwater Management Element that may be up for renegotiation. It is possible that the renegotiated agreement will have actions that need to be funded. It is also possible the negotiation outcomes will impact the Groundwater Sustainability Plans that are currently being developed.

The primary negotiating steering committee (NSC) members include Paul Shubert (Golden State Water Company), Dan York (Sacramento Suburban Water District), Darin Reintjes (Placer County Water Agency), Greg Zlotnick (San Juan Water District) and Jim Peifer (RWA) for the water caucus. Public Caucus members include Kerry Schmitz (Sacramento County Water Agency) and Bill Busath (City of Sacramento). Updates are provided periodically to the Water Caucus and Public Caucus meetings. I encourage you or a member of your staff to participate in the Water Caucus meetings.

The initial meeting was held on April 14th where the negotiation ground rules, scope of the agreement, and negotiating structure/framework was discussed. The second Negotiating Steering Committee (NSC) meeting was held on May 21st when the Public Caucus and Water Caucus discussed its interests and presented revisions to the negotiating framework to the NSC members. The next NSC meeting is scheduled for June 18th and is expected the Environmental Caucus will present its interests to the NSC.

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Chair Sheehan reported David Gordon, the Operations Manager for Citrus Heights Water District, has accepted a new position with the State Water Project Contractors, where he will be doing policy and program management activities.

Mr. Ewart said that the Sacramento City Council will take up the water transfer item at their next meeting.

Mr. Gray said that Natomas Central Mutual Water company is also participating in the groundwater substitution transfers. He is looking forward to getting back to regular meetings, but he complimented everyone on how well the teleconferencing meeting was conducted.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the board, Chair Sheehan adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary/Treasurer