



## 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

Roy Leidy, Carmichael Water District  
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  
Brett Gray, Natomas Central Mutual Water Company  
Joe Duran, Orange Vale Water Company  
Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District  
Robert 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, Kerry Schmitz, Dan York, Hilary Strauss, Cameron Dayel, Brian Hensley, Kevin Thomas, Brett Storey, Cathy Lee, John Goetz, Tim Shaw, William Roberts, Jafar Faghih, Paul Helliker, Patrick Kennedy, Alan Vail, Kelye McKinney, Alta Turra, Pam Tobin, Alan Driscoll, Craig Locke, Greg Zlotnick, Jose Ramirez, David Wheaton and Trevor Joseph

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### **3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

The fifth line under the Regulatory Update agenda item will be corrected in the final version of the June 11, 2020 minutes.

Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Harris moved, with a second by Mr. Wichert, to approve the June 11, 2020 SGA Board meeting minutes with the noted correction. Roy Leidy, Carmichael Water District, 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, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Brett Gray, Natomas Central MWC, Joe Duran, Orange Vale Water Company, Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District, Kevin Thomas, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Ted Costa, San Juan Water District and Mike DeWit, Agriculture voted yes. The motion carried by a majority vote of all directors present.

### **4. COUNTYWIDE BASIC SPECIFIC FEE PROGRAM**

Mr. Peifer presented some of the early ideas and discussions for funding the Groundwater Sustainability Plan in Sacramento County. This is in the early phases of development and there is more to learn. Every year a budget is put together to identify what we need to do within that budget and then we identify how to allocate that amongst the members. We plan for activities that we need to do in the SGA and identify the funds to accomplish that. What may be different under this proposal is that the water agencies may or may not be required to fund the plan. It may come through a parcel tax or some other means that helps to fund the water authorities and the GSPs. He would like to have the SGA participate in discussions or development of the fee. This may not be a fit for the SGA, but he recommended to the Board that he participate in any discussions and present updates to the Board of any developments for consideration. He said that there needs to be communication between this effort and the SGA Board, to keep them informed and determine if the Board feels this is worth investing in as a mechanism to obtain the right amount of funding for our GSP implementation and other projects.

There was discussion about the opportunities to do something county wide. On a basin specific basis costs for implementation of the GSPs are going to be different in each basin. There are benefits to pursuing this idea. Natomas Central MWC is working with a consultant, HDR, to explore ideas of various GSAs in the county and developing what that might look like. There are benefits for capturing those parcels that are not currently paying anything but are provided benefits. The intent is to explore possibilities to make sure it works for SGA. An early discussion is appropriate to define and identify a funding mechanism and consider options for the SGA Board to consider and agree with. There was consensus that the suggestion

for the Executive Director to participate in discussions and present back to the Board on any developments is appropriate.

Mr. Peifer clarified that he did not reject a recommendation to participate in discussions. He is seeking the SGA Board's desire in terms of what is the appropriate role for the Executive Director.

M/S/C Ms. Harris moved, with a second by Mr. Costa, to direct the Executive Director or staff to better understand the countywide groundwater fee and report back to the board on any developments or information. Roy Leidy, Carmichael Water District, 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, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Brett Gray, Natomas Central MWC, Joe Duran, Orange Vale Water Company, Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District, Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Ted Costa, San Juan Water District and Mike DeWit, Agriculture voted yes. The motion carried by a majority vote of all directors present.

## **5. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE**

Ryan Ojakian, Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Manager, continues to monitor all bills. He gave an update on the legislative session reporting that at this time there are no bills that directly affect groundwater management. There are some topics still moving through the legislature that would potentially affect agency operations and a couple of bills related to Workers' Compensation. An issue that is more specific is Small Water System Consolidation that originally would deal with small failing water systems and consolidate them under one roof. There will be clarification that it would only serve disadvantaged communities. It looks like there will be some refinements to bills that will be helpful for water transfers. At this time if you engage in water transfers you are required to provide notice in every county through which that water will be transferred rather than just the county of origin and the final destination of the water.

The legislature is focused on the economic situation in the state as the result of the COVID crisis. There have been discussions about efforts surrounding economic recovery and if they will be looking at funding the infrastructure as part of the stimulus. The conversation on funding for safe drinking water, at risk, disadvantaged and failing water systems continues. Mr. Ojakian has been working on comments and emphasizing points in letters that have been sent.

## **6. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

Mr. Peifer said that at the last board meeting a MOU was adopted that was created by the 3 X 3 committee. After the committee meets on August 19<sup>th</sup> there will be more

to report. This will be kept as a standing agenda item to receive feedback and provide reports. Chair Sheehan identified the 3 X 3 committee members to include RWA Chair Schmitz, SGA Chair Sheehan, Robert Reisig, Todd Eising, Paul Schubert, Sean Bigley, Cathy Lee, Dalia Fadl and Cathy Lee. John Woodling, Jim Peifer and Rob Swartz will also participate in the meetings.

## **7. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA) – RELATED AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATES**

Mr. Swartz gave an update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the activities that have been ongoing under our Groundwater Management Program. He went through the process of developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). SGA has partnered with other GSAs in the basin and has agreed to prepare a single sustainability plan for the entire basin. The next step is to engage with stakeholders using the newly developed website North American Subbasin found at [www.nasbgroundwater.org](http://www.nasbgroundwater.org). This will serve as a tool for interested parties to identify who we are and provide them the ability to get in contact with us. The website will include technical information, summarization on water quality and new monitoring wells that have been installed in the basin along with identifying any scheduled GSA meetings. Filling data gaps on the new monitoring wells has been successfully completed including water quality and surface water data that is required under SIGMA. As a developing tool we are also required to provide a regional database that will include information on new water and quality that will be available for stakeholders and participants. The tool will provide information on how the basin is being managed after a sustainability plan is developed.

The modeling tool will allow us to address some significant portions of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The tool will describe past and current conditions to develop a comprehensive water budget including the groundwater perspective and surface water perspective to develop sustainable yield estimates to project our future. The tool is based on known plan development in urban areas, agricultural projections and under future climate conditions. The tool can make calculations to identify whether a project has any water budget deficits going into the future.

In SGA we talk about primarily municipal and industrial users but there are some commercial, agriculture, environmental and domestic uses of water in the Basin. The intent of having a regional model is to address chronic water level issues, groundwater storage and stream depletion. There is a significant relationship between flow in the Sacramento River, the groundwater basin and the American River. The modeling tool will be helpful to understand what the relationship is in the absence of monitoring wells and will help us make calculations of what we think is happening in our basin. We are working with the Regional Water Authority because of their interest in establishing a water bank to develop this comprehensive tool that will be used for many purposes. It is important to do this model at the same time because under SIGMA you are required to address boundary inflows. As the model is run we compare the results in the model to those known in the wells that we have

data for. The information is compared with adjustments made to the model to match up with those conditions. There are no concerns about being able to complete the technical work to develop a GSP and get it submitted on time. The next step is to review the water budget information and start development of the sustainable management criteria. A public draft is projected to be completed the winter of 2021.

Mr. Swartz showed some of the hydrographs that are routinely monitored through the basin on the American River. In 2019 things were good in November and December where we experienced normal hydrology then in February things dried up. We will continue to see water levels go up but with dry conditions you do not get the recharge and the demand for water supply starts to go up. What we see is by the time we got into spring water levels were already started on the decline. We are in the process of the 2020 groundwater substitution transfers. Those are good starts for the agencies and the SGA area with data related to the agencies that are within the SGA area. Our goal is to start on July first but there were some delays in the approval process at the state. The baseline is determined as the difference between what the agencies are pumping and what they usually pump. The additional pumping that you do over the baseline is where you get credit for the transfer of surface water rights on a temporary basis for a single year. We closely monitor and look at these wells on a weekly basis. This begins to tell the story of what happens when we do conjunctive use where we are participating in the groundwater substitution transfer when we are pumping groundwater that we are using locally. He commented that Amy Talbot tracks the water use information monthly to see if there are actual trends.

Mr. Peifer said that we will need to have discussion amongst the different boards regarding the coordination agreement. We are in the very early phases of looking through and trying to better understand what deficits we may have within the SGA governance. We are interested in determining that we have all the tools necessary to implement the GSP.

Mr. Sanders said that we are going through an assessment of what the GSA requires and what needs to be done. It is possible that no changes are necessary but we are doing the assessment and will bring that back to the board with a formal recommendation.

After discussion it was requested that a regular update be included in the Executive Director's report at future board meetings. It was mentioned that because the legislature has said that we can set up our own management it may be good for legal counsel to give us a definitive answer. If we do not take advantage of setting up our governance, then the state will govern and that is not a favorable option. A detailed discussion on this would be helpful

Mr. Peifer said that he did not think that there is any issue about us having adequate governance to avoid the state stepping in. It is just a question of whether we need to fine tune our governance to ensure that we can manage it as effectively as possible.

## **8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The final awards list for Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation grants has been released by the Department of Water Resources. The RWA successfully obtained \$7.74 Million in the Sacramento River funding area and \$1.01 Million in the San Joaquin River Funding Area on behalf of our members and RWA programs.

RWA agencies participated in a meeting earlier this week where they discussed some of the vulnerabilities and challenges of some of the legislative issues that are occurring. There was good coordination between the agencies. Mr. Peifer encouraged member agencies to participate in future calls to share information from their districts and provide necessary feedback.

## **9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the board, Chair Sheehan adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary/Treasurer