



SACRAMENTO GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Board Meeting

Final Minutes

June 9, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Yasutake 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

Audie Foster, California American Water
Paul Selsky, Carmichael Water District
Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Kerry Schmitz, 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
John Wingerter, Orange Vale 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
Larry Johnson, Self-Supplied Industry

Staff Members

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

Others in Attendance

Dan York, Jay Boatwright, Gina Bartlett, John Woodling, Hilary Straus, Tim Shaw, Cathy Lee, Greg Zlotnick, Alan Vail, Paul Helliker, Joe Duran, Alan Gardner, Pam Tobin, and Chris Hunley

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Harris moved, with a second by Mr. Schubert to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2022 Board meeting and extend Resolution 2021-02, including requisite findings, to renew authorization to hold meetings of the Board of Directors via

teleconference pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 until such time as the State of Emergency resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic no longer impacts the ability of Board members and the public longer impacts the ability of Board members and the public to safely meet in person. Paul Selsky, Carmichael Water District, Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, 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, John Wingerter, Orange Vale Water Company, Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District, Bob Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Mike DeWit, Agriculture and Larry Johnson, Self Supplied Industry voted yes. Ted Costa, San Juan Water District voted no. Motion passed. Audie Foster, California American Water was not present for the voice vote.

**Brett Ewart entered meeting during the item. Audie Foster entered the meeting following the vote on the item.*

4. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY AND SACRAMENTO GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY – PHASE 2 (GOVERNANCE)

Mr. Yasutake reported that the 3x3 Ad Hoc Committee (3x3) is continuing to meet to discuss potential governance proposals to merge the SGA with the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority. Mr. Yasutake said that the 3x3 members positions are to look at and take feedback from different boards and develop and look into proposed governance structures for what a consolidated, SGA/SCGA could look like. He reminded the Board that the information that is brought back to the boards of each authority will decide what the consolidation and the associated structure will or will not be with a potential consolidation. The 3x3 committee has been exploring topics that include the vision of the governance structure and criteria for evaluating structures. Mr. Yasutake shared the PowerPoint presentation on the Decision-Making Roadmap, which showed potential SCGA, SGA, and RWA shared operations and discussion topics and phases of decision-making.

M/S Bob Wichert moved with a second by Caryl Sheehan that the SGA Board endorse bringing back the table to the 3X3 for the purpose of the 3X3 considering the grayed-out boxes and consulting the grayed-out entities to determine their interests in remaining on the board and the 3X3 should recommend whether those entities should remain or should be removed. Audie Foster, California American Water, Paul Selsky, Carmichael Water District, Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Robert Matteoli, Del Paso Manor Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Brett Gray, Natomas Central Mutual Water Company, John Wingerter, Orange Vale Water Company, Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District, Ted Costa, San Juan Water District and Mike DeWit, Agriculture voted no. Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District, Bob Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District and Larry Johnson, Self Supplied Industry voted yes. Motion did not pass.

M/S/C Brett Ewart moved with a second by Paul Selsky to direct the SGA members of the 3X3 to consider the comments that were heard from this body into further discussions with the other remaining members of the 3X3 and return to the SGA Board for further recommendations or findings. Audie Foster, California American Water, Paul Selsky, Carmichael Water District, Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, 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, John Wingerter, Orange Vale 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 and Larry Johnson, Self Supplied Industry voted yes. Motion passed.

M/S/C Paul Schubert moved with a second by Bob Wichert, in addition to the motion just passed that discussed board composition, is to provide the background for the 3X3 to work on the support of the board which would be appointments, voting structure and public involvement to bring back to the board in August. Audie Foster, California American Water, Paul Selsky, Carmichael Water District, Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Brett Gray, Natomas Central Mutual Water Company, John Wingerter, Orange Vale Water Company, Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District, Bob Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Ted Costa, San Juan Water District, and Larry Johnson Self Supplied Industry voted yes. Robert Matteoli, Del Paso Manor Water District, voted no. Mike DeWit, Agriculture, was not present for the voice vote. Motion passed.

5. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Swartz provided an update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation activities and recent conditions in groundwater monitoring wells. The GSP was submitted January 24, 2022. The public comment period was open until April 16, 2022, and 6 comment letters were submitted. The most substantial coming from NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The GSP is available on the SGA website. Mr. Swartz stated the basin is healthy, considering three consecutive dry years.

6. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian gave an update on the legislative cycle. Bills that are moving and will be heard in June. There are no new bills, beyond what the board has previously seen, that could significantly impact SGA members. The following bills have been amended in significant ways that change what their impacts would be if they were to become law as currently drafted:

AB 2201 (Bennett D- Ventura) Would significantly change the permit process for the alteration of an existing or a new groundwater extraction facility in a high or medium priority basins. Specifically, it would require the permitting agency to get written verification from a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) that the new well or alteration would be consistent with the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP), that it would not decrease the likelihood of achieving the sustainability goal in the GSP and is not likely to interfere with the production

and function of other nearby wells or is likely to cause subsidence.

AB 2895 (Arambula D- Fresno) Revises and recasts the water transfer process. Specifically, it would add days to the existing transfer approval process, including taking away the ability of the transfer applicant to require a decision by the Water Board. Additionally, it would create a second transfer approval process that would require initiation of that process by January.

Beyond bills, the Legislature is constitutionally required to pass a budget by June 15th. It is expected that the budget will be passed by that date but be a framework of what expenditures will be. It is expected that the details of those expenditure will be determined by budget trailer bills passed sometime in August. Mr. Ojakian reported that the budget must be passed by next Wednesday and the budget bill went into print yesterday. The budget includes \$21 billion to address climate change issues, including drought, among other issues. The Senate budget proposal included \$7.5 billion to address drought and water supply issues. The focus is that a significant dedicated portion goes to groundwater recharge. There will be more details in August.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer stated in the interest of time that the Board members can read the Executive Director's Report, which was included in the meeting packet.

8. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Audie Foster said California American Water will be holding virtual public hearings to discuss moving to the next stage of the Drought and Water Conservation Plan starting June 14th in the evening. Links are available on their website. After the 30-day period following that, they will be moving to stage two.

Marcus Yasutake thanked the Board for their feedback and participation.

Brett Ewart gave a disclosure on the groundwater substitution transfer. They are working their way through the process of public comment period. The water board is considering the petitions and should anticipate approval or some feedback within a couple of weeks. Mr. Ewart complimented the Directors of SGA and their staff, Citrus Heights Water District, Fair Oaks Water District, San Juan Water District, Carmichael Water District, Sacramento Suburban Water District, and Sacramento County Water Agency. He said everyone is working very well together and this is the kind of collaboration that will make the water bank successful in the future.

Kerry Schmitz introduced Chris Hunley. He is the Sacramento County's new Groundwater Sustainability Program Manager. The County is happy to have Chris on staff as he has a great deal of experience in groundwater.

Paul Schubert said they filed with the Public Utilities Commission to go to Stage 2, which is their mandatory 20% reduction.

Tim Shaw, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District, shared that they will be considering adopting their 2020 Urban Water Management Plan at their next meeting on June 29. They had a previous rate structure that was incompatible with the requirements of the Urban Water Management Plan, so now they will be moving forward.

Bob Wichert said Sacramento Suburban Water District is working to achieve a 20% conservation reduction through education. They are implementing three day-a-week watering in their area.

Ted Costa made a comment that in 1982 or 1983 he and others had a statewide initiative, that compelled the legislature to vote for a balanced budget and it went to the Supreme Court. The Court said you cannot compel elected officials to vote in any way. He believes the portion of this Joint Powers Authority, which says the County Board of Supervisors and the City has to appoint, is null and void and will have no effect on the County at any time. He will be mentioning this in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Yasutake adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

By:



Chairperson

Attest: 

Cecilia R. Partridge, Acting Board Secretary