SACRAMENTO GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY Board Meeting Final Minutes

April 13, 2023



1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marx called the regularly scheduled meeting of the SGA Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. at the RWA Board Room located at 5620 Birdcage Street, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. A quorum was established of 10 participating members. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Board Members

Paul Selsky, Carmichael Water District
Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Brett Ewart, City 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
Jay Boatwright, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Ted Costa, San Juan Water District

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Trevor Joseph, Josette Reina-Luken (acting Secretary), Ryan Ojakian, Raiyna Villasenor, Monica Garcia and Chris Sanders, legal counsel

Others in Attendance

Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District Brett Grey, Natomas Central Mutual Water Company Chris Hunley, County of Sacramento Nathan Doyel, Agriculture Paul Helliker, San Juan Water District Hilary Straus, Citrus Heights Water District

1.1 VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION WITH JUST CAUSE

A motion for Paul Selsky to participate virtually at the SGA Board meeting on April 13, 2023 for just cause.

Motion/Second/Carried Director Ewart moved with a second by Director Costa

Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District; Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom; Brett Ewart, City 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; Jay Boatwright, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Ted Costa, San Juan Water District; voted yes. Motion passed.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes-9

Noes- 0 Abstained- 0 Absent- 7

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Executive Director noted that Jay Boatwright was the representative for Sacramento Suburban Water District not Bob Wichert and will be corrected.

3.1 Approve draft meeting minutes of the February 9, 2023 regular SGA Board Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Calendar as amended.

Motion/Second/Carried Director Ewart moved with a second by Director Costa

Paul Selsky, Carmichael Water District; Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District; Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom; Brett Ewart, City 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; Jay Boatwright, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Ted Costa, San Juan Water District; voted yes. Motion passed.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes- 10

Noes- 0 Abstained- 0 Absent- 6

4. SGA FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024 BUDGET

Josette Reina-Luken, Finance and Administrative Services Manager presented this action item to the SGA Board of Directors to review and consider approval of the SGA Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 Budget. Ms. Reina-Luken reported that the proposed FY2023-2024 budget reflects expenses will exceed revenues. Prior year savings will be applied to compensate for any budget deficits incurred.

Public Comment:

Chris Petersen: Asked if projected future fee increases can be offset at all with revenues generated by the Water Bank once it is up and running.

Trevor Joseph: Responded that he does not know at this time if that is possible.

Mary Harris: Asked under the attached Resolution Section D shows there are 16 members that are represented but only 14 members are financing the budget costs.

Josette Reina-Luken: By SGA Rules it is a double majority vote to pass any fiscal administrative matter so it will have a vote of all 16 members to approve or not approve but it is also contingent upon the proportion of the percentage of each member contributed in the prior year and it does have to have more than 50% of that budget. So there is a percentage breakout and for this resolution on those paying fee members are counted. The two members who do not pay is Self-Supply and Agriculture.

Greg Zlotnick: It is always nice to have a zero percent dues increase. However, the presentation shows a projection of a 10% increase in the second year. Was there any discussion about splitting the two years, so there is a small increase instead of big steps in any particular year.

Jim Peifer: There was a preference that we utilize the reserves and right size this to stay within the SGA Policy. We felt our members would prefer to keep their money this year. The four and ten percent projections are conservative and are unclear how they will play out due to how much groundwater will be pumped out in the next two years.

Randy Marx: I was on this committee, and I brought up a small increase and we decided this was the best way to go.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution 2023-01, a Resolution of the Sacramento Groundwater Authority Adopting and Assigning Costs to Fund the Administrative and Program Budgets for FY 2023-2024 and Providing for the Collection of Said Funds.

Motion/Second/Carried Director Ewart moved with a second by Director Schubert

Paul Selsky, Carmichael Water District; Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District; Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom; Brett Ewart, City 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; Jay Boatwright, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Ted Costa, San Juan Water District; voted yes. Motion passed.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes- 10

Noes- 0 Abstained- 0 Absent- 6

All ten member agencies voted yes which meets the double weighted majority consisting of the majority of all voting members and the percentages.

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

Trevor Joseph, Manager of Technical Services provided a presentation to receive and file the SGA Board of Directors on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Related and Groundwater Management Program Updates and 2022 Annual Report.

6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ryan Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager presented an informational oral update to the Board on significant bills and topics introduced in the legislature this year. Staff is tracking approximately 100 bills of the over 2700 bills introduced this year. His presentation covered legislation on storage, groundwater, bond measures and water rights. There are bills of interest beyond those topics, what sets those issues apart is the significant effects the legislation could potentially have and the volume of bills on the topics.

AB 429 (Bennett D- Ventura) Would, if 1% of domestic wells go dry in a critically over drafted basin, as specified, prohibit a county, city, or any other water well permitting agency from approving a permit for a new groundwater well or for an alteration to an existing well.

AB 560 (Bennett D- Ventura) Would require the court to refer a proposed judgment in specified adjudication proceedings to the State Water Resources Control Board for an advisory determination as to whether the proposed judgment will substantially impair the ability of a groundwater sustainability agency, the board, or the department to achieve sustainable groundwater management.

AB 779 (Wilson D- Fairfield) Would require new actions to be taken by a GSA in the event of an adjudication in their basin. Those include a requirement for a GSA to submit and report on a monitoring plan, pumping restrictions, require a GSA to hold a public meeting on what an adjudication means, and authorize a GSA to invite the Water Board and or DWR to the public meeting.

AB 900 (Bennett D- Ventura) Would require the Department of Water Resources to prepare and produce a report outlining best practices for aquifer recharge.

AB 923 (Bauer-Kahan D- Orinda) Would require the Department of Water Resources, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, to undertake a study to identify and assess barriers to the implementation of flood plain restoration projects that provide increased flood risk reduction and groundwater recharge benefits.

SB 651 (Grove R- Bakersfield) Would exempt from CEQA actions taken by a state agency, or by a local agency to accelerate approvals for projects that enhance the ability of a local or state agency to capture high precipitation events for local storage or recharge, consistent with water right priorities and protections for fish and wildlife.

SB 659 (Ashby D- Sacramento) Would establish a statewide goal of 10 million acre-feet or groundwater recharge.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Peifer referred the Board to his written report and asked if they had any questions, they could reach out to him directly.

He also reported that the SGA 25th Anniversary is this year and plans are being made for an educational event to celebrate.

8. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Ewart reported that the City of Sacramento anticipates releasing its public review of its systematic replacement of groundwater wells later this month. He will provide a link to SGA members for direct access.

Director Doyel requested that something to be done for ground water pumping records for the region.

ADJOURNMENT

Attest:

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Marx adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Randy Marx, Chairperson

Ashley Flores Board Secretary