

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)
Governing Board Meeting
Final Minutes
September 11, 2014

LOCATION: 10060 Goethe Road, Room 1212
Sacramento, CA 95827
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

MINUTES:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Bruce Kamilos called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members (Primary Rep):

Rick Bettis, Conservation Landowners
Dave Ocenosak, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
Christine Thompson, Public Agencies Self-Supplied

Board Members (Alternate Rep):

Darren Wilson, City of Elk Grove
Todd Eising, City of Folsom
Britton Snipes, City of Rancho Cordova
Forrest, Williams Jr., Sacramento County Water Agency
Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District
Charlotte Mitchell, Agricultural Interests
Jose Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck, Executive Director
Heather Peek, Clerk
Ping Chen, SCGA

Others in Attendance:

Mark Roberson, Water Forum
Jim Blanke, RMC Water and Environment
Rodney Fricke, Aerojet Corp.

Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Jonathan Goetz, GEI
Mike Wackman, OHWD
Mike Huot, County of Sacramento, Water Resources
Vicki Brennan, County of Sacramento, Water Resources

Member Agencies Absent

City of Sacramento
Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Agricultural-Residential
Commercial/Industrial Self-Supplied
Rancho Murieta Community Services District
California-American Water Company

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The draft meeting minutes for the July 9, 2014 Board meeting were reviewed for final approval.

Motion/Second/Carried – Mr. Wilson moved, seconded by Mr. Bettis, the motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes.

Action: Approve Consent Calendar items.

4. GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

Mr. Eck provided an overview of the recent groundwater legislation passed by the State Legislature on August 29, 2014 including SB 1168, SB 1319, and AB 1739.

Mr. Eck referenced new requirements called for in the bills, specifically the formation of groundwater sustainability entities, new reporting requirements of groundwater data, and coordination requirements of land use agencies. Mr. Eck mentioned that on January 1, 2015 no new 'groundwater management plans' may be adopted and that existing plans cannot be renewed in deference to the requirement to adopt a 'groundwater sustainability plan' or plan of approved alternatives. Mr. Eck then provided a review of other deadlines called out in the legislation regarding DWR's publishing of sustainability plan requirements, establishment of initial basin prioritization, re-definition of basin boundaries, and application to apply for designation of basin sustainability entity. Mr. Eck then mentioned that the Water Quality Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act was signed by the Governor in August and was set for vote on the November 2014 State ballot.

Ms. Mitchell asked if the SCGA as an entity would stay intact given the new requirements for groundwater sustainability.

Mr. Eck replied that he believed it would remain intact even though there was a provision in the legislation that called for the County to be the default sustainability entity in the event that there was not an existing program. It was his belief that that provision might apply in the Delta portion of Sacramento County.

Mr. Kamilos asked for an explanation of the difference between the current SCGA boundary and the subbasin boundary as published in Bulletin 118.

Mr. Eck replied that the boundary was set as part of the Water Forum process and was based on criteria set up within the groundwater/surface water interface model and was therefore inclusive of areas south of the Consumnes River, which was actually in the Consumnes subbasin. There was also an area to the west of the current SCGA boundary that the Water Forum considered as part of the Delta and that according to Bulletin 118, constitutes a portion of the South American subbasin.

Mr. Eck replied with yes and that cannot adopt a new plan after that date or you can't revise your existing plan after that date, as a management plan, you've got to start going in the direction of a sustainability plan. He also said the ideally what the state would like to see is your boundary precisely overlay Bulletin 118. They've provided this ability to go in and make adjustments and if appropriate and you're convincing enough, they'll accept recommended change. There's a date where they're supposed to come up with some way to accurately present that information. January 21, 2016, DWR shall adopt regulations detailing how to revise basin boundaries. Is it worth our while to adjust the boundaries we have or work on redoing new boundaries to match with what they have?

Mr. Wackman asked about entities such as the Omochumne-Hartnell Water District which spans two basins on either side of the Consumnes River and its relationships with the corresponding management entities. Mr. Eck replied that the relationship traced back to certain decisions that were made as part of the Water Forum process and that going forward, an analysis may need to be made in order to determine if the definitions made at that time are still appropriate and in the best interest of the Groundwater Authority.

Action: Information update.

5. SCGA GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Chen presented an analysis of groundwater elevation and groundwater pumping data collected from Golden State Water Company (GSWC), Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA), and Elk Grove Water District (EGWD). He explained that those systems were chosen in order to represent generally what was occurring in the basin from north to central to south. The data analyzed was recent data over the most past couple of years, 2012-2014, in an effort to determine if any effects of the on-going drought could be determined. Mr. Chen showed that groundwater pumping was at most incrementally increased in some areas while being equal, or in some cases lower, in other areas. Mr. Chen also showed that corresponding groundwater levels recorded at the production wells showed no significant declines.

Mr. Eck stated that looking at the graphs, it appeared that there was no radical drop in groundwater elevations as a result of the drought.

Mr. Bettis asked how much was being delivered from Freeport for SCWA. Mr. Williams responded about 7 MGD to 10 MGD was being delivered but that it primarily consisted of the Aerojet settlement water.

Mr. Swartz commented on the region's water supply saying that in general, customers' demands are down by over 20% and that combined with the implementation of conjunctive use and the matching up water supply to the hydrologic conditions, it is evident that the region is benefiting from effective groundwater management as demonstrated by moderate groundwater declines despite the severe drought condition. He stated that many of the region's surface water suppliers have also receive curtailment orders and thus have had to increase reliance on groundwater and that despite that, groundwater levels are not undergoing a significant decline. Mr. Swartz stated that SGA estimated groundwater declines to be around 3% in their basin. He pointed out that additionally, some of the groundwater decline could be attributed to climatic conditions, that the region is drier and therefore there is less natural recharge which would result in declining groundwater levels with or without groundwater pumping. Through implementation of conjunctive use i.e. higher reliance on surface water in wet years while using less groundwater, and increasing reliance on groundwater in dry years while lowering surface water use, the region has benefited with less severe declines in groundwater levels than would have been expected absent effective conjunctive use. The region is in a good position due to the past 10-15 years of planning.

Action: Information update.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Eck announced the intention of the Groundwater Accounting Program (GAP) committee to reconvene on October 8th, 2014. Mr. Eck also stated that the committee had not received survey responses from all entities and that it would be a topic of discussion at the upcoming meeting.

Action: Receive and file.

7. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Schubert announced that Golden State Water Company was currently in the 90% design phase of a project for receiving Aerojet GET water that would be extracted from Aerojet's Carmichael facility via the pipeline under the river. Anticipated construction to commence by 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings –

Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 9 am;
10060 Goethe Road, South Conference Room No. 1212 (Sunset Maple).

By:

B. M. Andrews
Chairperson

11/12/2014
Date

Heather Beck

11/12/14
Date