

**Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA)
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
Subcommittee Meeting (SGMA)
Wednesday, October 5, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair, Paul Schubert called the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Subcommittee meeting of Wednesday, October 5, 2016 to order at 1:07 p.m.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Subcommittee Members

Charlotte Mitchell – Agricultural Interests

Brett Ewart – City of Sacramento

Forrest Williams – County of Sacramento

Tom Nelson – Elk Grove Water District/Florin Resource Conservation District

Paul Schubert – Golden State Water Company

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck – Executive Director

Sarah Britton – Legal Counsel

Stephanie Studdert – Clerk

Ramon Roybal

Others In Attendance:

Jonathan Goetz – GEI

Rodney Fricke – GEI

Carl Werder – Agricultural-Residential

Leland Schneider – Omochumne- Hartnell Water District

Hanspeter Walter – Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

Melinda Frost-Hurzel – Trout Unlimited/Cosumnes Coalition

Suzanne Pecci – Domestic Well Owner

Mark Madison – Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District

Bruce Kamilos – Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District

Mike Wackman – Omochumne- Hartnell Water District

Tom Gohring – Water Forum

Herb Garms – Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. UPDATE ON THE DRAFT ALTERNATIVE SUBMITTAL

Executive Director Darrell Eck stated that Jon Goetz and Rodney Fricke were going to provide an update on the draft Alternative Submittal and the proposed action would be to direct staff to release the draft Alternative Submittal for public review and comment. Executive Director Eck clarified stating that the intent of the previous statement was to acknowledge that the document was going to be released, not that there was an action that was going to take place today.

Subcommittee Member Tom Nelson stated that he would like to be able to see the document prior to 72 hours before the Board meeting.

John Goetz and Rodney Fricke of GEI provided a presentation on the draft Alternative Submittal, specifically presenting on the schedule and guidelines for the Alternative Submittal. John Goetz stated that the November SCGA meeting will be the meeting designated for public comment. Subcommittee Member Brett Ewart asked Counsel Sarah Britton if it would be a Brown Act violation if staff sent a draft form to Board members prior to being public. Counsel Sarah Britton stated that she believes that the hazard would be that it is a working draft. Meaning if staff sent it out, the potential of having obsolete information working its way into the discussion is a possibility. Subcommittee Member Charlotte Mitchell requested clarification regarding the timeline for the Alternative Submittal. John Goetz stated that the public draft will be available October 10, 2016 or October 11, 2016. The approval by the Board would be at the December SCGA Board meeting.

Tom Gohring stated that at the end of the outreach process the Water Forum will draft a synthesis of the process. The synthesis will describe the requests and comments, which of those requests and comments made it into a revised plan, and which ones didn't and why. Tom Gohring further stated that the six bilateral meetings are going to be with Sloughhouse RCD, OHWD, Sheldon Citizens Group, Farm Bureau, Florin RCD, and Cosumnes Coalition.

Counsel Sarah Britton pointed out that the submittal of this Alternative does not mean that SCGA can no longer implement its Groundwater Management Plan or conduct projects outside of that plan as SCGA.

Subcommittee Member Tom Nelson asked if SCGA will receive a 'credit' regarding the remediation pumping from Aerojet. Counsel Sarah Britton stated the remediation activities are specifically lowering water levels to contain contaminated plumes. In the end, the Alternative Submittal will provide that SCGA is adapting to the remediation activities to manage an average groundwater level. Rodney Fricke stated that some of the water from the remediation is going to eventually make it back to the basin. Executive Director Darrell Eck stated that this is part of the current GMP.

Rodney Fricke provided a brief review of Central Basin groundwater thresholds and stated that 62% of wells are within the allotted bandwidth and 38% are below. He further stated that a lot of the wells that are below the allotted bandwidth are related to the east side remediation. Subcommittee Chair Paul Schubert asked John Goetz if they will be breaking those wells out separately on the Alternative Submittal. Meaning that twenty six of the wells are below the bandwidth and of those twenty six, fifteen are getting remediation done. He stated that the Alternative Submittal should make that very obvious. Subcommittee Member Brett Ewart requested that staff should have it in the same place. Subcommittee Chair Paul Schubert provided that a possible additional column with an above and below the bandwidth and then below due to remediation with the appropriate percentages.

Member of the public Melinda Frost-Hurzel asked for confirmation as to whether the GMP required actions if trigger points were reached and whether any such actions had ever been taken. Jon Goetz replied in the affirmative and further stated that the GMP identified groundwater thresholds for the Central Basin and that the thresholds were contemplated to be tied to trigger points with associated actions. Jon Goetz provided as an example of monitoring actions that depending on how far into a threshold a well was, SCGA staff would investigate the cause. Staff would then monitor that well and if inventory was still decreasing, staff would go out and speak with the pumpers and monitor. If staff still noticed levels decreasing, they might assess a pumping tax to get the pumper to reduce their pumping. Finally, the last step would be to inform them they needed to stop pumping. Mr. Goetz stated that ultimately it was up to the SCGA Board to make a decision to take an action and that it was his understanding that it had not previously done so.

Subcommittee Member Brett Ewart requested clarification regarding the proposed action being requested of the SGMA Board for Item 3. Subcommittee Chair Paul Schubert asked Counsel Sarah Britton if the Subcommittee needed to modify the proposed action. Counsel Sarah Britton stated that the Subcommittee should modify the language in the proposed action. She further reminded that the Subcommittee is advisory to the Board and that the Subcommittee cannot direct staff. Counsel Sarah Britton provided that the recommended action could be modified to recommend to the Board that the draft Alternative Submittal be released for public review and comment either ASAP or no later than a specific date.

Motion/Second/Carried - Subcommittee Member Forrest Williams Motioned, seconded by Charlotte Mitchell, the motion carried unanimously to recommend to the SCGA Board that the Alternative Submittal be released for public comment no later than October 12, 2016.

4. RANCHO MURIETA CSD BUDGET CONTRIBUTION

Executive Director Darrell Eck provided background regarding the Rancho Murieta CSD Budget contribution for Fiscal Year 2016/2017. Staff met with Darleen Gilliam, General Manager on August 26, 2016. She expressed concerns relative to Rancho Murieta CSD and the amount of this year's contribution. Darleen Gilliam asked staff if there would be an opportunity to reconsider their contribution amount. Executive Director Darrell Eck stated that they reviewed the process for the current contribution method which was approved by the SCGA Board for this fiscal year's budget. Darrell Eck provided that it's important to note that under the original funding process Rancho Murieta CSD's contribution was \$6000 per fiscal year. Under the current methodology there are three components to the contribution: First, is the base contribution; second, is the charge for number of service connections; third, is a ground water extraction contribution. It was agreed by the Board that the base contribution would be \$10,000. Second, if an entity had less than 6,000 connections then the entity would pay a fixed charge of \$8000. However, if the entity had more than 6000 connections, anything above the 6000 connections would be charged \$0.67 per connection. Third, is a groundwater extraction charge of \$3.11 per acre-foot for this fiscal year which is a variable cost as it is designed to fund specific projects such as monitoring wells, prep of grant applications, or if the Board applies for a grant that requires matching funds. Rancho Mureita CSD's contribution for this fiscal year was calculated to \$18,000. Executive Director Darrell Eck noted that the current budget was intended to be an interim budget, and thus nothing was completely set in concrete. The other consideration is that Rancho Murieta CSD is the only purveyor within the organization that has less than 6,000 connections that the contribution increase has a real effect on. Darrell Eck stated that if there was a desire to move forward with a potential alternative, staff would recommend maintaining the \$10,000 base fee but relax the requirement for the less than 6000 connections paying a fixed \$8,000. An alternative would be to take the number of service connections that apply to the South American Subbasin and use that number multiplied by the \$0.67 per connection for the annual contribution. Darrell Eck reported that there are about 764 connections in Rancho Murieta CSD which would calculate in a contribution of \$10,504. Counsel Sarah Britton added that the proposal would need to be legally reviewed. She also offered that if the Subcommittee intended to offer a revised contribution level to Rancho Murieta CSD, the Subcommittee would likely be taking its action back to the Board for a revised budget and annual contribution amounts which would need a 2/3 vote plus full signatory approval level vote.

Subcommittee Chair Paul Schubert stated that his concern was that if the Board starts to revise individual contributions, all of the entities will want to revise their contribution. Subcommittee Chair Paul Schubert provided the recommendation to the Board be that this years' budget was already approved but next year they may be willing to renegotiate the contributions. Subcommittee Member Brett Ewart requested for the item to be agendized for the Budget Subcommittee.

Subcommittee Chair Paul Schubert provided an example of the cost breakdown per customer for Rancho Murieta CSD. Considering they have 734 customers within the South American Subbasin, \$18,000 would be \$24.00 per customer compared to Golden State Water Company at \$2.30 per customer. Subcommittee Chair Paul Schubert stated that was an issue.

Carl Werder suggested that the Subcommittee invite Rancho Murieta to a Budget Subcommittee meeting so that there can be a discussion.

Counsel Sarah Britton provided that staff may work with the Chair of the Budget Subcommittee to ensure that Rancho Murieta CSD is agendized for the meeting.

Motion/Second/Carried - Subcommittee Member Brett Ewart Motioned, seconded by Subcommittee Member Tom Nelson, the motion carried unanimously to strike the proposed action as presented, and replaced it with recommending that staff continue engaging with Rancho Murieta on their budget contributions and refer this discussion to the Budget Subcommittee for November 9, 2016 meeting.

5. ACTION ITEMS/NEXT STEPS/ASSIGNMENTS

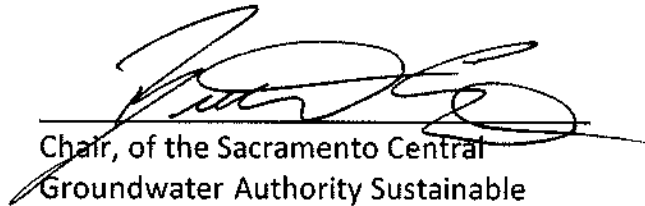
Subcommittee Member Brett Ewart stated he had a disclosure regarding the modification of the Joint Powers Agreement that addresses how entities are seated at the Board. He further stated that the City of Sacramento had it agendized as mentioned at the previous Board meeting. However, the City of Elk Grove has ongoing comments and it appears that the comments are substantive enough that he pulled it from the City of Sacramento's agenda. Counsel Sarah Britton stated that she had communicated with Elk Grove's Assistant City Counsel and they could not reach a point of consensus to limit the extent of the City's proposed alterations to those recommended by SCGA. Executive Director Darrell Eck stated that staff would bring the language back to SCGA Board and discuss. Counsel Sarah Britton stated that given the reaction from Elk Grove, she asked the other signatories to provide her with any additional comments that their Counsel may have so that staff can come back to the Board once with a substantive recommendation. Subcommittee Chair Paul Schubert said that it would be nice to have this noted at the next Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Paul Schubert adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 9:00 a.m. located at 10060 Goethe Road, South Conference Room NO. 1205 (Valley Oak)



Chair, of the Sacramento Central
Groundwater Authority Sustainable
Groundwater Management Act Subcommittee

ATTEST: 

Clerk, of the Sacramento Central
Groundwater Authority Sustainable
Groundwater Management Act Subcommittee

