

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Brett Ewart called the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority meeting of Wednesday, October 12, 2016 to order at 9:01 a.m.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members (Primary Rep):

Tom Nelson – Elk Grove Water District/ Florin Resource Conservation District  
Tom Mahon – Agricultural Interests  
Carl Werder – Agricultural-Residential  
Christine Thompson – Public Agencies Self-Supplied  
Paul Schubert – Golden State Water Company

Board Members (Alternate Rep):

Todd Eising – City of Folsom  
Brian Fragio – City of Elk Grove  
Allen Quynn – City of Rancho Cordova  
Brett Ewart – City of Sacramento  
Forrest Williams Jr. – County of Sacramento  
Jose Ramirez – Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck – Executive Director  
Sarah Britton – Legal Counsel  
Stephanie Studdert – Clerk  
Ramon Roybal  
Ping Chen

Others in Attendance:

Jonathan Goetz – GEI  
Rodney Fricke – GEI  
Amanda Bishop – Sacramento County Clerk of the Board  
Mark Madison – Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District  
Bruce Kamilos – Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District  
Debbie Whaley – Sacramento State, I West  
Tom Gohring – Water Forum  
Charlotte Mitchell – Agricultural Interests  
Suzanne Pecci – Domestic Well Owner

Lisa Dills – Southgate Recreation Park District  
Mike Eaton – Cosumnes Coalition  
Mike Wackman – Omochumne-Hartnell Water District  
Bennett Brooks – Consensus Builders Institute  
Wyatt Arnold – DWR  
Darlene Thiel – Rancho Murieta CSD  
Evan Jacobs – Cal American Water  
Ken Giberson – Mackay & Soms  
Herb Garms – SRCD  
Amanda Platt – SRCD

*Member Agencies Absent*  
*Commercial/Industrial Self-Supplied*  
*Conservation Landowners*  
*Omochumne-Hartnell Water District*  
*Rancho Murieta CSD*  
*California American Water Company*

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **3. CONSENT ITEMS**

Executive Director Darrell Eck made clarifications to language on the September 14, 2016 meeting minutes. Specifically, on page four, a reference to Ground Valley Irrigation District should be Brown's Valley Irrigation District. Also, on page five a reference to the Freeport Diversion structure in which Executive Director Eck provided language modification to make it clearer.

***Motion/Second/Carried*** - Director Christine Thompson moved, seconded by Director Paul Schubert, the motion carried unanimously to approve the September 14, 2016 SCGA Board meeting and the September 21, 2016 Budget Subcommittee meeting subject to and including the modifications provided by the Executive Director.

## **4. PUBLIC DRAFT SOUTH AMERICAN SUBBASIN ALTERNATIVE SUBMITTAL**

Chair Brett Ewart introduced Jon Goetz and Rodney Fricke of GEI Consultants who provided a presentation on the Alternative Submittal (*Note: The presentation given by Jon Goetz and Rodney Fricke may be viewed on the Authority's website for the October 12, 2016 meeting date.*) The Presentation covered the following topics:

- Content Guidelines
- Focused Outreach
- Schedule

Executive Director Darrell Eck provided background stating that at the April 20, 2016 Board meeting Staff was directed to perform various actions related to the submittal of a Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Alternative to State Department of Water Resources (DWR). According to the State Water Code the Alternative must be initially submitted to DWR no later than January 1, 2017. Subsequent discussions at the Board meetings indicated that the Public Draft Alternative Submittal would be released for public comment in October 2016. As described at the September 14, 2016 Board meeting, SGMA legislation requires public participation in the development of an Alternative Submittal or a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). In part, public participation in SCGA's development, adoption, and implementation of an Alternative Submittal is through regularly noticed Board meetings and focused facilitation with specific stakeholder groups. The Water Forum is currently in the process of scheduling these focused facilitation meetings with this activity taking place in parallel with the general public comment period. Today's presentation will focus on content highlights and specific guidelines that guided the preparation of the Alternative Submittal including the SGMA statute, GSP regulations, feedback from DWR, and the SCGA 2006 Groundwater Management Plan. The public review, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and Board approval schedule will also be provided.

Director Allen Quynn asked if there was any investigation into the effects of climate change in the long term forecast. Jon Goetz responded by stating that climate change has always been a part of SGMA. In the GSP regulations, DWR refers to regional climate change studies for California, so that there is consistency among the basins.

Executive Director Darrell Eck stated that part of the climate change issue is being addressed in the American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) document, which takes the regional perspective.

Director Carl Werder thanked Jon Goetz, Rodney Fricke and staff for the herculean effort to get the Alternative Submittal completed. He stated that he does have a concern relating to CEQA. Executive Director Darrell Eck stated that staff's understanding is that, barring anything that is completely unforeseen, there should not be a problem complying with the CEQA requirements as staff understands them to be. In the notice of Statement of Availability there is a requirement that requires that prior to rendering a decision to submit the Alternative to State DWR, SCGA will comply with the provisions of CEQA by submitting the Alternative through the Sacramento County Department of Community Development and Planning and Environmental Review for preparation of the appropriate CEQA documentation.

Wyatt Arnold of DWR stated that after submittal, the Alternative can be accepted, ruled incomplete which provides for 180 days to remedy those deficiencies, or rendered inadequate in which SCGA will

also be allotted 180 days before the DWR Board can make any decision. The time period may be extended longer if the agencies involved are making substantial effort to remedy governance issues.

***Motion/Second/Carried*** - Director Paul Schubert moved, seconded by Director Christine Thompson, the motion carried unanimously to direct staff to release the Public Draft South American Subbasin Alternative Submittal for public review no later than October 12, 2016.

## 5. FISCAL YEAR 2016/2017 BUDGET QUESTIONS

Executive Director Darrell Eck stated that this topic first appeared during the September 14, 2016 Board meeting. Staff was directed to convey the conversation to the SGMA Subcommittee. The topic was taken up at the SGMA Subcommittee meeting at their October 5, 2016 meeting. Following discussion, the Subcommittee recommended that the matter be referred to the Budget Subcommittee for further discussion and consideration. Additionally, it was mentioned at the meeting that staff was in receipt of an email from Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD) requesting staff attend the October 18, 2016 Board meeting with an explanation of the changes to SCGA's financing structure. The primary focus of OHWD's questions were on the use and availability of Zone 13 funds which are questions best answered by the Sac County Water Agency and their Board who decide on how the funds are used. As far as changes to SCGA's financing structure, this was a concern originally expressed by the Budget Subcommittee to the Board in early 2015. At the September 9, 2015 Board meeting this issue was referred to the SGMA Subcommittee. The fiscal year 2016/17 budget and revised 'financing structure' was approved at the June 8, 2016 Board meeting by a unanimous vote. Executive Director Eck stated that staff is requesting that this matter be referred to the Budget Subcommittee for discussion and consideration.

Chair Brett Ewart asked for clarifications regarding the main issues. Executive Director Darrell Eck stated that he believed the main issue centered on the restructuring of how contributions were determined under the interim funding methodology for the current Fiscal Year. He stated that he thought the advent of SGMA had added a different financial dimension to the costs of operating the Authority and that some of the smaller organizations had specific concerns related to those costs. Executive Director Eck stated that the issue was raised as part of the conversation when the fiscal year budget was originally approved. Executive Director Eck further stated that the issue with Rancho Murieta was discussed at the last SGMA Subcommittee meeting and there was an acknowledgment that Rancho Murieta's concerns were a bit unique such that there was enough concern that the SGMA Subcommittee expressed a desire for the discussion to be referred to the Budget Subcommittee. Executive Director Eck requested that the OHWD issue be referred to the Budget Subcommittee as well.

***Motion/Second/Carried*** - Director Forrest Williams moved, seconded by Director Paul Schubert, the motion carried unanimously to refer to the Budget Subcommittee for further discussion and consideration.

**6. STATUS REPORT ON AMENDING THE JPA**

Executive Director Darrell Eck stated that at the June 8, 2016 meeting the Board adopted Resolution No. 2016-05 recommending that the governing bodies of the Signatory Parties to the Groundwater Authority's JPA consider and approve the First Amended and restated Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Elk Grove, City of Folsom, City of Rancho Cordova, City of Sacramento, and the County of Sacramento. At the October 5, 2016 SGMA Subcommittee meeting, it was disclosed that the City of Elk Grove had some concerns with moving forward with the changes made to the JPA as recommended by the Board. Since that time, the City of Elk Grove has provided an alternative to the recommended action. Counsel has provided this alternative to the Signatory Parties' respective Counsel for review.

Counsel Sarah Britton stated that a different process was proposed and she believed it would be most efficient to have the respective legal counsels of the JPA signatories conduct a review of the proposed process. If there are no concerns raised by any of the other signatory parties, then Counsel Sarah Britton suggested that the new process language come back to this Board for approval. It will then go back to the signatory parties so they may prepare packages for their approving legislative bodies. Counsel Sarah Britton stated that receiving a response from the signatory parties by the end of October 2016 would provide time to prepare the package for the next meeting agenda. Mark Madison stated that one important point that he recognized was that initially the attorney for the City of Elk Grove was proposing to widen the scope of the review of the JPA. Mark Madison stated that this is no longer the case and that she just altered the structure of the amendment from what he could tell.

**8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Darrell Eck stated that the Budget Subcommittee requested that their next meeting be held on November 9, 2016, immediately following the regularly scheduled Board meeting. The focus of this meeting will be a brainstorming meeting with the different funding models discussed at the September 21, 2016 meeting. Board members were asked to provide a list of issues that they might have related to the different funding models for consideration and discussion.

**9. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Director Forrest Williams thanked staff for their efforts with the Alternative Submittal. Director Tom Nelson stated that the Water Resources Control Board wants to increase flows out through the river. Director Tom Nelson stated that his concern is that the region is sending out a lot of water from the Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant and that people might begin to want that water instead of it being made available to the basin for recharge purposes. He recommended that SCGA may want to consider future use of that water within the basin. Director Nelson referenced a past settlement in which an agency down river claimed and were granted entitlement to some of that water and expressed a concern that it could happen again in the future. Director Jose Ramirez stated that SRCSD is currently going through the process with the State Water Board, Division of Water Rights for the South County Agriculture Project. SRCSD filed a Petition For Change to secure water rights in August 2016. SRCSD currently has five protest letters, from five different agencies and they are in the process


of trying to resolve those issues. If they are unable to resolve the issues, SRCSD will go through the hearing process which will take approximately 180 days. Currently, SRCSD is attempting to secure the water rights for the South County Agriculture Project. Director Jose Ramirez will provide an update once SRCSD has resolved those issues.

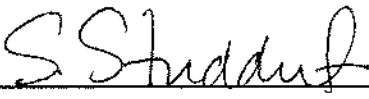
## ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brett Ewart adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting** – Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. located at 10060 Goethe Road, South Conference Room no. 1205 (Valley Oak)

  
Chair, of the Sacramento  
Central Groundwater Authority Board

ATTEST:   
Clerk, of the Sacramento  
Central Groundwater Authority Board

