

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)

Governing Board Meeting

Final Minutes

October 8, 2008

LOCATION: 10545 Armstrong Avenue, Suite 101
Mather, CA 95655
9:05 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

MINUTES:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Scott Fort called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members (Primary Rep.):

Stuart Helfand, Agricultural-Residential
Rick Bettis, Conservation Landowners
Edwin Smith, Public Agencies Self-Supplied
Ron Lowry, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Ed Crouse, Rancho Murrieta Community Services District
Anthony Van Steyn, Agricultural Interests
Andy Soulé, California-American Water Company
Ruben Robles, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Scott Fort, Golden State Water Company

Board Members (Alternate Rep.):

Clarence Korhonen, City of Elk Grove
Walter Sadler, City of Folsom
Herb Niederberger, Sacramento County Water Agency
Jose Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Albert Stricker, City of Rancho Cordova

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck, Executive Director, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
Ping Chen, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
Brian Gallucci, Interim Clerk, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority

Others in Attendance:

Jean Young, Sacramento County Water Agency
Larry Rodriguez, Robertson-Bryan, Inc.
Michael Wackman, Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority
Rodney Fricke, Aerojet
Rob Swartz, RWA
Jafar Faghieh, MWH

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- **Minutes of September 10, 2008 Board meeting**

Mr. Fort asked staff to correct a couple of grammatical errors in the minutes.

Motion/Second/Carried – Mr. Niederberger moved, seconded by Mr. Helfand, the motion carried unanimously to approve the amended minutes.

4. COSUMNES RIVER FLOW AUGMENTATION PILOT PROJECT

- **Presenters:**

- Ron Lowry, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
- Larry Rodriguez, Robertson-Bryan, Inc.
- Michael Wackman, Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority

Mr. Lowry provided a brief background presentation on the Cosumnes River Flow Augmentation Pilot Project (Project). The purpose of the Project is to determine if pre-wetting the river channel in the fall would improve fish spawning on the Cosumnes River.

Mr. Wackman added that the biggest challenge to the Project is: the source of water to pre-wet the channel. One alternative is Aerojet's remediated groundwater. However, the amount of daily discharge is not large enough to meet pre-wetting requirements. In order to solve this problem the project proponents propose to use a process called Groundwater Storage and Recovery (GSR). GSR consists of storing water in the underlying aquifer for a defined period of time and then removing it.

Mr. Rodriguez further described the project by stating that 5000 acre-feet annually would be required to operate the Project and that the project proponents had already identified two prospective sites for the spreading ponds. Mr. Rodriguez also indicated that there could be groundwater recharge benefits as the Project may not require the full 5000 acre-feet of water each year. To support this he mentioned that a previous implementation of the Project only required 900 acre-feet of water.

A number of concerns were expressed by those in attendance. First was the availability of the remediated groundwater. Secondly, both EBMUD and the Bureau have had serious reservations about allowing the direct discharge of remediated groundwater into the Folsom South Canal – why do the project proponents think that their positions have changed? In this case the project proponents believe that if EBMUD was interested in the Project they (meaning EBMUD) could convince the Bureau that discharging remediated groundwater into the canal is acceptable. Third, the stated cost of \$280,000

does not represent the total cost of the proposed Project – what is the projected cost of the Project? According to Mr. Rodriguez a ballpark figure would be around \$1M. Lastly, it was not clear how a benefit to the groundwater basin would be established or measured by the proposed project.

Handouts were also passed out by Mr. Rodriguez that included a memorandum and a summary of the first phase of the project.

5. WELL PROTECTION PROGRAM UPDATE

- **Counsel comments**

Mr. Eck reported that Counsel had scheduled a meeting with John Whisenhunt on October 7, 2008 to discuss whether or not the draft WPP Ordinance would trigger provisions of Proposition 218 or the Water Code. Counsel has not had an opportunity to report back on their opinion. There will be no revision to the Work Plan pending receipt of Counsel's opinion.

Mr. Helfand requested staff send a copy of Counsel's opinion to members of the Board when it becomes available. Mr. Fort also asked that the document be stamped "draft" when it is sent out.

6. EVALUATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- **Report back on progress on evaluation of the Executive Director.**

Mr. Fort reported that he and Ed Crouse had prepared the evaluation of the Executive Director. Mr. Fort also indicated that he had reviewed the evaluation with the Executive Director and that he had no objections to it. Mr. Fort suggested that the Board should take some time to read through the evaluation and provide any comments, if necessary.

Mr. Fort said that if there were no comments he would sign and date the evaluation and send it to Mr. John Coppola – Mr. Eck's direct supervisor at SCWA.

Mr. Sadler motioned that the Board approve the Executive Director's evaluation. Mr. Smith seconded the action. The motion carried unanimously to approve the evaluation of the Executive Director.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Status of AB 303 Contract Agreements**

- **Grant Contract Agreements**

Mr. Eck reported that the grant process requires two contract agreements: the first is between the Authority and State DWR, the second will be between the

Authority and the consultant WRIME. Staff expects to receive the executed grant contract agreement from State DWR around mid-October. The process for drafting the contract agreement with WRIME has begun and it is expected that work on both agreements will be completed around the same time.

Mr. Niederberger asked if the Authority has sufficient reserves to cover WRIME's initial expenses before the Authority receives its first reimbursement through the grant. Mr. Eck indicated that there are sufficient reserves to cover these costs.

○ **Approval of Board Member Nominations**

On September 30th, the nominations of the following Board members were approved by the County Board of Supervisors:

- Omochumne-Hartnell Water District – Ron Lowry
- Rancho Murieta Community Service District – Ed Crouse (primary) and Robert Kjome (alternate)
- Agricultural Interests – Anthony van Steyn
- Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District – Ruben Robles (primary) and Jose Ramirez (alternate)
- California-American Water Company – Andy Soulé (primary) and Tom Glover (alternate)
- Public Agencies Self Supplied – Edwin Smith
- Agricultural-Residential Groundwater Users – Stuart Helfand
- Conservation Landowners – Rick Bettis

These appointments are for four years.

○ **Budget Report 2008/2009**

Mr. Eck reported that first quarter expenses for the Authority was \$53,709, or about 14-percent of the approved budget.

○ **Board Clerk Status**

The Board members were reminded that Sharon Andrews, the current Board Clerk, will no longer be able to perform this service as she has had a change in job responsibilities at SCWA. Mr. Niederberger suggested that the Board Clerk position be filled and rotated among the Authority's signatories. He stated that Brian Gallucci, who served as interim clerk today, is not in a position to meet the board's long-term needs. Mr. Korhonen expressed some concern over continuity if the position were to be rotated. Both Mr. Robles and Mr. Fort responded that the continuity problem could be resolved if the term of the clerk was at least six months to one year. Provisions have been made in the current budget to pay for a clerk but Mr. Niederberger suggested that the signatories should make this person available to the Authority at no cost, just like the Water Agency. It is estimated that the clerk's duties take approximately 24 man-hours per month.

Mr. Niederberger said that if the signatories couldn't come up with a solution that maybe the Authority should hire an independent clerk. The job would basically be to record and transcribe the meeting minutes, and Mr. Niederberger indicated that this would probably cost about a nickel per minute.

Mr. Fort asked that the Board and staff think about potential solutions to this issue and be prepared with a recommendation by the next Board meeting.

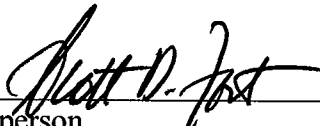
8. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments from the Directors, Mr. Fort adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

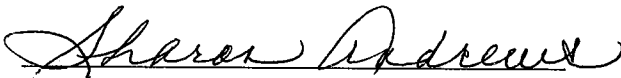
By:



Chairperson

12/10/08

Date



12/10/2008

Date

