

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)
Governing Board Meeting
Final Minutes
September 9, 2009

LOCATION: 10545 Armstrong Avenue, Suite 101
Mather, CA 95655
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

MINUTES:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Scott Fort called the meeting to order at 9:00 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
Ruben Robles, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Scott Fort, Golden State Water Company
Anthony van Steyn, Agricultural Interests

Board Members (Alternate Rep):

Clarence Korhonen, City of Elk Grove
Walt Sadler, City of Folsom
Herb Niederberger, Sacramento County Water Agency
Dan Sherry, City of Sacramento
Albert Stricker, City of Rancho Cordova

Staff Members:

Darrell Eck, Executive Director, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
Heather Hawke, Clerk, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
Ping Chen, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
Ramon Roybal, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority

Others in Attendance:

Rob Swartz, Sacramento Groundwater Authority
Barry Marcus, Sacramento County EMD
Karen Burge, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

Member Agencies Absent

Commercial/Industrial Self-Supplied (vacant)
Rancho Murieta Community Service District
California – American Water Company
Elk Grove Water Service

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rob Swartz announced that the Regional Water Authority (RWA) was planning a meeting in early November to discuss updating the American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan document. He distributed a signup sheet for anyone interested in attending.

Barry Marcus from the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) announced that EMD was preparing to implement an abandoned well identification program. Mr. Marcus indicated that EMD has estimated that there are thousands of undocumented abandoned wells throughout Sacramento County and that the abandoned well identification program would provide a means to document their location and then plan for their proper destruction. Mr. Marcus indicated that EMD plans to initiate the program within the next few months.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes of July 8, 2009 Board Meeting

Mr. Fort asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the July 8, 2009 meeting minutes. Being none, Mr. Fort called for a motion to approve the consent calendar items.

Motion/Second/Carried - Mr. Niederberger motioned and Mr. Smith seconded, the motion was carried unanimously to approve the July 8, 2009 board meeting minutes.

4. WATER RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Ruben Robles and Jose Ramirez, representing the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD), presented an update on the SRCSD Water Recycling Program. Mr. Ramirez first provided a brief background on the SRCSD indicating that Agency provides regional conveyance, treatment, and disposal services for wastewater for the Cities of Sacramento, West Sacramento, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, and Elk Grove and portions of the unincorporated area of Sacramento County; serving roughly 1.3 million residents.

Mr. Ramirez then described SRCSD's existing Recycled Water Program which consists of two phases. Phase I is currently operational and consists of water reclamation facility (WRF) designed to provide up to five million gallons per day (mgd) of tertiary effluent. Of the 5 mgd capacity, between one and three and a half mgd is used for urban non-residential landscape irrigation by the Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) in the Laguna West and Laguna Stonelake area of the City of Elk Grove and for industrial/landscape uses on the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant site. Phase II would expand the capacity of the WRF to 10 mgd which would be used in the East Franklin and Laguna Ridge areas of Elk Grove. The Phase II project also requires the construction of additional transmission, storage, and pumping facilities that are the responsibility of SCWA.

Mr. Ramirez went on to discuss SRCSD's Water Recycling Opportunities Study (WROS), produced in 2007. The WROS describes a 20 year planning horizon with the goal of providing between 30 and 40 mgd of recycled water. The WROS evaluated five target areas in the

Sacramento region for the use of recycled water, and identified, ranked, and prioritized 18 potential recycled water projects. Mr. Ramirez completed his remarks by describing the proposed South County Agricultural and Habitat project. This project is located south of the City of Elk Grove and would consist of providing secondarily treated wastewater to offset groundwater use for crop and pasture irrigation. The rationale being that additional groundwater would then be available for potable use elsewhere in the basin. The project description also included estimated capital and O&M costs.

Ruben Robles then elaborated that SRCSD had been awarded \$5.43 million in grants to expand the WRF and stressed the importance of constructing the necessary transmission, storage, and pumping facilities for conveyance to the Phase II area. Mr. Robles stated that SRCSD risks losing the grant if they cannot deliver the recycled water to the Phase II area; though he did acknowledge the financial constraints facing SCWA in constructing the aforementioned facilities.

Mr. Robles expanded on Mr. Ramirez's remarks on the potential use of recycled water for agricultural purposes in-lieu of groundwater pumping and alluded to potential benefits for the Central Basin. Mr. Robles concluded his remarks by introducing Karen Burge, representing the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, as an interested partner in the proposed project.

5. WELL PROTECTION PROGRAM

By way of an update on the Well Protection Program (WPP), Mr. Eck mentioned that Ron Lowry had contacted him within the last month mentioning that a private well owner within the Omochochumne-Hartnell Water District had three wells go dry on his property. These particular wells are outside the benefit area identified in the Impact Analysis; if the WPP had been in place, this type of claim would have been brought before the Board for their consideration. No other significant activities have occurred regarding the WPP in the past couple of months.

Members of the Board expressed some concern that if the downturn in the housing market lasted too long the land use agencies might not be anxious to move forward in adopting the WPP. This concern focused primarily on staff and management changes within the land use agencies and with that, a loss of institutional knowledge regarding the WPP. Given this, the Board felt that it was important to get a commitment from the land use agencies to adopt the WPP ordinance and collect the fee once the housing market improved. This would be similar to the process used by the Groundwater Forum to secure authorization to proceed on the development of the groundwater management plan. The Board then had a general discussion on what would trigger adoption and implementation of the program. It was suggested that a date or timeframe could be considered.

Action:

Herb motioned to direct staff to prepare a package for review and presentation to the land use agencies to secure their commitment to adopt the WPP ordinance based on an agreed upon trigger. Ron Lowry seconded the motion.

6. MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board discussed the need to reschedule the regularly scheduled November Board meeting since it falls on Veteran's Day (November 11). The Board agreed to reschedule the meeting for Tuesday, November 10th, 2009 at 9 am. The meeting will be held at its regular location.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Eck informed the Board that the term of office for the current chair and vice chair expires in December 2009. The Authority's Policies and Procedures (Section 3.06) require that the election of new officers take place not later than the last regularly scheduled meeting prior to the beginning of the calendar year. Mr. Eck stated that officers would need to be elected at the upcoming November Board meeting.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 2007-2008 Basin Management Report

Mr. Eck mentioned to the Board that a draft copy of the 2007-2008 Basin Management Report had been made available at the previous Board meeting for review and comment. Mr. Eck added that the purpose of the report was to document basin wide hydrologic conditions over the reporting period, and to identify management activities to be implemented. He went on to say that the structure of the report was based on the GMP and provides a summary of activities based on the basin management objectives. It is important to note that with this first report there are some limitations given that the DMS is not up and running yet, but staff felt that there was sufficient information to be reported that would give the Board and stakeholders a better sense of the state of the basin and to provide a platform for focusing on and scheduling activities over the next two years.

- AB 303 Grant Reimbursement Status

The first two invoices for the AB 303 grant that have been submitted to the State have been forwarded to the State Treasurer for payment.

- DMS Update Status

Mr. Eck stated that staff was waiting for data from one of the purveyors. He also mentioned that staff is planning to meet with WRIME to review progress, schedule, and budget within the next couple of weeks.

- RWQCB Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy Workshop

The first Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy Workshop was held by the Regional Water Quality Control Board on August 24, 2009. The purpose of the workshop was to:

- Provide a summary of current conditions and state of groundwater quality throughout the Central Valley;
- Provide a summary of current groundwater regulatory programs being implemented by the Regional Board and by other agencies, including those of SCGA;
- Provide a road map for future regulatory and control activities that will be implemented by the Regional Board to assure a comprehensive and consistent groundwater program to be implemented throughout the Central Valley.

A draft study document should be circulated in late September with stakeholder workshops in mid-October.

- Aerojet Operable Unit 5 (OU-5)
 - Next phase of clean-up operations in and around the Aerojet project site.
 - The plan identifies EPA's preferred remedies for soil and groundwater clean-up within OU-5.
 - According to EPA, implementing the proposed plan for OU-5, coupled with the existing OU-3 remedy to the west and other state enforcement actions to the south, will complete the containment of groundwater contamination around the boundary of the site.
 - EPA's preferred alternative, Groundwater Containment with Mass Removal, is estimated to take between 120 to 230 years.
 - The preferred alternative will pump between 10 and 15 million gallons of groundwater each day (between 11,200 and 16,800 acre-feet per year).
 - EPA says that the treated water will either be provided directly to the drinking water system, used for non-potable purposes such as industrial cooling, or discharged to surface water.
 - Comment period has been extended to October 1, 2009.

Actions:

In order to provide comments to EPA on the proposed Operational Unit 5, a Contamination Sub-Committee was formed consisting of the following board members:

Walt Sadler
Herb Niederberger
Ron Lowry
Rick Bettis

Scott Fort motioned to direct the Contamination Sub-Committee to draft a comment letter for Operational Unit 5 by the end of September. Anthony van Steyn seconded the motion.

- Meeting Location

Mr. Eck mentioned that the conference room currently being used for SCGA Board meetings would no longer be available beginning January 2010. Staff will work to determine an alternative meeting location.

9. DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Mr. Korhonen asked if the presentation on the Recycled Water Program Update could be posted on the SCGA website.


Mr. Bettis mentioned that the three wells discussed earlier could be grandfathered into the WPP once it is implemented.

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings –

Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting – Tuesday, November 10th, 2009. 10545 Armstrong Avenue, Suite 101, Meeting Room No. 170.

By:



Chairperson

11/10/09

Date



Date

11/10/09

Date

