

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA)
Governing Board Meeting
Final Minutes
November 09, 2011

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

The following meeting participants were in attendance:

Board Members (Primary Rep.)

Stuart Helfand, Agricultural Residential
Rick Bettis, Conservation Land Owners
Edwin Smith, Public Agencies Self-Supplied
Ron Lowry, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
David Armand, California-American Water Company
Dave Ocenosak, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Board Members (Alternate Rep.)

Darren Wilson, City of Elk Grove
Todd Eising, City of Folsom
Elizabeth Sparkman, City of Rancho Cordova
Herb Niederberger, County of Sacramento/Sacramento County Water Agency
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company

Staff Members

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

Others in Attendance

Mark Madison, Elk Grove Water Service

Member Agencies Absent

City of Sacramento
City of Folsom
Agricultural Interests
Rancho Murieta Community Services District

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The draft meeting minutes for the SCGA Board Meeting held on July 13th, 2011 were considered for approval.

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

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Niederberger noted that in accordance with Section 3.06(a) of the Groundwater Authority's Rules of Procedure it was time to elect a new chair and vice chair of the Board for 2012. Mr. Niederberger mentioned that historically the vice chair would move into the chairmanship and another Board member would be elected as the vice chair. Mr. Niederberger opened the floor for nominations of vice chair or a counter proposal for the position of chair. Mr. Niederberger nominated Mr. Peifer to serve as vice chair with Mr. Shubert to serve as chair.

Motion/Second/Carried – Mr. Niederberger moved, seconded by Mr. Helfand, the motion carried unanimously to approve the election of the new officers.

5. GROUNDWATER DATA POLICY

Mr. Eck stated that from time to time there are requests from outside entities for information submitted to the Authority by its member agencies and that currently, no clear policy exists to provide direction on how information should be shared and what should be kept confidential. Mr. Eck mentioned that when this policy was first discussed at the July 13, 2011 Board meeting it was indicated that the Sacramento Groundwater Authority Board (SGA) addressed this same issue by adopting a Groundwater Data Policy. Mr. Eck explained that the policy defines the role of SGA in managing and disseminating data on behalf of their member agencies. Mr. Eck predicted that with the update of the HydroDMS the managing, availability, and dissemination of information will become more of an issue. Development and implementation of a policy similar to that adopted by the SGA would allow decisions regarding the sharing of information easier to manage, while providing a greater peace of mind to both the Authority and its member agencies. Mr. Eck provided a draft Groundwater Data Policy document that was similar to the one approved by the SGA board. Mr. Eck explained that the policy would codify how staff has handled such requests in the past and that it provides an opportunity to establish a consistent approach on how groundwater data would be shared going forward.

Mr. Niederberger recalled that there was a discussion at the SGA board meeting regarding a liability release of information and how that was addressed in the proposed Groundwater Data Policy. Mr. Eck replied that it had been addressed. Mr. Niederberger asked for a motion to adopt Groundwater Data Policy 300.1.

Motion/Second/Carried – Mr. Shubert moved, seconded by Mr. Helfand, the motion carried unanimously to approve policy number 300.1, Groundwater Data Policy.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Eck reported on the following:

- a) **California State Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM)** - Authority staff continues to coordinate with DWR to complete development of the groundwater elevation monitoring plan for the Central Basin. Formal submittal of the Authority's plan is expected later this month.

Mr. Niederberger asked if the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) had made a determination on accepting SCGA as a monitoring body. Mr. Eck replied that they had made a tentative determination and had expressed overall satisfaction with SCGA's draft monitoring plan.

- b) **Legislative / regulatory update** – AB 359 (Huffman) was recently signed by the Governor requiring a map of groundwater recharge areas for the basin to be included in a groundwater management plan. The bill also requires that the local agency provide a map of the groundwater recharge areas to the local planning agencies, notifying both DWR and other interested persons when a map is submitted to those local planning agencies. Compliance is required by January 1, 2013. SB 263 (Pavley) would require that reports filed with DWR for digging, boring, or drilling water wells, cathodic protection wells, monitoring wells, or abandons or destroys a well, or deepens or re-perforates a well make these reports available to the public. The bill would also prohibit the State Department of Public Health from preventing the disclosure of information provided in these reports. This bill was vetoed by the governor.

Mr. Niederberger explained the relevance of mapping groundwater recharge areas in the context of local mining activities in areas where the Mehrten formation daylights. This is of particular concern as the Mehrten formation is a point of recharge for a great number of wells within the Sacramento region. Mr. Niederberger predicted that once the mapping of the recharge areas begins, it may likely show that there is active development activities occurring in those areas that are significant points of recharge of groundwater in the basin. Mr. Niederberger further predicted that the impact of those activities may not be fully realized for 100 years, but that evidence of these the impacts would be seen within the basin over time; thus the mapping of those areas will be a very important activity going forward.

- c) **Groundwater Survey** - The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has requested the water community to complete an on-line survey regarding groundwater management activities in California. The survey is focused on compiling information about groundwater management efforts statewide to share with policy makers and other stakeholders. The survey data will also help identify areas where local groundwater management efforts should be expanded and where local agencies may need assistance to develop and implement sustainable groundwater management activities. This is especially important as opportunities arise to

secure funding for groundwater projects. ACWA and DWR are also interested in learning about groundwater banking projects in California so information is available for those who may want to learn more about this valuable water management tool. Staff responded to the survey on November 4, 2011.

Mr. Niederberger asked if staff had responded on behalf of the SCGA or Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA). Mr. Eck replied that after reviewing the survey in totality, it appeared better to respond as SCGA.

- d) **Grant Update** – DWR recently announced that it expects the next round of applications for AB 303 grants to be released in Spring 2012. SCGA staff plans on applying.

Mr. Niederberger inquired as to which specific projects were anticipated for participation in AB 303 funding by SCGA. Mr. Eck replied that staff had already received authorization from the board to pursue grant funding via a contract with RMC Inc. and that staff would meet with Mr. Taghavi to discuss a number of potential projects related to the further enhancement of the HydroDMS.

- e) **South Area Water Council** – The Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority (SSCAWA) Board met on October 25, 2011 to discuss expansion of their JPA to include other participants and provide a means for the adoption and implementation of a groundwater management plan covering the South Basin. At that meeting the Board asked that each potential participant be approached to determine their “intent and expectation” for being a part of the JPA. This process is on-going.

Mr. Niederberger asked Mr. Lowry if he had anything to add to Mr. Eck’s report. Mr. Lowry replied that the SSCAWA board intends to move cautiously because it is shifting some of its focus from agricultural issues.

- f) **Sacramento Water Recycling Coalition** – The Sacramento Water Recycling Coalition (Coalition) met on October 25, 2011 and featured speakers from the City of Lodi and the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Sanitation District). The City of Lodi discussed their White Slough Water Pollution Control Facility and the recycling and reuse projects associated with that facility. In response to their new NPDES permit, the Sanitation District discussed their Advanced Treatment Technology Pilot Project which will look at treatment technologies to meet new and potential future permit requirements in the most cost effective manner. Details of these presentations, other issues discussed at the October 25 meeting, and issues discussed at previous meetings can be found on the Coalition’s website.

Mr. Niederberger asked Mr. Ocenosak if he wanted to add anything. Mr. Ocenosak replied that the south county agriculture and habitat land project was still moving forward and that the Sanitation District was currently involved in acquiring grant funding and engaging in outreach opportunities.

7. DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Lowry reported that Omochumne-Hartnell Water District was working with Rancho Murieta CSD (CSD) on a groundwater banking program in which the CSD would store surplus appropriated water rights from the Cosumnes River within the Omochumne-Hartnell Water District. Mr. Lowry explained that the banking process would “pond” water on the

project site during wet winter months. Mr. Lowry pointed out that a couple of important issues remain to be worked out such as moving the point of diversion and the CSD installing a well as far down stream on the properties as possible to recover the banked water in a manner that would ultimately optimize storage.

Mr. Bettis stated that during the Sacramento Water Recycling Coalition meeting, the City of Lodi mentioned putting in a bypass provision so they could bypass part of the tertiary treatment process in-lieu of secondary treatment levels for agricultural use. Mr. Bettis also noted the high cost of tertiary level treatment. Mr. Bettis then mentioned concerns expressed by Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) General Manager, Robert Roscoe regarding Aerojet plume contamination migration north of the American River and the expected difficulties to secure additional surface water supplies from the American River. Mr. Niederberger added that the migration of the Aerojet plume north of the American River could also affect the Fair Oaks Water District along with a couple of other northern area water districts, by potentially interfering with their ability to conjunctively use groundwater and surface water, thus creating a conflict with the terms of the Water Forum Agreement.

Mr. Madison introduced himself as the new General Manager of the Elk Grove Water District (EGWD). Mr. Madison stated that he formerly worked for the City of Stockton as the Director of Utilities. He announced his appreciation for being part of the SCGA Board and stated that he understood that the EGWD had exhibited lack luster participation recently but that it would come to an end.

Mr. Shubert provided an update to well head treatment for groundwater contamination in the Golden State service area, stating that the treatment system for one well was in full operation while the other two would be completed shortly. Mr. Shubert also announced that Golden State has been planning to drill some new wells for a couple of years and that the Company might go out to bid in a couple of months.

Mr. Niederberger announced that the County of Sacramento and SCWA had agreed to a monetary settlement with Aerojet (not an exchange of water) related to Aerojet's contamination of groundwater south of the American River. He clarified that GET water would continue to be produced by Aerojet and released to the American River and be subject to downstream recovery.

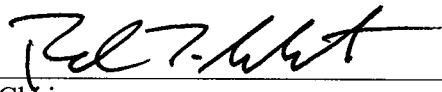
Motion/Second/Carried – Mr. Helfand moved, seconded by Mr. Bettis, the motion carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings –

Next SCGA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, January 11th, 2012. 10060
Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA; SASD South Conference Room 1212 (Sunset Maple).

By:



Chairperson

01-11-12

Date



01-11-12

Date