



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

San Joaquin County – Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Avenue – Assembly Room #1, Stockton, California

- I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Safety Announcement/Introductions
- II. **SCHEDULED ITEMS** – *Presentation materials to be posted on ESJGroundwater.org and emailed prior to the meeting. Copies of presentation materials will be available at the meeting.*
 - A. Discussion /Action Items:
 1. Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2019 (See Attached)
 2. Data Collection for March Monitoring Event
 3. Annual Report Overview – (See Attached)
 4. DMS Review
 5. GSP Project Update Request for February
 6. February Agenda Items
- III. Public Comment (non-agendized items)
- IV. Future Agenda Items
- V. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting

February 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

San Joaquin County - Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Ave., Assembly Rm. #1, Stockton, California

Action may be taken on any item

Agendas and Minutes may also be found at <http://www.ESJGroundwater.org>

Note: If you need disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact San Joaquin County Public Works Water Resources Staff at (209) 468-3089 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2019

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Safety Announcement/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Advisory Committee meeting was convened by Alyson Watson at 9:06 a.m., on November 13, 2019, at the Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center, 2101 E. Earhart Ave. Stockton, CA. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a representative of San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services provided the required safety information.

In attendance were Michael Hurley, Dante Nomellini, Reid Roberts, Travis Kahrs, Elba Mijango, Mel Lytle, Walt Ward, Dave Fletcher, Mike Henry, Daniel de Graaf, Emily Sheldon, Kris Balaji, Robert Holmes, and Andrew Watkins.

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Discussion/Action Items:

1. Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Motion

Mr. Kahrs moved, and Mr. Fletcher seconded the approval of the October 17 meeting minutes. The motion was approved; Ms. Mijango abstained.

2. GSP Adoption Process

Ms. Alyson Watson walked through the timeline for GSP adoption and the GSA adoption dates. It was noted that Lockeford Community Services District's public hearing is scheduled for December 12 at 9:00 AM and that Linden County Water District's public hearing is scheduled for December 5 at 6:00 PM. Ms. Alyson Watson indicated the website would be updated to reflect these changes. Mr. Ward noted some GSAs may have newspaper notification requirements. Ms. Watson stated that this is a local requirement and suggested consulting with GSA counsel on what your noticing requirements are. Ms. Mijango asked if there is a copy of the Final GSP that can be printed. Ms. Watson indicated that it is posted on the website.

Public Comment

Ms. Mary Elizabeth (Sierra Club, Delta-Sierra Group) recommended that printed copies of the Final GSP be housed in libraries until adoption in January.

3. Grant Update

Ms. Watson provided an update on the Proposition 68 grant application timeline. She indicated that applications are due to DWR by November 15 at 1:00 PM and that up to \$500,000 is available to the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin. Mr. Nomellini indicated that the State Board is putting out a temporary permit for recharge of groundwater and that it is a good opportunity for entities to take advantage of.

Public Comment

None.

4. Plan Implementation

Work Items to Start in 2020:

Ms. Watson reviewed work items to start in 2020 and asked the group for input on governance structure, including meeting structure and frequency, as costs are driven by level of engagement. Mr. Nomellini suggested merging the Groundwater Authority (GWA) meetings with the Advisory Water Commission

meetings, adding agenda items to regular meetings on a quarterly basis. Mr. Henry asked for clarification on the schedule of the Advisory Water Commission. Mr. Nomellini indicated the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 1:00 PM. He noted that the meetings typically end at 3:00 or 3:30 PM. Mr. Ward indicated that he does not think the group needs to meet monthly. Mr. Balaji noted the need for a subcommittee for technical issues if the need arises. Ms. Sheldon noted it would be beneficial to keep the Advisory Committee meetings, perhaps quarterly. She then asked about the individual GSA water budgets and noted that a group will need to meet more often to finalize those. She recommended at least quarterly for a technical advisory group. There is potential for focused committees for coordination to eliminate the need for an Advisory Committee. Mr. Nomellini noted uncertainty in individual water budgets and that using them for cost allocation may be challenging.

Plan Administration:

Dr. Lytle indicated that the GWA Board needs to know what recommendations they need to move forward on various activities. For example, the Board has not made the decision on how they plan to manage the JPA, if it will be led by the County or a consultant hire. He noted that if those decisions are made, the Board can give recommendation on what type of committee is required to meet the needs of the implementation plan. Dr. Lytle then noted that if the group meets quarterly, they will miss the April 2020 deadline for the annual report. Mr. Matt Zidar indicated that the JPA is the decision-making entity, and decision making can be quarterly with more frequent meetings in the first six months. He recommended two committees, one for technical issues, and one on policy issues with a focus on projects. He noted that interim decisions can be done on conference calls. Mr. Nomellini stated the County would be the logical coordinator of the meetings. Mr. Holmes stated that an executive committee is needed in the short term to oversee implementation.

Public Comment

Mr. Dennis Mills (Calaveras County) noted that there are three counties and that land use can be used to help achieve goals. He indicated that Calaveras County just completed their General Plan, and it would be helpful to know what the Board is looking for so that it can be incorporated into amendments.

Ms. Valerie Kincaid (counsel to OID and SSJID) stated support for an executive committee. She noted the need to identify workload distribution (what will be done by the JPA, and what will be done by the GSAs). She questioned if a GSA does not do a project that is planned, can the JPA enforce? She noted that this needs to be a focus of discussion along with the annual report

Ms. Elizabeth stated that she thought the Implementation Ad-Hoc Committee was formed to discuss these issues. She noted that the Ad-Hoc Committee meetings are not open to the public and stated that it is important that committees for implementation be held to the Brown Act standard and the lack of transparency is a concern. She stated support for meeting the same day of the Advisory Water Commission but noted that the County is planning on a new stakeholder committee related to IRWMP efforts, and that group is meeting at 3:00 PM after the Advisory Water Commission meetings. She suggested having the JPA meetings in the morning on the same day. Ms. Elizabeth reminded the group that there is a GBA Board, and it may be a good time to resolve that.

Budget through June 30, 2020:

Ms. Watson walked through the estimated budget through the end of the fiscal year and the state intervention costs. Mr. Henry questioned what happens if an individual GSA rejects the GSP or withdraws from the group. Ms. Watson clarified that the consensus from meeting with DWR and the State Board is that fees would apply to the unmanaged area only, but there is a risk that the whole GSP would not be accepted. Mr. Fritz Buchman stated that DWR and the State Board indicated that the Plan would still work without Woodbridge Irrigation District as a GSA but it may be different with another GSA with responsibilities to

deliver projects, as this may affect the Plan's ability to achieve sustainability. Mr. Paul Wells (DWR) clarified that the standard is for case by case review and that the State Board has discretion on how to enforce.

Mr. Zidar walked through the approved budget year-to-date and expenses anticipated between now and June.

Public Comment

Ms. Kincaid questioned when the JPA would approve the budget. Mr. Zidar clarified that the group would meet next in December to go through cost allocation. Mr. Nomellini asked a clarifying question on insurance costs. Mr. Zidar clarified. Mr. Henry questioned if expenses have been identified to be covered by Zone 2 funding? Mr. Zidar responded yes.

Longer Term Cost Allocation:

Ms. Watson walked through the longer-term cost allocation, noting that the Ad-Hoc Committee has not met since the October 17 Board meeting and the slides are the same as what was shown then. Mr. Zidar walked through the preliminary cost allocation proposal formed by the Ad-Hoc Committee. Mr. Nomellini stated that he needs a sense of what each entity is willing to go forward with. Mr. Lytle stated that the Ad-Hoc Committee is making good progress, but it is not ready for approval.

Mr. Holmes asked if there is a recommendation to the Board for an even split to get through the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Nomellini requested an equitable adjustment. Mr. Ward suggested a flat fee for small bodies. Mr. Fletcher noted that if Linden County Water District were an unmanaged area, they would be paying less per year than the JPA costs, but they believe it is important to be a part of the process. Ms. Sheldon stated support for using the six-month budget and then refining the budget estimates. Mr. Hurley agreed. Daniel de Graaf questioned if Mr. Nomellini's Board would be comfortable with an even split with a credit. Mr. Nomellini responded no and suggested pursuing Mr. Ward's suggestion. Ms. Mijango suggested deciding on the budget by December for next year's operations to make April 2020 deadline.

Public Comment

Ms. Kincaid stated that the Ad-Hoc Committee should have the JPA Board also approve the work, that the JPA must first approve the work and then approve the budget. Ms. Watson responded that the Ad-Hoc Committee reports to the Board. She summarized the decision for the Ad-Hoc Committee to reconvene before the proposed allocation methodology is brought back to the Board in December.

Motion

Mr. Nomellini moved, and Mr. Ward seconded the motion to recommend to the Board to adopt the budget for the period ending June 30, 2020 and reconvene the Ad-Hoc Committee to look at using a smaller fee for smaller agencies, Zone 2 percentage contribution allocation, and others breakdowns with some flexibility to arrive to end of the fiscal year. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Watkins stated that cost allocation will create winners and losers regardless of methodology. He stated that everyone is here because they want to be part of the process.

5. December Agenda Items

December agenda items will include Implementation Ad-Hoc Committee recommendations and GSP adoption next steps.

B. Informational Items:

III. Public Comment (non-agendized items):

None.

IV. Future Agenda Items:

The December meeting agenda will cover the Implementation Ad-Hoc Committee recommendations and GSP adoption next steps.

V. Adjournment:

Mr. Zidar moved, and Mr. Henry seconded meeting adjournment. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was closed at 10:30 a.m.

Next Regular Meeting: December 11, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center, 2101 E. Earhart Ave. Stockton, CA

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sign-In Sheet

November 13, 2019

INITIAL	AGENCY	MEMBER
WME	California Water Service Company	Hurley, Michael
DM	Central Delta Water Agency	Nomellini, Dante**
DR	Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District	Roberts, Reid**
TR	City of Lodi	Kahrs, Travis
EM	City of Manteca	Montross, George Elba Mijango
CH	City of Stockton	Lytle, Mel**
WPN	Eastside San Joaquin GSA	Ward, Walt**
DFJ	Linden County Water District	Fletcher, Dave**
MA	Lockeford Community Services District	Henry, Mike**
D	North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	de Graaf, Daniel
ES	Oakdale Irrigation District	Sheldon, Emily
Present	San Joaquin County	Balaji, Kris
RKH	South San Joaquin GSA	Holmes, Robert**
AW	Stockton East Water District	Watkins, Andrew**

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES		
NAME	AGENCY	EMAIL
Rob Schumann	Kleinfelder	rschumann@kleinfelder.com
Linda Hu	EBMUD	linda.hu@ebmud.com
Paul Wells	DWR	Paul.wells@dwr.ca.gov
Mary Elizabeth	Sierra Club	mebeth@outlook.com
Dawn Mies	CONTRASTAS COUNTY	

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OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

NAME	AGENCY	EMAIL
Grace Su	EBMWD	
Cathy Lee	SEWD	
Jane Wagner-Tyack	Consultant SJC PW	
Larry Meyer	SJC	
Fritz Buchman	SJC	
Valerie Fincaid	OID/SSSID	
GEORGE BIRSI		
Kristy Smith	SJC	
Osha Meseme	NDGSA	osha@semlandpers.com
Vannick TORW	CL	vtorw@ccstockton.org
Linda Dorn	Sac County	dornl@saccounty.net
Sari MOODY	SEWD	

ATTACHMENT
II.A.3

Analysis of SGMA Annual Reports Requirements for GSAs

Summary: The State's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulations and statutes¹ require Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to submit an annual report by April 1, 2020, even for those in critically overdrafted and high priority basins that were required to submit a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by the January 31, 2020 due date.

The East San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (ESJ GSP) will be submitted by the January 31, 2020 deadline. The East San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJ GWA) is required to submit an Annual Report. There is no variance in the state regulations from the April 2020 annual report deadline for those plans that were only recently submitted in January 2020.

Under [Water Code Section 10733.2](#), DWR was required to draft and adopt emergency regulations for the evaluation and implementation of GSPs². The emergency regulations adopted by the California Water Commission spell out what is required in a GSP³. Article 7 covers Annual Reports and Periodic Evaluations by the Agency and describes the procedural and substantive requirements for the annual reports⁴. Each GSA, or the ESJGWA, is required to submit an annual report to the Department by April 1 of each year following the adoption of the Plan (§ 356.2. Annual Reports)⁵. The annual report must include the following components for the preceding water year:

- (a) General information, including an executive summary and a location map depicting the basin covered by the report.
- (b) A detailed description and graphical representation of the following conditions of the basin managed in the Plan:
 - (1) Groundwater elevation data from monitoring wells identified in the monitoring network shall be analyzed and displayed as follows:
 - A. **Groundwater elevation contour maps** for each principal aquifer in the basin illustrating, at a minimum, the seasonal high and seasonal low groundwater conditions.
 - B. **Hydrographs of groundwater elevations** and water year type using historical data to the greatest extent available, including from January 1, 2015, to current reporting year.
 - (2) **Groundwater extraction for the preceding water year.** Data shall be collected using the best available measurement methods and shall be presented in a table that summarizes groundwater extractions by water use sector, and identifies the method of measurement (direct or estimate) and accuracy of measurements, and a map that illustrates the general location and volume of groundwater extractions.

¹ Summary of Cal Code of Regulations requiring Annual Reports Requirements for GSAs and X reference to California Water Code Authorities

² <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Sustainability-Plans>>

³ Cal Code of Regs. Title 23. Waters Division 2. Department of Water Resources Chapter 1.5. Groundwater Management Subchapter 2. Groundwater Sustainability Plans
[https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Browse/Home/California/CaliforniaCodeofRegulations?guid=I74F39D13C76F497DB40E93C75FC716AA&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Browse/Home/California/CaliforniaCodeofRegulations?guid=I74F39D13C76F497DB40E93C75FC716AA&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default))

⁴ Authority cited: [Water Code Section 10733.2, Water Code.](#)

⁵ Authority cited: [Water Code Sections 10727.2, 10728.](#)

- (3) **Surface water supply used or available for use, for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use** shall be reported based on quantitative data that describes the annual volume and sources for the preceding water year.
- (4) **Total water use** shall be collected using the *best available measurement methods* and shall be reported in a table that summarizes total water use by water use sector, water source type, and identifies the method of measurement (direct or estimate) and accuracy of measurements. Existing water use data from the most recent Urban Water Management Plans or Agricultural Water Management Plans within the basin may be used, as long as the data are reported by water year.
- (5) **Change in groundwater in storage** shall include the following:
 - (A) Change in groundwater in storage maps for each principal aquifer in the basin.
 - (B) A graph depicting water year type, groundwater use, the annual change in groundwater in storage, and the cumulative change in groundwater in storage for the basin based on historical data to the greatest extent available, including from January 1, 2015, to the current reporting year.
- (c) A **description of progress** towards implementing the Plan, including achieving interim milestones, and implementation of projects or management actions since the previous annual report.

Approach: The overall approach to compliance is to leverage the existing analysis results, expedite planned analysis to the degree possible, and/or to cite the GSP and incorporate by reference where possible, reproducing key parts of the document where necessary. We will also evaluate alternative approaches to producing the required analysis and information products, and cost effective strategies to integrate existing data and analysis programs. We will coordinate with DWR to identify if a proposed strategy will comply with SGMA. The challenging part for the first ESJ GWA annual report for Water Year 2018/19 (WY 18/19) will be related to:

- Groundwater Conditions.
Strategy: Prioritize and complete processing and countering for Fall 2018.
- Quantification of groundwater extraction. Current model was calibrated from WY 1995-2015 and does not include WY 18/19. The model would need to be updated to include WY 18/19. This work is planned for Q1 and Q2 of 2020 but would not be available for the April 2020 annual report.
Strategy: Present the average water budget and calculated average extraction by representative year types (wet, above average, average, below average, dry), also summarizing information from other available sources (UWMP, AWMP, ES GSAs) that may have WY 18/19 data. We will also investigate alternative cost effective approaches which show a likelihood of State approval to quantifying groundwater extraction.
- Surface water supply used or available for use, for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use Change in groundwater in storage.
Strategy: GSAs to provide surface water diverted for in lieu use or direct recharge purposes from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. May also seek to use other prior water availability analysis to document what water may be available for in-lieu or direct recharge.
- Total water use. Requires the “best available measurement methods” (direct or estimate)

Strategy: Summarize from current groundwater model runs and seek to delay until model update is complete and results can be included in the next Annual report after model is updated.

- Change in groundwater in storage.

Strategy: Present summary of existing model runs. Use Spring and Fall 2018 contours and model specific storage numbers to calculate change in storage.