



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**Teleconference Meeting Only
Call-In Information Provided**

NOTICE: Coronavirus COVID-19

See Attached Notice Regarding COVID-19

- I. **Call to Order/Roll Call** (*Please remember to keep your phone line muted and unmute when announcing yourself for attendance or speaking)
- II. **Scheduled Items – *Presentation materials to be posted on ESJGroundwater.org and emailed prior to the meeting.***
 - A. **Discussion/Action Items**
 1. Approval of the October 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes ([Attachment 1 - Page 4](#))
 2. Using Teleconference Pursuant to AB 361 During a Proclaimed State of Emergency
 3. TAC Report on Model and Water Budgets
 4. Basin Accounting Framework: Next Steps
 - a. Technical Support Consultant
 - b. Proposed Budget Amendment, Subsequent Board Action
 5. DWR GSP Implementation Grant Proposal Solicitation Package
 - a. GWA/GSA Comments to DWR ([Attachment 2- Talk Points - Page 10](#))
 - b. Legislative Issues and Proposed Communications
- III. **Staff Reports**
 1. Media Clippings ([Attachment 3 - Page13](#))
 2. 2021 Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Grant Program Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package, October 2021DWR Update
- IV. **Public Comment (non-agenized items)**
- V. **Director Comments**

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Steering Committee Meeting

AGENDA

(Continued)

VI. Future Agenda Items

VII. Adjournment

NOTICE: Coronavirus COVID-19

Important Notice Regarding COVID 19 and Closure of Board Chambers to the Public During Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting

In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 *et seq.*), as amended by Assembly Bill 361 (2021), the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Members and staff will be participating in this meeting via teleconference. In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public may participate in the meeting by teleconference.

In order to minimize the spread of the COVID 19 virus, the following options are available to members of the public to listen to these meetings and provide comments to the Committee Members before and during the meeting:

1. You are strongly encouraged to listen to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee meetings by attending the teleconference:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 [209-645-4071,,511005914#](#) United States, Stockton

Phone Conference ID: #511 005 914#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#) [Learn](#)

[More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Once connected, we request you kindly mute your phone.

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Steering Committee Meeting

AGENDA

(Continued)

2. If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the meeting. Please submit your comment to the Secretary of the Board at ksmith@sjgov.org. Your comment will be shared with the Board members and placed into the record at the meeting. Every effort will be made to read comments received during the meeting into the record but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

8:30 am to 10:00 am

Location TBD

ESJGWA Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Meeting called to order: at 8:35 a.m.

The meeting was conducted via teleconference using Microsoft Teams. Chairman Winn called the meeting to order. Reminders were provided to the attendees regarding meeting procedures.

Roll Call taken:

Roll call taken of members only.

In attendance were Chairman Winn; Directors Mike Henry; Robert Holmes; Tom Flinn and Alternate Directors Walter Ward; Andrew Watkins.

Others in attendance were logged via their sign into Microsoft Teams.

Discussion / Action Items:

1. Approval of the August 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

No amendments to the minutes requested.

Motion: Director Tom Flinn

2nd: Alternate Director Walter Ward

Chairman Winn asked for any Opposed or Abstains. With none provided, the minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Using Teleconference Pursuant to AB 361 During a Proclaimed State of Emergency

Matt Zidar provided the floor to Mr. Rod Attebery, Counsel for the GWA. Mr. Attebery provided an overview of AB 361, noting it is the Governor's attempt to keep executive orders set at beginning of the pandemic in place. Mr. Attebery explained that AB 361 in effect as part of Brown Act since October 2nd and allows for Boards and Committees to keep in good standing during state of emergency where social distancing is required, by allowing for virtual meetings to be held without posting at every remote site. Additionally, AB 361 allows for hybrid meetings to be held, in person and via teleconference. Mr. Attebery noted that every 30 days after Resolution is adopted, the item needs to be brought before the body.

Mr. Attebery advised that seeking adoption of the Resolution today. Chairman Winn thanked Mr. Attebery for his comments and noted that there are several interpretations to AB 361. Chairman Winn asked for Public Comment, none provided.

Alternate Director Walt Ward moved to approve the Resolution to use teleconferencing per AB 361 during state of emergency. Director Robert Holmes seconded he motion. Chairman Winn asked for any opposed or abstained. With none provided, the motion passed unanimously.

3. TAC Report and Status of Model Development

Matt Zidar provided an update on the Model Update, noting that the GWA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was provided a presentation that included update progress and draft results. Mr. Zidar discussed the 2021 Model Updates, noting incorporated changes to ESJWRM update, land use, urban demand, as well as surface water diversion and well pump updates. Mr. Zidar provided details on the Model Results and how they are being calculated. Additionally, local scale water budgets and how they will be presented by GSA were discussed. Details regarding the Hydrologic and Operational Water Budgets were also provided. Mr. Zidar provided details on how results regarding annual recharge and extraction will be graphically shown (graphs provided), as well as the Water Allocations/Accounting framework and how it might work. Mr. Zidar provided next steps, which include confirming the baseline conditions with select GSAs, complete update of baseline conditions, update sustainable yield estimates, develop GSA scale groundwater budgets, and provide information for discussions to be had on the water accounting framework.

Mr. Zidar added that the GWA TAC will be weighing in on the model results and that a more detailed briefing from the consultant can be expected. Once received, the model update details should be taken back to GSA level for review and approval. Additionally, Mr. Zidar discussed the potential for broader outreach to GSA Boards and rate payers.

4. Basin Accounting Framework: Next Steps

DWR has a professional facilitating Team through Stantec. Ms. Emily Finnegan, Ms. Vanessa Jaikowa (program manager) and Marisa Perez-Reyes is the facilitating team. Ms. Finnegan presented a slideshow, WATH (is what they refer to their documents) document purpose is to outline the findings from Stakeholders assessments, best practices recommendations for GWA to implement a water accounting framework in long term founding strategy document along with the water budget. The goal is to achieve consensus on water budget basin accounting framework and long term funding strategy, ultimately to achieve sustainability and improve management of the groundwater resources. Ms. Finnegan will be gathering information from GSA's on priorities of approaches for development water county framework studies. RACI chart (Responsibility, Accountability, Consulted, Informed) was created for identify keys rules and responsibility of all participants involved in this process. What each role consists of. Where the work was done and who is responsible for tasks. Goal of accomplishment 2022.

Staff Reports:

Project Selection Process for Proposition 68 Round 2 Funding

Mr. Glenn Prasad with San Joaquin County Water Resources inform Steering Committee of the upcoming grants programs one in particular that requires immediate action from the SC to be prepared. The state will fund two major programs. SJC Basin Funding 57 million dollars available. We are a critically overdraft basin there is 18 more of us in the state which amounts to 2 million. It's going to be non-competitive. Can be used to just about anything such as for planning, implementation, basin management actions. Meant to address critically overdraft issues. DWR wants to see one application per basin, with several project but really one application. DWR might be opportunities to bring addition funding from 3 million to 7 million. Programs needs to be in good standing. We are. PSP by the end of the week. 45 day public comment period. Which means applications will open up in December and will close in February. Consensus - One application per region and the application will consistent with GSP goals and GWA will be the deciding body for which project gets submitted.

1. DWR GSP Review

Item not discussed due to time constraints.

2. American River Water Right Hearing Application and Next Steps

Item not discussed due to time constraints.

3. DWR Report

Item not discussed due to time constraints.

Public Comment:

None provided.

Director Comment:

None provided.

Future Agenda Items:

Item not discussed.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority

Steering Committee Meeting Sign-In

October 13, 2021

8:30 A.M.

Chairman Chuck Winn	San Joaquin County	209-953-1160	cwinn@sigov.org
Alt Director Mel Lytle	City of Stockton	209-937-5614	mel.lytle@stocktonca.gov
Director Mike Henry	Lockeford Community Services District	209-712-4014	midot@att.net
Alt Director Walter Ward	Eastside San Joaquin GSA	209-525-6710	wward@envres.org
Director Robert Holmes	South San Joaquin GSA	209-484-7678	rholmes@ssjid.com
Alt Director Andrew Watkins	Stockton East Water District	209-948-0333	watkins.andrew@verizon.net
Director Tom Flinn	North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	209-663-8760	tomflinn2@me.com
Kris Balaji	San Joaquin County	468-3100	kbalaji@sigov.org
Fritz Buchman	San Joaquin County	468-3034	fbuchman@sigov.org
Matt Zidar	San Joaquin County	953-7460	mzidar@sigov.org
Brandon Nakagawa *	South San Joaquin GSA - Alternate	209-249-4613	bnakagawa@ssjid.com
Jose Coronado			
Rod Attebery			
Emily Finnegan			
Juan Ochoa			
Vanessa Nishikawa			
Marisa Perez			
Hope Paulin			

Glen Prasad •
Robert Holmes •
Leslie Dumas •

Denise Warmerdam •
Shayan Benman •
Valerie Kirkcaldie •

Stand Guest •
Shelly Abajian •

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Mike Henry

Shelley

Grant Davis

Brenda Kiely

Elba City of Mantecan

John Davids

Myron Blanton

Osha Meserve

Geardel Schwartz

Logged on 8:23 AM

Began @ 8:35 AM

Finished @ 10:24 AM

1 Hr 43 min

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Roll Call / Vote October 13, 2021 8:30 AM

Chairman Chuck Winn	San Joaquin County	209-953-1160	cwinn@sigov.org
Alt Director Mel Lytle	City of Stockton	209-937-5614	mel.lytle@stocktonca.gov
Director Mike Henry	Lockeford Community Services District	209-712-4014	midot@att.net
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Director Tom Flinn	North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	209-663-8760	tomflinn2@me.com

Attachment 2. GWA Steering Committee

Recommendations to Address the DWR Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package

The following are recommendations for the Department of Water Resources to address and incorporate into the FINAL Proposal Solicitation Package and Guidelines:

A. INCREASE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

- The proposed funding will be released in two Rounds. After administrative costs, Round 1 will distribute \$152M and Round 2 will distribute \$204.5M. This funding is being made available from FY 2021/22, FY 22/23, FY23/24 appropriations, as well as the remaining amounts from Proposition 68. Provide below is a summary:

Total Funding Appropriations	Total	Admin & Prior	
		Appropriations	Available
FY 2021/ 2022	180	9	171
FY 2022/ 2023	\$60	3	\$57
FY 2023/ 2024	\$60	3	\$57
Proposition 68	120	48.5	71.5
Total Appropriation			\$356.5

SGM Program Distribution (Basin Allocation)	Allocation
Total Allocated to Critical Overdrafted Basins	\$152
Total Allocated to Medium and High Priority Basins	\$204.5
Total Allocation	\$356.5

While this assistance is a step in the right direction, it leaves us with an impression that no further appropriations will be made to the SGM program until FY24/25. We hope that this is not true, as these allocations are not sufficient to assist local GSAs in implementing their GSPs. **This funding does not accurately reflect what GSAs statewide have expressed to DWR to implement their GSPs. We recommend additional funding be allocated to support Groundwater Sustainability Agencies implement their Groundwater Sustainability Plans.**

B. ALLOW CRITICALLY OVERDRAFTED BASINS TO COMPETE FOR BOTH ROUND 1 AND ROUND 2 FUNDING

- Round 1 is allocated to Critically Overdrafted Basins. As the Proposal Solicitation Package is currently written, all CODs who receive grant funding will be **ineligible** for apply for Round 2.

This requirement is not found in the Budget Act, and will unnecessarily exclude several GSAs with viable projects to needed to address critically overdrafted conditions.

- The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin has several severely disadvantaged communities that will not be able to compete for the Round 2 funding, which has \$9.5M (from Proposition 68) specifically carved out for SDACs.

C. MODIFY THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE ROUND 1 (COD) FUNDING

- As the PSP is written, the Round 1 funding is proposed to be split evenly between all CODs. This distribution needs to be revisited. Not all CODs have a high priority designation by DWR, and neither do they have the same magnitude of overdraft. Furthermore, all CODs don't have the same need as they have varying demographics (population, number of DACs/ SDACs). DWR should revisit the apportionment approach and consider finding a more equitable way of distributing funding into the CODs. One recommendation is to allocate this funding only to high priority CODs and apportion it based on amount of overdraft/ need/ SDACs etc.

D. REMOVE NON-SGMA FUNDING CONSTRAINTS FOR CODs

- The Budget Act (SB170) has constraints tied to \$60M (Schedule (1)(d)), restricting this funding to: *(a) geophysical investigations of groundwater basins to identify recharge potential; (b) early implementation of existing regional flood management plans that incorporate groundwater recharge; and (c) projects in the San Joaquin Valley that would complement efforts of local groundwater sustainability plan, that provide for floodplain expansion to benefit groundwater recharge or habitat. To expedite the execution of projects described, funds may be awarded through grants, direct expenditures to a public agency or a nongovernmental organization. Of the \$60M, the department shall commit \$40M of these funds by September 15, 2022.* As the PSP is written, this would require GSAs to use \$3.7M out of the \$7.6M.
 - While the priorities expressed in these requirements seem valid on the surface, it is unclear as to what extent (if any) these requirements will help GSAs address critically overdraft conditions (since the benefit of such projects may not have been thoroughly evaluated/ modeled). SGMA left it to each basin/ GSA to develop their projects with no such specific requirement to contain these kinds of projects. The Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin can be alleviated of its critically overdrafted conditions without implementation of such projects, and this will be the case for most CODs.
 - The quick timeline to allocate this funding seems to express an urgency to disburse funds. However, this requirement will take all GSAs one step forward, but two steps back; the fact that these projects were not a required component of the GSPs will leave several subbasins/ GSAs starting from scratch and allocating over 50% of the funding (i.e. \$3.7 out of \$7.6M) to efforts that have not been clearly explored or scientifically determined to help their basin achieve sustainability.
 - Allocating \$3.7M for these requirements will leave only \$2.9M available to implement actual projects (that have been sufficiently modeled to demonstrate sustainability). This

is an unnecessary cap that is imposed only on the CODs (Round 1), but on the med/high priority basins that apply for Round 2 funding.

- The Budget Act expresses urgency to get these types of projects funded by September 2022. However, the types of projects being mandated will require extensive permitting to implement, and there has not been any relaxation on the regulatory/ permitting/ water rights process and requirements needed to implement such projects. Unless these standards are relaxed, GSAs will find themselves rushing into the planning/ design process, only to get stuck in a lengthy regulatory process, which will ultimately delay the legislature's intent of quickly addressing critically overdrafted conditions.
 - The requirement that the projects need to be contained within the GSP should be removed.
- There are non-SGMA related items in the application evaluation criteria, which should be removed. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Question 6 – addressing impacts to small water systems or private shallow domestic wells, and addressing the needs to the SWRCB's SAFER Program.
 - Question 7 – addressing Human Right to Water (AB 685).

These recent priorities were not originally specified under SGMA. Therefore, these may or may not be sufficiently captured in individual GSPs. Adding this as requirement/ evaluation criteria may poorly rank several viable projects in GSPs that address the critically overdraft conditions.

E. ALLOW EACH SUBBASIN TO FORMULATE THEIR OWN PROJECT REVIEW PROCESS

DWR has provided good evaluation criteria (Table 7 – PSP) as a guide. However, DWR has provided specific requirements and compositions of the review committee that may not be suitable for every subbasin and would reduce the GSAs ability to implement program management actions within the adopted GSP.

Attachment 3- GWA Steering. Media Clippings

East Bay Municipal Utility District taps Sacramento River as part of drought response

“East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), which supplies water to 1.4 million East Bay residents, has announced that, as part of its drought response, it’s started drawing supplemental water from the Sacramento River to bolster its Mokelumne River water supplies for its customer base. Through February 2022, the agency said it will pump approximately 11 billion gallons of water via the Freeport Regional Water Facility on the Sacramento River, largely via its contract with the US Bureau of Reclamation, with the supplemental supplies representing about 20 percent of its annual customer water needs. Purchasing and delivering this year’s supplemental water comes at a cost of about \$15 million, which EBMUD said is funded by budgeted operations costs. ...

” Read more from the Richmond Standard here: [EBMUD taps Sacramento River as part of drought response](#)

Pajaro Valley Water board approves Recharge Net Metering Program

“On September 22, 2021, the PV Water Board of Directors enthusiastically endorsed promoting the Recharge Net Metering (ReNeM) Pilot Program to a formal, ongoing program in its quiver of management strategies to achieve sustainable groundwater resources. The ReNeM Program incentivizes groundwater recharge projects within the Pajaro Valley Groundwater Basin through a public–private partnership by providing landowners (and/or their tenants) with rebates based on net stormwater infiltration benefit. The intent of the Program is to augment and support the Basin Management Plan (Plan) by helping to collect, infiltrate and recharge stormwater runoff in locations within the Pajaro Valley that are deemed highly suitable for managed [aquifer](#) recharge. ...” Continue reading this press release from PV Water here: [Pajaro Valley Water board approves Recharge Net Metering Program](#)

From <<https://mavensnotebook.com/2021/10/15/weekly-water-news-digest-for-oct-10-15/>>

The long-stalled San Joaquin River bypass may move forward

“Efforts to complete the widening of Paradise Cut that would significantly improve flood protection for urbanized areas of Manteca, Lathrop, and Stockton may finally move forward. The San Joaquin Area Flood Control Area (SJAFCA) is positioning itself to be the lead agency to shepherd the project involving widening the seven-mile long Paradise Cut where it branches off the San Joaquin River and passes beneath Interstate 5 just north of the Interstate 205 interchange to where it connects with the Old River. ...” Read more from the Manteca Bulletin here: [The long-stalled San Joaquin River bypass may move forward](#)

From <<https://mavensnotebook.com/2021/10/15/weekly-water-news-digest-for-oct-10-15/>>

CA WATER COMMISSION: GROUNDWATER RIGHTS SUMMARY AND ALLOCATIONS CHALLENGES FOR MARKET DEVELOPMENT

October 13, 2021 273

For the past several months, the California Water Commission has been leading a process to frame state considerations around how [Groundwater Sustainability Agencies](#) might construct well-managed groundwater trading programs. The Commission has been hearing from experts and the public at workshops and Commission meetings to inform their work. The project will culminate in a white paper that summarizes their findings and includes a set of conclusions and suggested next steps for how to shape well-managed groundwater trading programs with appropriate safeguards for communities, farms, and the environment, and what role the state could play to ensure that those protections exist.

At the July meeting of the California Water Commission, commissioners heard from Amanda Pearson, Attorney IV at the State Water Resources Control Board, who gave the State perspective on water rights and SGMA, and from Valerie Kincaid, Partner at Paris Kincaid Wasiewski LLP, who provided an overview of groundwater rights law and how it relates to water markets.

From <<https://mavensnotebook.com/2021/10/13/ca-water-commission-groundwater-rights-summary-and-allocations-challenges-for-market-development/>>