

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Board Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT/ROLL CALL

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Board Meeting convened in Assembly Room 1 at the Agricultural Center and Mel Panizza called the meeting to order at 10:41am on January 11, 2023.

Angie Provencio of San Joaquin County Water Resources Division conducted roll call.

In attendance: Alan Nakanishi, David Breitenbucher, Dan Wright, Myron Blanton, Mike Henry, Eric Thorburn, John Herrick, Joe Valente, Brandon Nakagawa, Mel Panizza, and Robert Rickman.

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Discussion/Action Items:

1. Approval of Minutes of November 9th, 2022

Motion:

David Breitenbucher made motion and Mike Henry seconded to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2022, meeting.

2. Selection of Officers

Matt Zidar reviewed the JPS requirements for Selection of Officers with the board and asked if the board would like to make the nomination of Chairman. Alan Nakanishi suggested that the board nominate Robert Rickman to Chairman of the Board during this meeting. Dan Wright concurred.

Motion:

Alan Nakanishi motioned to nominate Robert Rickman to Chairman of the ESJ GWA Board and David Breitenbucher seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

3. 2023 Calendar and Committees: Staff Report

The ESJ GWA Board meetings for 2023 will continue to be held the second Wednesday of each month, while continuous efforts will be made to hold quarterly meetings. The same time and location will continue into 2023: at the San Joaquin County Agricultural Center (unless otherwise advised) and will begin at 10:30AM.

Proposed 2023 GWA Board Calendar
January 11, 2023
February 8 th 2023
March 8 th , 2023, Item: Annual Report (may not be required)
April 12th 2023
May 10 th , 2023, Item: Annual Budget
July 12th 2023
October 11th 2023

The board had no objections to the schedule.

4. Annual Report Process for Adoption, Delegation to ad Hoc Technical Advisory Committee and Steering Committee: Staff Report

Matt Zidar noted that the report is being prepared and will be posted to the website. Each of the GSAs provided input, data or updates regarding their project management actions, a draft was then prepared and circulated to the GSAs for comment. Comments were then used to prepare a final draft annual report. The Annual Report is due to DWR April 1st of each year. There are no requirements in either the SGMA legislation or the GSP regulations that require annual reports to be adopted or approved. In the past the Board accepted the annual report and directed submittal to DWR. Since the Board is meeting quarterly and would not meet until after the Annual Report due date, the proposed action is to delegate responsibility to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to review the report, and then for the Steering Committee to discuss the TAC review, accept the report in March and direct that it be submitted by the April 1 due date. The board will then review the report and provide an opportunity for public comment in April. John Herrick requested that a draft report be sent to the board prior to the meeting and Matt Zidar agreed to send after the Steering Committee meets to allow them to make the final amendments.

Motion:

Motion: Direct the TAC to review the report and provide comments to the Steering Committee who will then consider comments, accept the report and direct submittal to DWR by April 1, 2023.

Motion was made by Eric Thorburn and seconded by Joe Valente. The vote was unanimous.

5. Department of Water Resources Facilitation Support Service Work Plan, Communications and Engagement Plan Update: Staff Report and Work Plan

Matt Zidar shared that Stantec is the DWR contractor for providing facilitation support services to SGMA agencies. Staff worked with DWR and Stantec to prepare a plan to review the prior communications and engagement plan (C&E Plan), conduct surveys and interviews, define GSA and GWA roles, and update the C&E Plan. There will be interviews with the GSA members on what they need for communications and engagement plans, review of prior C&E Plan to identify

gaps, evaluation of best practices, and work to identify the GSA and GWA needs. Matt Zidar stated there will be no action at this time, only open discussion. Alan Nakanishi stated that not many people are interested in ground water. Mike Henry stated that he's had a good turnout in Lockeford and that the locals should go to their local meetings. Brandon Nakagawa reminds the board that the GSA's are responsible for their own outreach, and they've done well doing so. Matt Zidar shared he would love to see more engagement with the public. There was discussion of forming a C&E work group, but no firm plan was established. There were no further comments. Matt Zidar stated more discussions in the future data after the interviews and survey are complete.

6. Review of 2022

Matt Zidar shared the following accomplishments in a review of 2022: the Annual Report, Closure of GSP Development Grant, Development and adoption of the Model Policy, Revised GSP and Response to DWR Comments, Round 1 SGMA Award (\$7.6M), Round 2 SGMA Application (\$20M), award of GSP Implementation Grant (500K), Technical Support Services and Drilling of Deep Wells, Initiated WAF, and Facilitation and Support Services (FSS) agreement for C&E Plan.

7. Priorities for 2023

Matt Zidar shared the following priorities for the 2023 year: Annual Report with addition of Water Quality, GWA Project Management Actions for WAF and Funding & Finance, DWR acceptance of the revised GSP, develop a Well Mitigation strategy, adopt a Communications and Engagement plan for ongoing activities and for the five year update of the GSP, Mobilizing and Planning for 5-Year Updates, and GSA Project Implementation. In addition, work to implement the Data Management System, instrument monitoring wells, revise the monitoring network and support procurement of grant funding is anticipated.

III. STAFF Reports/Water Resources

Matt Zidar shared another rain system was coming with 2-3" in the valley and 6-8" from the mountain area. He commented San Joaquin is on 183% of average in terms of rainfall, Central California Sierra snowpack is at 176% of normal, New Hogan and Comanche are both encroached into the flood pools, Mokelumne Pardee is 210% of average inflow, Calaveras is at 426% and New Melones is steady at 213%.

Robert Rickman shared that assessments need to be turned in to OES for any flood damage and if anyone has any questions, or if resources are needed, to please reach out to him or the OES. He commented that currently 150,000 sandbags have been issued and more will be purchased and encouraged the board to reach out if assistance is needed.

DWR comments were sent in by Chelsea Spier and attached to the agenda for individual review.

IV. DIRECTORS COMMENTS

No Director comments

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT at 11:58AM