

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 11th, 2023

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Steering Committee meeting was held at San Joaquin County Public Works in Stockton, California (1810 Hazelton Avenue Conference Rm A). At approximately 8:30 a.m. call to order was conducted by Chairman Robert Rickman and roll call was taken of members only.

In attendance were Director and Alternates: Andrew Watkins, Mike Henry, Mel Lytle, Robert Holmes, Brandon Nakagawa, Joe Valente, Secretary Fritz Buchman, and Chairman Robert Rickman

II. Scheduled Items

A. Discussion/Action Items

1. Approval of the August 23rd, 2023, Steering Committee Minutes

Motion: Mike Henry

2nd: Robert Holmes

In favor: Andrew Watkins, Mike Henry, Robert Holmes and Robert Rickman

Abstain: Joe Valente and Mel Lytle

2. Recommendations to Improve Public Participation in ESJ GWA Meetings

Fritz Buchman suggested a trial period of a virtual option for participation of the public only. Zoom would be the platform used. Other suggestions were to offer donuts, increase interaction with other businesses and community partners, GWA Board members attending the County Growers Meetings to inform the community of the ESJ GWA Board meetings to increase attendance and interest. Also suggested, mail out fliers and Board information via USPS and potentially offering Spanish fliers.

Motion to implement a trial virtual option for ESJ GWA Meetings: Andrew Watkins

2nd: Robert Holmes

Vote is unanimous.

3. Receive ESJ GWA Financial Report

Hope Paulin from San Joaquin County Water Resources shared July – September updates. Staff time is currently 157.5 hours which includes time from Matt Zidar, Angie Provencio, Hope Paulin, and Alicia Connelley. Grant money from Zone 2 will be done by

the end of the year. Brandon Nakagawa shared grant funding needs to be spent by next year, there needs to be a scope of the GSP update. A lot more spending to come.

4. Approve a Task Order with Woodard & Curran for Preparation of the Water Year 2023 Report for an Amount Not to Exceed \$52,810.

Brandon Nakagawa commented that they are hoping to get the data requests out ASAP. It is very similar to last year.

Motion to approve: Robert Holmes

2nd: Joe Valente

Vote is unanimous.

5. Update on Monitoring Well Drilling Task Fund by a Department of Water Resources Grant

Brandon Nakagawa shared that one of the tasks was to put in a margin well somewhere in the Delta to help fill a data gap. One location, one well, multiple depths, drilling is expensive and has increased in price the last several years. This well will be located at West Gate Landing on County park land. Additional documents and a permit from Environmental Health is needed and hopefully start drilling next Spring.

6. Update on Fall Groundwater Levels and Water Quality Monitoring Event

Brandon Nakagawa shared the GSP has a list of about 150 wells that need to be monitored for water levels. We are working with Condor to develop the scope of work and a cost estimate to get it done. This should start Monday, October 16th and last about 2 weeks. Condor is also tasked with renting equipment to sample and purge wells. There are chain of custody issues, timely issues, and logistics. The cost estimated is 40K and will come down as negotiations continue.

7. Recommendation to Negotiate a Proposal with Woodard & Curran for the Eastern San Joaquin GSP 2025 Update

Brandon shared we need to get a consultant on board, and this is a good opportunity to refine the engagement and outreach plan and fund through the GSP update. Woodard & Curran can scope and bring back to the ESJ GWA Board for a budget amendment and under contract. Fritz Buchman commented that the GSP update is due at the end of January 2025 to DWR, so this is timely.

Motion for Steering Committee to direct staff and negotiate proposal with W&C for the ESJ 2025 GSP Update: Robert Holmes

2nd: Mike Henry

Vote is unanimous.

III. Staff/DWR Reports

1. Staff Report – none
2. DWR Report – none

IV. Directors Comments

Robert Holmes thanks Brandon Nakagawa and staff for their efforts on getting back on track. Fritz Buchman shared the vacancy for the Water Resources Manager is open, applications are pending and hoping to start interviews shortly.

V. Public Comment

Mary Elizabeth shared her concerns with the Steering Committee.

VI. Future Agenda Items

Possible Board meeting by the end of the year for a budget amendment and to get Woodard & Curran under contract.

VII. Adjournment at 9:51 am