

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 8th, 2023

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Steering Committee meeting was held at the San Joaquin Public Works, 1810 Hazelton Avenue in Stockton, California. At approximately 8:31 a.m. roll call was taken of members only. In attendance were Director and Alternates: Andrew Watkins, Mike Henry, Robert Holmes, Jason Colombini, Mitch Maidrand and Chairman Robert Rickman.

II. Scheduled Items

A. Discussion/Action Items

1. Approval of the February 8th, 2023, minutes

Motion: Robert Rickman

2nd: Mike Henry

The vote was unanimous.

2. Review of budget scenarios, assumptions, and costs

Chairman Rickman shared he spoke to the Governor's Office regarding the SGMA Round 2 Grant and has requested Matt Zidar to provide him with the summary for the grant application. Matt Zidar confirmed that we are asking for the full \$20 million, noting the DWR is planning on making funding recommendations in June of 2023. Matt Zidar provided a brief status on the well drilling projects funded by the earlier SGMA grants (Shallow wells) and DWR's Technical Services and Support program (deep wells). More details will be provided at the next meeting.

Mr. Zidar reviewed the method for the budget development showing known revenues, planned expenses and how the difference was derived and use to determine the revenue needed from the GSAs to balance the budget. The GSA costs allocation to generate the needed revenues to meet planned expenses was also reviewed. The Cost Allocation approach used the pumping (60%) and population (40%), a minimum charge and the East Side GSA costs adjustment method applied in prior years. The Steering Committee concurred and confirmed the approach for budget development and cost allocation to the GSA.

Mr. Zidar reviewed 3 preliminary budget scenarios: a 'Low' budget with minimal changes from prior years; a "With" SGMA R2 grant award; and a "Without" funding from a SGMA grant award. The "With" SGMA grant included the Technical and

Engineering Services Work that was part of the grant for Instrumentation, Monitoring Network Evaluation and Improvements; and funding to implement a Data Management System and support Model Development and Application. These activities have been recommended by the Ad Hoc TAC. The “Without” the SGMA R2 Grant included the same amount of funding to implement a Data Management System and support Model Development and Application; but reduced the funding for Instrumentation, Monitoring Network Evaluation and Improvements should the grant not be awarded. The work is necessary but would be covered with local resources over a longer time period should grant funding is not received. The budgets will be reviewed and discussed again in April.

3. 2022 Annual Report acceptance and submittal

Matt Zidar provided a presentation on the annual report (attached) which covered groundwater elevation data, groundwater extraction information, surface water supply used or available for use, total water use, and change in groundwater storage; also reviewing the status of the Sustainable Management Criteria as reflected by the data from the monitoring network. The status of projects and management actions within the GSAs were also reviewed and discussed. It was noted that the GWA Board had deferred action on acceptance of the Annual Report to the Steering Committee, further authorizing the Steering Committee to submit the report by the April 1st deadline should they concur and accept the report as complete. It was noted that the Annual Report would be presented at the April 12 GWA Board meeting to inform the public and obtain input. A motion was made to accept the report and direct submittal to DWR.

Motion: Accept the Annual Report and Direct submittal to DWR to meet the April 1, 2023, Deadline.

Motion: Jason Colombini

2nd: Andrew Watkins

The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Assignments to Ad Hoc Water Accounting Framework (WAF) from the Chair

Matt Zidar recommended that the GSAs create an Ad Hoc work group whose purpose would be to review alternative approaches to developing a Water Accounting Framework (WAF). Robert Rickman suggested a description of the assignment to the work group. Pursuant to the JPA and bylaws, the Chairman can appoint members of an Ad Hoc work group, make specific assignments, and direct a timeline for completion. Matt Zidar will work to get nominations from the GSAs and coordinate with the Chairman to make the assignments and set a schedule. Staff will work with the modeling consultant to provide data, analysis, and information to inform discussion. The Ad Hoc work group is not a decision-making body but will conduct work and bring recommendations back to the Steering Committee and then the full Board. Jennifer Spaletta suggested committee work with the consultants to better define the elements of the water budget and develop the WAF, noting that the work group should be comprised of general managers, technical persons, and legal representatives. She also noted that we need to get working on domestic well mitigation assignments. The

meetings cannot involve a quorum of the Board. Andrew Watkins (SEWD) volunteered to lead the effort, and Robert Holmes (SSJID) offered to participate as GWA Board members. Mitch Maidrand will discuss with Mel Lytle about their participation and let the group know. Robert Rickman reminded that legal counsel must be aware and that everything will be in compliance with the Brown Act.

III. Staff/DWR Reports

1. DWR Reports attached to the agenda package for individual review.
2. Other Items – **none**

IV. Public Comment – none

V. Directors Comment – none

VI. Future Agenda Items

- GWA to consider assistance for evaluation of domestic well mitigation program
- Discuss consultants to monitor groundwater
- Budget and WAF between now and April

VII. Adjournment at 10:05am