

# Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Special Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Steering Committee meeting was held at the Robert Cabral Agricultural Center in Assembly Room 1. At approximately 8:30 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Chairman, Robert Rickman.

Roll Call: In attendance were Director and Alternates: Andrew Watkins, Secretary Fritz Buchman, Mike Henry, Robert Holmes, Chairman Robert Rickman, and Joe Valente.

## II. Scheduled Items

### A. Discussion/Action Items

#### 1. Approval of the March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Robert Holmes

**Second:** Mike Henry

All in favor.

#### 2. Presentation from Stantec on Communications and Engagement Provided through DWR Facilitation Support Services

Marina Deligiannis, Lead Facilitator from Stantec, shared her presentation and the following details:

- Eastern San Joaquin's FFS Tasks
  - Public Outreach and Coordination Support, Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup, Inter-basin Coordination Support, and Contract Management.
- C&E Framework includes:
  - C&E Inventory and Summary, GSA Manager Survey Results and Analysis, Interested Parties Survey Results and Analysis, Website Audit, and Example Template Materials.
- C&E Framework Key Findings & Recommendations include:
  - Communication and Engagement Tracker, Comment Portal, Document Management, Enterprise Management System Transparency, GSP Conformance, Interested Party Database, Native American Heritage Commission, Staff Resources, Website Management, Workgroup and Targeted Outreach.
- C&E Plan Next Steps:
  - Determine preferred timeline for completion, goals, and support needed from the GSAs and GWA, further data collection, and drafting the C&E Plan.

- Anticipated Plan for the C&E Plan:
  - Survey Contact List – April 30
  - Stakeholder Engagement Survey – May 3
  - Survey Approved – May 10
  - Survey Open – May 13 to 31
  - Survey Analysis Done – June 14
  - Draft C&E Plan Done – June 14
  - GWA Review of Draft Done – June 26
  - C&E Plan Finalized – June 28

### 3. Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Adopt a Domestic Well Mitigation Program

Steve Schwabauer shared that dry wells can happen, and our County has seen them. If it is found to have been caused by groundwater overdraft, the ESJGWA would pay the claim for the drilling of a new domestic well. New in the policy is the Claim Limitation Period that all claims need to be brought on by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, and the claims need to be brought within 6 months of adoption. The Claims process is consistent with State law. Five members of the technical committee will be chosen, claims filing locations will be assigned, and a timeline for all various decisions to be made.

**Motion:** For GWA staff to solicit public comments on the draft Domestic Well Mitigation program as presented.

**Motion:** Robert Holmes

**Second:** Jason Colombini

All in favor.

### 4. Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Adopt the FY 2024-2025 Budget

Hope Paulin shared that as to date we have collected \$1,000,062.00 from the original GSA cost allocations, 310K from reserve transfer, 225K government aid from Zone 2, 5K in grants and some retention from the Prop 1 grant.

Expenditure is 289K.

**Motion:** To recommend the adoption to the board, with 373K allocated to GSAs through member dues.

**Motion:** Andrew Watkins

**Second:** Robert Holmes

### 5. Update on GSP 2025 Update Progress

Brandon Nakagawa shared that progress is on time, model update is looking great and updating the list of projects is happening. The workgroups will be formed, public review

period starts in October, the responding of comments will take place in November, plans are still on track.

**III. Staff/DWR Reports**

1. Staff Report – None
2. DWR Report – Chelsea from DWR highlights her attachment and updates.

**IV. Director’s Comments** – Alex Chetley shared that the new Water Resources manager will start on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**V. Public Comment** – Mary Elizabeth provided written comments and it was confirmed that they were forwarded to the Steering Committee prior to the start of the meeting.

**VI. Future Agenda Items** - None

**VII. Adjournment at 9:54 am**

NOTE\* - Meeting presentation material can be found on the website at [www.esjgroundwater.org/](http://www.esjgroundwater.org/).