

**EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**  
**Board Meeting**  
**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

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

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Board Meeting convened at the Council of Governments building at 555 E. Weber Ave. Stockton, CA 95202. At approximately 10:30 a.m., the meeting was called to order.

In attendance were Directors and Alternates: David Breitenbucher, Dan Wright, Mike Henry, Jason Colombini, Eric Thorburn, John Herrick, Robert Holmes, Keith Bussman, Secretary Fritz Buchman, Mel Panizza, Chairman Robert Rickman, Craig Stevens, and Christy McKinnon.

**II. SCHEDULED ITEMS**

**A. Discussion/Action Items**

**1. Approval of September 11th, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** David Breitenbucher

**Second:** Jason Colombini

All in favor.

**2. Discussion/Possible Action to Adopt Resolution R-24-XX, Accepting the Final Draft 2024 Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Amendment and Periodic Evaluation and Authorizing the Secretary of the Authority to Submit to the California Department of Water Resources**

Brandon Nakagawa shared the final draft was posted and made available to the GSAs. Mr. Nakagawa mentioned the team worked efficiently and thanked the Board for pushing it along. Staff is recommending approval of the resolution, that the ESJGWA Board accept the plan, periodic evaluation, GSA adoption, and direct the Secretary to submit the paperwork to DWR by the January deadline.

**Motion:** Mike Henry

**Second:** Mel Panizza

All in favor.

**3. Discussion/Possible Action to Amend the 2024-2025 ESJGWA Budget by Increasing Appropriations for the Annual Report by \$10,586 and Decreasing Appropriations for Professional Services by the Same Amount.**

Mr. Nakagawa shared Woodard and Curran is not authorized to spend anything more than \$65,000 for the annual report unless this item is passed today.

**Motion:** Jason Colombini

**Second:** Mel Panizza

All in favor.

**4. Discussion/Possible Action for Form an Ad Hoc Executive Committee**

Mr. Nakagawa shared this item was recommended for approval by the Steering Committee. This committee will be 3-5 people, and as described to the Steering Committee will assist with finding the Executive Director, work with staff and consultants to implement the ESJGWA Staffing Transition Plan prior to hiring the Executive Director and set monthly agendas for the Steering Committee and Board of Directors. Chairman Robert Rickman reassures the Ad Hoc Committee does not have the authority to make decisions, it is the ESJGWA Board of Directors that makes the final decisions.

**Motion:** John Herrick

**Second:** Mike Henry

**In favor:** David Breitenbucher, Dan Wright, Jason Colombini, Eric Thorburn, Robert Holmes, Keith Bussman, Robert Rickman, Craig Stevens, and Christy McKinnon.

**No:** Mel Panizza

**5. Discussion/Possible Action to Adopt the 2024 Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Communication and Engagement Plan Update**

Marina Deligiannis and Khandriale Clark from Stantec shared a presentation regarding outreach options based on the survey in which 52 responses were received. Mr. Nakagawa clarified that GSAs are required to do their own outreach; this plan is what can be done together as the ESJGWA. Some of the options include a Communications and Engagement Tracker, Outreach Toolkit, Speakers Bureau, and an Enterprise Management System.

Khandriale stated that the C&E Plan is specific to the GWA but because the GSAs work closely with the ESJGWA, many of these options would be recommended to the GSAs as well.

It is recommended that the Board consider the items, explore the options and decide which options are feasible with the resources available. Chairman Robert Rickman stated the ESJGWA does operate on a budget and while the ESJGWA is open to explore options there is also a commitment of being good stewards of the public's tax dollars.

**Motion:** Robert Holmes

**Second:** Dan Wright

All in favor.

**6. Presentation by River Partners on Mokelumne River Integrated Conjunctive Use Program (MICUP) Opportunities**

Bob Granberg, who is assisting the County with MICUP, addressed the Board. The work is being funded by the SGMA grant. Bill Eisenstein, from River Partners shared the following:

- Some of the items listed under Task 1 are: focus on Mokelumne and Calaveras

subregions, and present at planning events convened by local agencies and organizations.

- Some items from Task 2 are: developing a floodplain reconnection vision document for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin. The Calaveras subregion portion will rely heavily on the DWR FloodMAR study to identify multi-benefit opportunities for floodplain restoration and groundwater recharge projects.
- A few items under Task 3: development of restoration and public access plans (if appropriate) and identifying funding sources for project planning and implementation.

Bill shared restoring and reconnecting historic floodplains presents opportunities to address multiple challenges for communities, including flood mitigation, habitat degradation, and groundwater aquifer recharge. They will continue outreach to landowners in January of 2025.

### **III. STAFF/DWR Report**

- A. Staff Report** – Mr. Nakagawa shared the RFQ was released, and 8 finalists were selected.
- B. DWR Report** – Chelsea Spier shared Prop 4, SGMA funds will total 386 million and will be split. Half for projects that support SGMA and for projects that support conjunctive use and groundwater recharge. It is implementation funding.

### **IV. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

None

### **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

SJC's Water Resources Manager, Ashley Couch introduced Venki Narasimhalu, the new Engineer joining Water Resources.

Dan Wright announced his term with the City Council and the ESJGWA Board ends tomorrow (December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024) he thanks everyone for the education he received as a member of this board and gives his well wishes.

Mary Elizabeth provided public comments and shared an original poem with the Board.

### **VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

### **VII. ADJOURNMENT at 12:12pm**