

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Regular Meeting
Manteca, California
April 17, 2019**

The Governing Board of the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) met in a regular session at the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) Board Room at 9:00 a.m. Director Holmes called the meeting to order and Daniel de Graaf led the flag salute.

Upon roll-call the following members were noted present:

DIRECTORS: Tammy Alcantor, City of Escalon
Robert Holmes, South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Daniel de Graaf, City of Ripon
Dave Kamper, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

ABSENT: Dale Kuil, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

Also present were SSJID General Manager, Peter Rietkerk; SSJID Engineering Department Manager, Forrest Killingsworth; Special GSA Counsel, Valerie Kincaid; and SSJID Clerk of the Board, Betty Garcia.

Public Comment – None

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #1 - Consider Approval of the Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2019

A motion was made by Director Alcantor and seconded by Director de Graaf to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: ALCANTOR de GRAAF HOLMES KAMPER
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: KUIL

Item #2 – Discuss and Consider Direction for SSJGSA Representative to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Regarding the Following Policy Items for Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development

Mr. Peter Rietkerk, General Manager of SSJID, reported that the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) continues to consider specific recommendations that will direct the development of the basin wide Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Mr. Rietkerk said the GWA Board is encouraging the GWA member Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) make policy recommendations at their May meeting that will further guide groundwater sustainability plan development. The GWA Board will consider the following policy topics in May:

- Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives for the following Sustainability Indicators:

- Groundwater Levels
- Degraded Water Quality
- Reduction of Groundwater Storage
- Seawater Intrusion
- Land Subsidence
- Depletions of Interconnected Surface water

Mr. Rietkerk discussed the technical work underpinning the GWA consultant recommendations for minimum thresholds, undesirable results, and measurable objectives for the six sustainability indicators. The group agreed that it is important to continue to implore the consultants for more information about sustainability performance for the subbasin with the proposed minimum thresholds and measurable objectives. Ms. Kincaid reminded the board of the definition of relationship between undesirable results and minimum thresholds, and noted that the State Board can intervene if minimum thresholds are violated for any of the sustainability indicators.

Mr. Rietkerk discussed methodology for setting of minimum thresholds and measurable objectives to avoid chronic lowering of groundwater levels. This included the recommendation from the GWA consultants regarding using the lower of 1992, 2015, or 2016 groundwater levels with an additional statistical buffer included. Mr. Rietkerk noted concerns regarding the proposed thresholds and objectives, noting that the identified undesirable results relate to drilling of domestic wells, and that the 10th percentile domestic well depth appears to be much lower than the proposed minimum threshold, and as a result, this could be setting a much higher than necessary bar to achieve compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The Board agreed that the proposed objective may be appropriate, but agreed that the consultants should consider reducing minimum thresholds to be more consistent with identified undesirable results.

For the Degraded Water Quality sustainability indicator, Mr. Rietkerk indicated that the GWA Advisory Committee is recommending setting a proposed minimum threshold related to total dissolved solids (TDS) in groundwater at 1,000 mg/L, a measurable objective of 600 mg/L and a definition of violation being 25% of the monitoring wells being out of compliance for two consecutive years. He noted that the GWA stakeholders that developed this recommendation, in concert with the consultants, do not believe that the minimum thresholds will ever be reached for this sustainability indicator. The Board concurred that this appeared to be the best recommendation given the available information.

Regarding reduction in Groundwater Storage, Mr. Rietkerk indicated that the Advisory Committee recommended relating this sustainability indicator to the measurable objectives and minimum thresholds for groundwater levels. The Board concurred that this appeared to be a reasonable approach.

The Board concurred with GWA consultant recommendations for setting a minimum threshold and monitoring locations for seawater intrusion into the subbasin.

Mr. Rietkerk also discussed briefly the proposed methodology for Land Subsidence and Depletion of Interconnected Surface Waters, however a formal presentation and consideration of the objectives and thresholds would occur at the April 24 GWA Advisory Committee meeting. The Board reviewed the methodology but did not indicate concern with these items as presented.

Mr. Rietkerk also presented the proposed basin Sustainability Goal. The Sustainability Goal is “to maintain an economically-viable groundwater resource for the beneficial use of the people of the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin by operating the basin within its sustainable yield or by modification of existing management to address unforeseen future conditions.”

Mr. Rietkerk also presented the current draft of the proposed monitoring well network to track GSP progress toward meeting the sustainability goals.

Item #3 – Update Regarding Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Business, Including Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development Activities

No action was taken on this item.

Item #4 – Communications

Mr. Rietkerk stated that SSJID held interviews for the position of Water Resource Coordinator and he believes once this person comes aboard, he will be able to help out in the administration of the SSJGSA and with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Item #5 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director de Graaf to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m. The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	ALCANTOR de GRAAF HOLMES KAMPER
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	KUIL

ATTEST:

Peter M. Rietkerk
Secretary