

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Regular Meeting
Manteca, California
June 19, 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. Chairman Holmes called the meeting to order and 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
Dave Kamper, South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Leo Zuber, City of Ripon

ABSENT: NONE

Also present were SSJID General Manager, Peter Rietkerk; SSJID Engineering Department Manager, Forrest Killingsworth; Special SSJGSA Counsel, Valerie Kincaid; SSJID General Counsel, Mia Brown; and SSJID Clerk of the Board, Danielle Barney.

Public Comment – None

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #1 - Consider Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2019

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

AYES: ALCANTOR HOLMES KAMPER ZUBER
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Item #2 – Consider Approval of the 6-month Budget for the Remainder of 2019

Mr. Bere Lindley, SSJID Assistant General Manager, addressed the Board regarding the 2019 budget for the SSJGSA, which had been established and previously approved at the SSJGSA regular board meeting on February 20, 2019. Mr. Lindley stated that the budget approved by this board for the full calendar year of 2019 was divided into two segments, one for each half of the year, in anticipation of establishing the SSJGSA as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) by July 1, 2019. The budget for the first half of the year was intended for the SSJGSA in its present form of organization, and the budget for the second half of the year was intended for the new JPA. Therefore, monthly budget amounts have heretofore been presented in the SSJGSA monthly financial statements only through June. Mr. Lindley suggested that because the JPA is not likely to be established by July 1, monthly financial statements for months beyond June, and before JPA formation, should simply present monthly budget amounts that were board approved for the

anticipated JPA, instead of formally amending the budget. The Board expressed a consensus approving Mr. Lindley's suggestion. No further action was taken.

Item #3 – Update Regarding Conversion of the SSJGSA into a Joint Power Authority

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, provided a brief history of the SSJGSA, which was formed through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Cities of Escalon and Ripon, and SSJID. Per previous discussions with the SSJGSA Board, the conversion of the MOA into a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) will be beneficial in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) planning and development phase, and the GSP implementation phase of SGMA. Benefits of a JPA include:

- Governance structure with clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and costs;
- Ability to jointly exercise powers granted to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) by SGMA as a JPA vs. a more limited scope as an MOA;
- Isolation of any risks associated with the actions carried out and borne solely by the SSJGSA, which would then exist as a separate legal entity; and,
- Continued efficiency and economy of scale by continuing to build on the success of the MOA into the next phase of GSP implementation.

Mr. Nakagawa indicated that a working draft of the JPA would be circulated for the member agencies to review. He suggested that the Technical Advisory Committee be convened to gather comments and recommendations prior to the next SSJGSA meeting in July. Mr. Rietkerk added that the original draft JPA had been developed a while ago, so the development of the current version will be approached as “brand new.” Once comments and edits are addressed and incorporated, the JPA would be presented before the SSJGSA Board at a future meeting. In addition, the member agency's respective legal counsels will need to approve the final JPA. Chairman Holmes inquired on an estimated timeline. Mr. Rietkerk estimated 30-60 days for a formal approval of the SSJGSA JPA.

Item #4 – Update Regarding Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Business, Including Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development Activities

Mr. Nakagawa provided an update of recent discussion and activity at the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) meeting held on June 12, 2019. Discussed at the ESJGWA meeting was a timeline of actions and deadlines set for ESJGWA member agencies to remain on task for the adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan by January 31, 2020, as mandated by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The ESJGWA has released draft versions of the GSP, in three bundles, which are available at www.esjgroundwater.org. Comments are due by July 1, 2019. On July 10, the full (all chapters) public review draft GSP will be released and available for a 45-day public comment period through August 25, 2019. The ESJGWA is recommending all member agencies publish a single Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt the GSP. The finalized NOI must be signed prior to a statutory 90-day period before adoption of the GSP. Mr. Nakagawa clarified that a final NOI must be published by August 1, 2019 in order for GSAs to adopt the GSP beginning in November. Ms. Kinkaid concurred.

Discussion at the ESJGWA also included:

- Definition and/or revision of “minimum thresholds”
- Proposed changes to the measurable objective for seawater intrusion

- Implementation phase and funding of the GSP
- Mandated monitoring and reporting of wells, groundwater elevation, and groundwater usage
- Update and maintenance of the Data Management System
- Data collection and analysis
- Administrative actions
- Public outreach
- Grant opportunities and funding sources
- Inter-basin coordination

The next ESJGWA public “open house” meeting will be held July 18, 2019 at the Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center – 2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Stockton, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., and will focus on addressing public comments submitted during the Draft GSP Public Comment Period. The SSJGSA Board discussed holding a public meeting, in the near future, to inform customers of SGMA updates and activity, to which Mr. Nakagawa agreed would be beneficial. Mr. Rietkerk added that the proposed meeting could be posted on the SSJID website and Facebook page.

Mr. Nakagawa announced that the Advisory Committee recommended Mr. Glenn Prasad, San Joaquin County Water Resources Coordinator, be named the ESJGWA Basin Coordinator and DWR point-of-contact, whose experience entailed involvement with SGMA while working for the City of Modesto.

Item #5 – Communications

a) Staff and Consultant Updates

None

b) Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Rietkerk reported that he will continue coordination efforts and discussions regarding the SSJGSA draft JPA with staff of the Cities of Escalon and Ripon.

c) Member Reports

Chairman Holmes inquired on the process to formalize an alternate position for SSJGSA representative on the ESJGWA board. Mr. Rietkerk replied the decision on an alternate SSJGSA member on the ESJGWA Board is contingent upon the appointment of an SSJID Board Director for Division 4. He added that once the vacant seat is filled, it will be up to the SSJID Board President’s discretion to adjust appointments as deemed appropriate. This topic will be placed as an agenda item for the SSJGSA regular Board Meeting in July.

- d)** Mr. Rietkerk reported that the Manteca, Ripon, and Escalon mayoral letter of support is being finalized to be sent to Governor Newsom, Senator Galgiani, Assemblymember Flora, and Assemblymember Talamantes Eggman, in hopes to gain their endorsement of the South San Joaquin Retail Electric Project. Mr. Rietkerk expressed his appreciation to the SSJGSA Board members from Escalon and Ripon and their respective councils for their support and stated that the final version letter will be forthcoming for approval and signatures.

Item #6 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Director Zuber and seconded by Director Kamper to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 a.m. The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	ALCANTOR HOLMES KAMPER ZUBER
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board