

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Regular Meeting  
Manteca, California  
February 15, 2023**

The Governing Board of the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) met in regular session in person at the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) Board Room at 9:00 a.m., with public access provided via the online Zoom meeting platform. Chairman Holmes called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and led the flag salute.

Upon roll-call the following members were noted present:

**PRESENT:** Daniel de Graaf, City of Ripon  
Robert Holmes, South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
Dominique Romo, City of Escalon  
David Roos, South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
Mike Weststeyn, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

**ABSENT:** None

Also present were SSJID General Manager Peter Rietkerk, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator and SSJGSA Secretary Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID General Counsel Mia Brown, Special SSJGSA Counsel Valerie Kincaid (via Zoom), and SSJID Clerk of the Board Danielle Barney.

**Public Comment** – None

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Item #1 – Approval of the Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2022**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director de Graaf and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve the minutes as submitted.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

**AYES:** de GRAAF HOLMES ROMO ROOS WESTSTEYN  
**NOES:** NONE  
**ABSTAIN:** NONE  
**ABSENT:** NONE

**Item #2 – Appointment of SSJGSA Board Officers and Representatives to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority**

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJGSA Secretary and SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, gave a brief summary of the SSJGSA Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement which provides for the election of officers for a term of two (2) years. He stated that the Agreement specifies the Chair and Vice-chair be Directors of the SSJGSA; designates the SSJID General Manager as the SSJGSA Administrator; and requires a designation for the positions of SSJGSA Secretary, and SSJGSA Treasurer. Mr. Nakagawa noted that the original officers were elected on May 20, 2020.

In addition, the SSJGSA is entitled to seat one (1) primary Director, and one (1) alternate Director to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA), as well as the ESJGWA Steering Committee. Mr. Nakagawa stated that appointments to the ESJGWA need not be a seated Director on the SSJGSA, and that Mr. Holmes and Mr. Nakagawa are currently listed as the primary and alternate SSJGSA representatives, respectively, for the ESJGWA assignments. The appointments are made by the SSJGSA Board.

Staff recommended the SSJGSA Board of Directors re-designate Mr. Nakagawa as the SSJGSA Secretary, and Ms. Sonya Williams, SSJID Finance and Administration Manager, as SSJGSA Treasurer.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Roos to nominate Director de Graaf for the position of SSJGSA Chairman.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	de GRAAF HOLMES ROMO ROOS WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Chairman de Graaf and seconded by Director Romo to nominate Director Weststeyn for the position of SSJGSA Vice-chair.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	de GRAAF HOLMES ROMO ROOS WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holmes and seconded by Director Weststeyn to designate Mr. Rietkerk as SSJGSA Administrator; Mr. Nakagawa as SSJGSA Secretary; and Ms. Williams as SSJGSA Treasurer.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	de GRAAF HOLMES ROMO ROOS WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Romo to designate Mr. Holmes as the primary SSJGSA representative, and Mr. Nakagawa as the alternate SSJGSA representative to the ESJGWA Board and Steering Committee assignments.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	de GRAAF HOLMES ROMO ROOS WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

**Item #3 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Meeting Procedures Following February 28, 2023 Revocation of Covid-19 State of Emergency**

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board regarding Governor Gavin Newsom’s COVID-19 State of Emergency and Executive Order N-19-20 which waived certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act relating to public participation and attendance at public meetings. He stated the emergency declaration is expected to be rescinded on February 28, and recommended that the SSJGSA Board and any standing or ad-hoc committees continue to meet in-person. If technically feasible, staff would also continue to provide remote participation for the general public via teleconference.

Mr. Nakagawa noted that the agenda item is for informational purposes only and no board action was required.

**Item #4 – Consider Adoption of Resolution 23-01-F Update Signature Card with Financial Institution**

Ms. Williams addressed the Board and stated that an updated signature card is required following the election of Officers and designation of the SSJGSA Administrator and Treasurer as signatories on behalf of the SSJGSA. She noted that the update will add Director Weststeyn to co-sign checks, drafts, and other orders for and on behalf of the Agency.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holmes and seconded by Director Weststeyn to adopt Resolution 23-01-F Update Signature Card with Financial Institution.

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
RESOLUTION NO. 23-01-F**

**UPDATE SIGNATURE CARD WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
TO BE EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

**WHEREAS,** Daniel de Graaf has been appointed the Chairman, and

**WHEREAS,** Mike Weststeyn has been appointed the Vice-chair, and

**WHEREAS,** the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) must update its signature cards with its financial institutions.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that any one of the following named officers of the SSJGSA,

Daniel de Graaf, Chairman  
Mike Weststeyn, Vice-chair

and any one of the following named officers or staff,

Peter M. Rietkerk, Administrator  
Sonya Williams, Treasurer  
Sarah Bloom, SSJID Assistant Finance & Administration Manager

are authorized to co-sign checks, drafts, and other orders for and on behalf of the SSJGSA.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Daniel de Graaf, Chairman, and Mike Weststeyn, Vice-chair, are hereby authorized to conduct all other banking related transactions related to carrying out the duties of the Treasurer of the SSJGSA.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: de GRAAF HOLMES ROMO ROOS WESTSTEYN  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE

**Item #5 – Quarterly Presentation of Financial Statements Through December 2022**

Ms. Williams distributed a handout titled South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Financial Statements December 31, 2022. She provided detailed descriptions of the balance sheet, bank reconciliation, statement of changes in net position, statements of members’ capital, expenses incurred through December 2022, and budget comparison of actual expenses and remaining budget. She stated the SSJGSA is under budget for 2022, and that the auditors are slated to begin the 2022 audit in March 2023.

**Item #6 – Discussion and Adoption of the Proposed 2023 Annual Budget**

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board and stated that the proposed SSJGSA 2023 budget was presented at the October 19, 2022 board meeting with directive to take the preliminary budget back to the respective agencies for review. He noted that there were no suggested changes and/or revisions received, and provided a brief recap of anticipated 2023 expenses for staff time, general materials, legal, technical consultants, conferences and travel, and SSJGSA related events. Mr. Nakagawa commented that it would be opportune for the SSJGSA to host another Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) outreach event for local landowners, this summer.

Board discussion included the ESJGWA water accounting framework, the ESJGWA budget, and the updated Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by 2025.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holmes and seconded by Director Weststeyn to adopt the SSJGSA 2023 Annual Budget.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: de GRAAF HOLMES ROMO ROOS WESTSTEYN  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE

**Item #7 – Discussion on Recent Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Meetings**

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board and noted a calendar matrix of SGMA related meetings from October 20, 2022 through February 8, 2023. He displayed a PowerPoint presentation from the ESJGWA Steering Committee on February 8, and highlighted recent activity and/or action including the replacement of SJC Board Supervisor Chuck Winn by SJC Board Supervisor Robert Rickman on the ESJGWA Board; the ESJGWA budget, and revenue of grant funds.

Board discussion included the County’s well monitoring status; the ESJGWA water accounting framework; the ESJGWA draft 2023 budget anticipated in May/June; and a detailed summary of SGMA, the groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs), the GSP, and GSP requirements and deadlines.

Ms. Valerie Kincaid, Special SSJGSA Counsel, noted that DWR and the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) had been consulting on the updated GSPs and that all decisions on GSP status should be finalized and GSAs notified by the end of March 2023. She opined that she believed the ESJGWA revised GSP would be approved which would subsequently initiate ongoing litigation for the ESJGWA, and the timeline to submit an updated GSP to DWR by 2025.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Item #8 – Various Reports to the Governing Board:**

#### **a) Staff and Consultant Updates**

Mr. Nakagawa noted that Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-3-23, dated February 13, 2023, removes many of the drought related reporting of demand and diversion data, and keeps in place obtaining prior written verification from a GSA before a new groundwater well can be permitted.

Mr. Nakagawa announced the potential cancellation of the SSJGSA March board meeting, and that the next regular meeting would be held in April or May.

#### **b) Technical Advisory Committee**

None

#### **c) Member Reports**

None

#### **d) Correspondence**

None

## **CLOSED SESSION**

### **Item #9 – Closed Session**

*It was announced that there would be no Closed Session items up for discussion.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Item #10 – Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

### **ATTEST:**

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board