

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Regular Meeting  
Manteca, California  
February 19, 2020**

The Governing Board of the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) met in 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:

PRESENT: Tammy Alcantor, City of Escalon  
Robert Holmes, South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
Mike Weststeyn, South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
Daniel de Graaf, City of Ripon

ABSENT: Dave Kamper, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

Also present were SSJID General Manager, Peter Rietkerk; SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, Brandon Nakagawa; 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 Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2019**

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

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #2 – Presentation of Financial Statements for YTD January 2020**

Mr. Bere Lindley, SSJID Assistant General Manager, provided a year-to-date review of the SSJGSA financial statements as of December 31, 2020, and the month ending January 31, 2020. Mr. Lindley distributed handouts and explained, in detail, the Income and Expenses Summaries. In addition, he explained that once the SSJGSA becomes a Joint Powers Authority, future action will include: obtain a federal tax identification number; obtain a federal tax exemption certificate; appoint a SSJGSA treasurer; open a SSJGSA bank account; and initiate a call for member contributions.

**Item #3 – Discussion and Possible Action on Activities of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) to Implement the Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, reported that he attended the ESJGWA Board meeting on February 12. The ESJGWA has successfully submitted the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) following the adoption by all sixteen (16) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Subbasin. On January 8, the ESJGWA approved a 6-month budget through June 2020, totaling \$382,500, including the following items:

- Well monitoring for Spring 2020 = \$87,500
- Data Management System (DMS) = \$35,000
- April 1, 2020 Annual Reporting = \$75,000
- Plan Administration = \$135,000
- Outreach = \$35,000

The allocated cost of the budget for the SSJGSA is \$11,206, which is based partially on an even split of certain budget items and groundwater pumping for the other budget items.

The ESJGWA Board of Directors approved a consulting services agreement with Woodard & Curran in the amount of \$162,000. Woodard & Curran will be performing updates to the Data Management System (DMS), compiling data for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Annual Report (due April 1), performing modeling runs, and supporting San Joaquin County (SJC) staff in the administration of the ESJGWA. The ESJGWA Board approved the formation of two (2) new committees: the ESJGWA Steering Committee; and the ESJGWA Ad-Hoc Technical Work Group. The already established ESJGWA Advisory Committee will be dissolved.

Each GSA is required to submit, to Woodard & Curran, data including but not limited to changes in cropping, newly developed or irrigated acreage, well production quantities, surface water deliveries, and/or other factors affecting groundwater.

To help meet the deadline, on February 11, 2020, SSJID entered into an agreement with Davids Engineering, Inc., (DE) to: 1) develop semi-automated Water Balance Update Procedures; 2) develop Water Year Totals for 2016 through 2019; and, 3) assist in the 2020 Agricultural Water Management Plan (AWMP) Update.

- a) Staff is recommending the SSJGSA Board approve expenditures for DE to develop water year totals for 2016 through 2019 as required for the SGMA Annual Report (not to exceed \$10,903). The SSJID will be reimbursed by the SSJGSA up to the same amount.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director de Graaf and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve expenditures for Davids Engineering, Inc., to develop water year totals for 2016 through 2019 (not to exceed \$10,903).

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

- b) The ESJGWA Board approved the formation of the ESJGWA Steering Committee to make recommendations on policy, fiscal, and business matters as they relate to administering the ESJGWA (i.e. meeting agendas, staff reports, budgets, contracts, etc). Staff is recommending the SSJGSA Board designate a primary representative and alternate representative to the ESJGWA Steering Committee.

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

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

- c) The ESJGWA Board approved the formation of the ESJGWA Ad Hoc Technical Work Group to make recommendations on technical items such as data collection, data management, reporting, and technical analysis. Staff is recommending the SSJGSA Board designate a representative to the ESJGWA Ad Hoc Technical Work Group. Mr. Nakagawa volunteered to sit on the ESJGWA Ad Hoc Technical Work Group as the representative of the SSJGSA.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director de Graaf to appoint Mr. Nakagawa as the SSJGSA representative to the ESJGWA Ad Hoc Technical Work Group.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

- d) Mr. Nakagawa displayed the presentation from the ESJGWA meeting held February 12, which depicted topics discussed including data required for the SGMA Annual Report to DWR; Woodard & Curran’s scope of work; Woodard & Curran’s schedule of work; the budget for the SGMA Annual Report and support services; the status of the Prop 68 Grant Preliminary Award; and the newly formed ESJGWA Steering Committee and Ad Hoc Technical Work Group.

Mr. Nakagawa discussed Stockton East Water District’s (SEWD) proposal to lift the rate cap on groundwater rates by legislation. SEWD has requested support from San Joaquin Farm Bureau, as well as local legislators.

Mr. Nakagawa discussed SJC’s proposed sales tax measure, being introduced by SJC Board Supervisor Chuck Winn (District 4) to the San Joaquin County Advisory Water Commission, the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency, and the ESJGWA. Projected revenue for the proposed tax could amount to \$3.4 billion over thirty (30) years.

**Item #4 – Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the SSJGSA Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement**

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board regarding the draft Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, which would convert the existing SSJGSA into a Joint Powers Agency (JPA). Included in today’s agenda packet was the final draft of the JPA agreement, which staff recommended for Board approval. Following approval, each member of the SSJGSA would seek approval from their respective city councils or board of directors. Mr. Nakagawa has offered to attend the council meetings for the Cities of Escalon and Ripon and assist with the approval of the agreement.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director de Graaf and seconded by Director Alcantor to approve the SSJGSA Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #5 – Discussion and Possible Action on the Greater San Joaquin County Regional Water Coordinating Committee Call for Projects**

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board regarding a letter received from the Greater San Joaquin County Regional Water Coordinating Committee (GSJCRWCC) requesting projects for the Eastern San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The intent of the GSJCRWCC is to update the SJC IRWMP to meet the requirements of California Water Code §10540 and §10541. After the IRWMP has been updated, the projects listed in the plan will be eligible for IRWM implementation and a portion of the \$6.5 million allocated to San Joaquin County for grant funding. He encouraged the Board members, representing the cities of Escalon and Ripon, to have their councils sign the GSJCRWCC Memorandum of Understanding.

**Item #6 – SSJGSA Conversion to a Joint Powers Authority: Next Steps**

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board regarding future action of the SSJGSA, once the JPA is approved by the city councils of each member agency. Establishing the SSJGSA as a JPA includes the following next steps: register as a separate entity with the California Secretary of State and submit a Roster of Public Agencies form; obtain business insurance; develop a Conflict of Interest Code; Oath of Office swearing in of the SSJGSA Board members; develop and adopt SSJGSA Bylaws outlining procedures, administration, and governance; and submit California Fair Political Practices Commission Form 700s.

**Item #7 – Communications**

Mr. Rietkerk informed the Board about a joint SSJID / Oakdale Irrigation District letter, addressed to its Congressional delegation, in response to the Governor’s proposed new framework which will “provide the foundation for binding voluntary agreements between government agencies and water users with partnership and oversight from environmental groups.” The District is concerned with a provision that would require all water users to contribute funds annually towards habitat restoration.

Chairman Holmes discussed a joint letter, from multiple non-governmental organizations (NGOs), addressed to the California Environmental Protection Agency, the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Department of Water Resources, and the California State Water Resources Control Board regarding their opinion that SGMA threatens the safe water needs of California's most vulnerable communities. Chairman Holmes commented that these opinions of the SGMA effort could pose as a potential future challenge to the GSP as the letter references future water quality specifics.

**a) Staff and Consultant Updates**

None

**b) Technical Advisory Committee**

None

**c) Member Reports**

None

**d) Correspondence**

- i. NGO Letter to DWR on DACs and GSPs

**Item #8 – Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board