

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Regular Meeting  
Manteca, California  
April 21, 2021**

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 9:06 a.m., with public access provided via the online Zoom meeting platform. 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  
                         Daniel de Graaf, City of Ripon  
                         Robert Holmes, South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
                         Dave Kamper, South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
                         Mike Weststeyn, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

Also present were SSJID General Manager, Peter Rietkerk; SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, Brandon Nakagawa; Special SSJGSA Counsel, Valerie Kincaid; and SSJID Clerk of the Board, Danielle Barney.

**Public Comment** – None

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Item #1 – Approval of the Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2021**

Chairman Holmes noted that Action Item #2 – Presentation of YTD Financial Statements Through December 2020, will be clarified and corrected in today’s Action Item #2 – Presentation of YTD Financial Statements Through March 2021.

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

**Item #2 – Presentation of YTD Financial Statements Through March 2021**

Mr. Bere Lindley, SSJGSA Treasurer and SSJID Assistant General Manager, addressed the Board and distributed a handout titled SSJGSA Financial Statements December 31, 2020 Through March 31, 2021. He provided detailed descriptions of the: 1) Balance Sheet, which included assets of cash, accounts receivables and accrued receivables from members, accounts payables, net position of members’ capital, Total Liabilities and Members Capital, and quality assurance measures; 2) Bank Reconciliations; 3) Statement of Changes in Net Position for November – December 2020; 4) Statement of Changes in Net Position for January – March 2021, which included expenses paid from the SSJGSA account, expenses paid by SSJID and billed to SSJGSA; 5) Statements of Members’ Capital totaling \$93,386; and 6) Budget Excerpted from Agenda Package of January 20, 2021.

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, provided information regarding average quarterly expenditures; an incurred expense to Davids Engineering, in the amount of \$2,600, to process the 2020 SSJID Water Balance and provide data and results to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Annual Report; and \$8,000 remainder in the budget for the Water Balance. He expressed confidence in adequate cash flow and budget for the SSJGSA.

**Item #3 – Discussion and Possible Action on Adjustment to Capital Contribution Amounts**

Mr. Lindley addressed the Board regarding Board action taken at the meeting on January 20, 2021, to bill the SSJGSA member agencies to true-up member contributions to the SSJGSA Joint Powers Authority (JPA) at the agreed cost-share amount of Escalon - \$4,705.88 DUE, Ripon – \$9,411.76 DUE, and SSJID - \$80,000 PAID. He explained that, at the January 20 meeting, it was reported that SSJID had provided a capital contribution in the amount \$80,000, when in fact it was \$100,000. Mr. Lindley further explained that the member agencies were billed the true-up amounts at an 85:10:5 ratio calculated on the incorrect premise that SSJID has contributed \$80,000.

Mr. Lindley provided an explanation on how the miscalculation occurred, and preventive measures for future errors. He presented two (2) options to rectify the \$20,000 differential, which included: 1) Rebill the cities to correct the proportions of the members’ capital accounts based on SSJID’s actual contribution of \$100,000; or 2) Repay SSJID the \$20,000 capital contribution.

Staff recommended Board approval to authorize a payment of \$20,000 to SSJID to adjust the SSJID member capital account from \$100,000 to \$80,000 in order to reduce SSJID’s share of JPA member capital to 85%.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Alcantor to authorize a payment of \$20,000 to the South San Joaquin Irrigation District to adjust the SSJID member capital account from \$100,000 to \$80,000 in order to reduce SSJID’s share of JPA member capital to 85%.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #4 – Discussion on Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Business**

**a) FloodMAR Workshop – April 8, 2021**

Mr. Nakagawa reported on the FloodMAR workshop, which was co-sponsored by the ESJGWA and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and hosted by Mr. Matt Zidar, Water Resources Manager - San Joaquin County (SJC) Department of Public Works. He stated that the virtual workshop was well attended with approximately 150 participants. Speakers and presentations included:

- Mr. Jim Wieking, Supervising Engineer, DWR: “Overview of FloodMAR”
- Mr. Karandev Singh, Senior Engineer, DWR: “Merced FloodMAR Study - Preliminary Results and Lessons Learned”
- Daniel Mountjoy, Sustainable Conservation: “Groundwater Recharge Assessment Tool (GRAT)”

Also presented were two (2) panel discussions including:

- Agronomic Implications of FloodMAR: Panelists discussed farm-level experience with groundwater recharge, community outreach, sustainable crops, and flood irrigation. Panelists included Mr. Don Cameron, Terranova Ranch; Mr. Joe Valente, Kautz Farms; and Mr. Rick Cosyns, Cosyns Farms.
- Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Perspectives Panel: Panelists discussed local GSA views of FloodMAR. Panelists included Mr. Dave Simpson, Board Member, North San Joaquin Water Conservations District (NSJWCD); Mr. Bob Holmes, Board Member, SSJGSA; and Mr. Scot Moody, General Manager, Stockton East Water District (SEWD).

Chairman Holmes added that the latter panel discussion also included ESJGWA issues within the basin, differences in the GSAs, cost allocations, and groundwater recharge. In conclusion, he opined that the workshop provided good information, and insight from the growers in Madera and Fresno counties.

Ms. Valerie Kincaid, Special SSJGSA Counsel, stated that she has heard positive feedback of the GSA Perspectives Panel discussion; and commented on the involvement DWR will have on a local level, and the potential of required permitting for groundwater storage being proposed by the California State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board). SSJGSA Board discussion included groundwater recharge; recharged water rights; and water accounting. Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, noted concerns regarding FloodMAR including the agricultural impacts to almonds, and long-term affects to almonds and/or grapes.

**b) ESJGWA Meeting Updates – Technical Advisory Committee; Steering Committee; Board of Directors**

Mr. Nakagawa presented the Board with a PowerPoint presentation depicting recent ESJGWA activity and/or actions. Highlights included:

- ESJGWA Steering Committee meeting on April 14: Discussed were elements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Water Year (WY) 2020 Annual Report including groundwater elevation, groundwater extraction information, surface water supply used or available, total water use, groundwater pumping, surface water deliveries, and change in groundwater storage; and Total Dissolved Solids. Steering Committee highlights also included the 2021-22 ESJGWA budget; grant funds paid by DWR to the ESJGWA; and that NSJWCD was not awarded grant funding for the Demonstration Recharge, Extraction and Aquifer Management (DREAM) Project. The SSJGSA Board discussed SJC’s involvement in a long-term plan for well monitoring.
- Eastern San Joaquin Water Resources Model (ESJWRM): Discussed were model-related requirements in the WY 2020 Annual Report including groundwater extraction, surface water supply, total water use, and change in groundwater storage.

**c) DWR and SWRCB Updates**

Ms. Kincaid reported that the State Water Board adopted a resolution, on April 6, 2021, regarding SGMA and, in the event that a GSA could not sustainably manage groundwater, the Water Board can step in to temporarily manage the basin in a process called “state intervention.” The resolution approved funding of \$2 million towards technical work and hydrogeologic services to assist in the state interventions. She added that the state interventions could begin in early 2022, if DWR determines that any Groundwater

Sustainability Plan (GSP) submitted in early 2020 is inadequate, or if any basins with GSPs due in January 2022 fail to submit GSPs.

DWR is near completion of the 2-year review period of the GSPs. Ms. Kincaid stated that it is anticipated DWR will begin issuing determinations, by late May/early June, to GSAs that submitted one (1) GSP, or simplified plans. The GSPs will be classified as 1). Adequate – passed with recommendations for the 5-year update; or 2) Incomplete – revise and resubmit the GSP within 180-days. Ms. Kincaid opined that she prefers the “incomplete” determination as it would allow an opportunity to revise and improve the GSP within six (6) months. She emphasized the need to create teams, at the ESJGWA and GSA levels, to plan and prepare for any GSP modifications following the determinations from DWR in June.

Board discussion included the timelines to resubmit the GSPs following an adequate versus an incomplete determination; DWR’s review and/or approval of the revisions; and the GSAs requirement to refile and re-adopt a revised GSP. Also discussed was the legality of a “state intervention” should a DWR determination be challenged and held up in litigation.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Item #5 – Various Reports to the Governing Board:**

- a) **Staff and Consultant Updates**  
None
- b) **Technical Advisory Committee**  
None
- c) **Member Reports**  
None
- d) **Correspondence**  
None

*It was announced that all items in Closed Session would be discussed. The Board convened to Closed Session at 10:35 a.m.*

## **CLOSED SESSION**

### **Item #6 – Closed Session**

- a) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation  
Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9  
- 1 case

*California Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority et al.*  
Superior Court of Stanislaus County  
Case No. CV-20-001720

*The Board reconvened to open session at 10:59 a.m.*

Disclosure of reportable actions taken in Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1: There were no reportable actions taken in closed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Item #7 – Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board