

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Regular Meeting
Manteca, California
June 16, 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 9:00 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 April 21, 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 – Update on 2021 Irrigation Season and Hydrology

Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, addressed the Board and introduced Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, to present the update on the 2021 irrigation season and hydrology. Mr. Nakagawa explained that the amount of water SSJID is entitled to divert for irrigation under the 1988 Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) is based on inflow to New Melones Reservoir, and the inflow to New Melones Reservoir is being tracked on a daily basis. He added that as of June 16, approximately 324,000 acre feet (AF) of inflow has reached New Melones, with total inflow projected at 340,000-350,000 AF for the 2021 water year. Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and SSJID formula water supply, under the 1988 Agreement, is approximately 430,000 AF split evenly among the two districts. SSJID's conservation account balance is also full at 100,000 AF. Mr. Nakagawa does not anticipate any cutbacks to SSJID growers or to the cities. He added that the SSJID Board had recently approved pursuing a water transfer to the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA), which will come from both Districts' conservation accounts.

Mr. Rietkerk stated that 2021 runoff projections are trending toward the fourth or fifth driest year on record for the Stanislaus River. He assured the Board that the District will still have additional water in its conservation account when the water transfer to SLDMWA comes to fruition.

Discussion included current flows on the Stanislaus River; the Bureau's intent to utilize New Melones Reservoir to balance Central Valley Project (CVP) operations; the Bureau's intent to preserve storage in Folsom and Shasta Reservoirs to conserve the cold water pool for salmon migration; and concern over the Bureau's operation of New Melones.

Item #3 – Discussion and Possible Action for the SSJGSA to Host a Future SGMA Outreach Event

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board regarding communication from a local grower requesting the SSJGSA host a Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) outreach event. He added that the last SGMA event was held in October 2019, making for an opportune time to update the community on SGMA-related issues, and the pending drought. Mr. Nakagawa recommended July 22 for the outreach event, and volunteered to coordinate the final details including venue, finalized date, topics, and speakers.

Board discussion included proposed SGMA-related event topics including a review and update on SGMA; existing SGMA funding; groundwater level measurements and projected groundwater levels; the effect of SGMA on land appraisals; and SGMA next steps. Also discussed were venues, guest speakers, and promotion of the event. Mr. Nakagawa will follow up and finalize the date, time, venue, guest speakers, and agenda topics.

Item #4 – Discussion on and Direction to SSJGSA Representatives on Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Business

a) ESJGWA Board Meeting – June 9, 2021

Mr. Nakagawa reported that he attended the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) Board meeting on June 9. He presented the Board with a PowerPoint presentation depicting recent ESJGWA activity and/or actions. Discussion included the ESJGWA budget for FY 21/22; budget scenarios (low, medium or high activity); project development grants; the potential for San Joaquin County to partner with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge (FloodMAR); and accounting framework. SSJGSA's allocated cost to the ESJGWA would be \$20,815.

The ESJGWA Board of Directors adopted Resolution R-20-06, on October 14, 2021, authorizing the Board Secretary to amend the Master Service agreements adopted by the Board. The amended resolution will clarify quarterly meetings; ESJGWA Secretary, and Steering Committee action; and work-related task orders.

b) California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Review of Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Mr. Nakagawa reported on DWR's response letters to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) regarding determinations of their submitted 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP), and required action by the GSAs. He added that the SSJGSA will receive a determination letter from DWR which could require a response within 180-days. Ms. Valerie Kincaid, Special SSJGSA Counsel, concurred that the SSJGSA will, most likely, receive a response letter from DWR with recommended actions. Director Holmes added that the DWR determination letter will not automatically trigger a 180-day response, but that a letter anticipated by January 2022 will do so.

Discussion also include the SSJGSA response plan including legal and technical review once DWR sends their comment/determination letter; and careful consideration of any communications during the response process due to pending litigation.

c) Groundwater Accounting Framework

Ms. Kincaid reported on a presentation she made to the ESJGWA Steering Committee regarding groundwater budgets, allocations, and water market. She referenced Kings, Kaweah, Kern, and Tule Subbasins and discussed their inflow, outflow, existing conditions, budgets, and groundwater yields.

Mr. Nakagawa reported on the ESJGWA accounting framework and subsequent discussions regarding concepts and approaches, funding, completion of the budget for FY 21/22, and finalizing the GSA budget allocations for FY 21/22.

Board discussion included that the GSAs will need to push for relevant policy issues; need to be specific about allocations and projects; and that each individual GSA should be responsible for their own projects.

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

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Kincaid noted that there are no updates to report on Closed Session Item 6.a.

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

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 10:24 a.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board