

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Regular Meeting
Manteca, California
June 21, 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 de Graaf 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 Water Resources Coordinator and SSJGSA Secretary Brandon Nakagawa, Special SSJGSA Counsel Valerie Kincaid (via Zoom), and SSJID Clerk of the Board Danielle Barney.

Public Comment – None

Chairman de Graaf announced a request to entertain a motion to change the order of the agenda and move Item #5 – Closed Session as the first item.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holmes and seconded by Director Weststeyn to move Item #5 – Closed Session as the first item on the meeting agenda.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

The Board convened to Closed Session at 9:02 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Item #5 – Closed Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:17 a.m.

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #1 – Approval of the Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2023

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holmes and seconded by Director Romo 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 – Quarterly Presentation of Financial Statements Through March 2023

Ms. Sonya Williams, SSJID Financial and Administration Manager and SSJGSA Treasurer, distributed a handout titled South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Financial Statements May 31, 2023. She noted that at the time the agenda was finalized, the financial statements were current through March 2023 but had since been updated current through May 2023. She provided detailed descriptions of the balance sheet, bank reconciliation, statement of changes in net position, statements of members’ capital, expenses incurred through May 2023, and budget comparison of actual expenses and remaining budget.

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator and SSJGSA Secretary, stated that he attended the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRA) “Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Summit & Workshop” on June 7, in Sacramento which will show as an expense on the financial statements through June 2023. He added that he will inform the Board of any upcoming events that would be beneficial to attend.

Mr. Nakagawa referenced the SSJGSA budget and noted that the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) 2024 budget was approved at the ESJGWA board meeting on June 14, and that the member contribution for the SSJGSA to the ESJGWA will not exceed \$25,000.00. Other anticipated SSJGSA expenses in 2023-24 could include items associated with the water accounting framework, and the SGMA annual report. He summarized that the SSJGSA budget is on track.

Item #3 – Discussion on Recent Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Meetings

Mr. Nakagawa provided an update on recent activity and/or action at the ESJGWA board meeting on June 14, including board approval of the 2023-24 budget. He noted concern among the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) regarding the leadership of the ESJGWA by San Joaquin County (County).

SSJGSA Board discussion included the ESJGWA allocated budget amount for County staff, the County’s annual contribution to the ESJGWA of Water Investigation Zone 2 funding in the amount of \$225,000.00, capital contributions, reserve balance management, and security of the GSA data submitted to the County.

Mr. Nakagawa noted discussion among the GSAs to consider hiring an independent entity to manage the ESJGWA, as well as a consultant to manage the water accounting framework for groundwater tracking to identify the ESJGWA versus individual GSA groundwater levels, usage, and/or deficits, and recognize credit for growers and the individual GSAs.

Mr. Nakagawa reported on the status of the ESJGWA Annual Update to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and stated that the groundwater model is anticipated to be finalized by the week ending June 30. Additional Board discussion included recharge projects, recharge fees, surface water usage, and the City of Ripon’s potential future provision of water from the Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant.

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #4 – Various Reports to the Governing Board:

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

ADJOURNMENT

Item #6 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board