

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Regular Meeting
Manteca, California
October 19, 2022**

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 9:03 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
Dave Kamper, South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Dominique Romo, City of Escalon
Mike Weststeyn, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

ABSENT: None

Also present were SSJID General Manager Peter Rietkerk, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Finance and Administration Manager Sonya Williams, SSJID Assistant Finance and Administration Manager Sarah Bloom, SSJID General Counsel Mia Brown, 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 July 20, 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 KAMPER ROMO WESTSTEYN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Item #2 – Consider Approval of Resolution 22-10-Y to Implement Teleconferencing Requirements During a Proclaimed State of Emergency

The Board discussed the relevance to adopt a continuous resolution to implement teleconferencing requirements. Board consensus concluded to table the action item until the next regular board meeting.

Item #3 – Quarterly Presentation of YTD Financials Through September 2022

Ms. Sonya Williams, SSJGSA Treasurer and SSJID Finance and Administration Manager, distributed a handout titled South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Financial Statements September 30, 2022. She provided detailed descriptions of the balance sheet, bank reconciliation, statement of changes in net position, statements of members' capital, expenses incurred through September 2022, and budget comparison of actual expenses and remaining budget. Ms. Williams stated that the SSJGSA budget remains on track, outstanding expenses are set to be paid in October 2022, and the SSJGSA 2021 annual audit should be finalized by Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation (Auditors) in November.

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJGSA Secretary and SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, noted that the member agencies will be receiving invoices for the 3rd quarter billing including membership dues and expenses.

Item #4 – Discuss and Possible Action on Proposed 2023 Annual Budget

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board, displayed the adopted SSJGSA 2022 budget, and provided detailed explanations of expenses incurred. He stated proposed adjustments to the proposed 2023 budget including an increase in staff time, general materials, conferences and travel, as well as a decrease in technical consultants. Mr. Nakagawa noted that the budget increase for conferences and travel was in consideration of recommended participation in the 2023 Groundwater Resources Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Summit which he had attended on June 9, 2022, in Sacramento.

Mr. Nakagawa directed the Members to take the preliminary 2023 Budget to their respective agencies for review, with the expectation that the final budget will be presented and adopted by the SSJGSA Board of Directors at the January 2023 meeting.

Item #5 – Update and Discussion on SSJGSA Well Permit Verifications

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board and referenced Governor Gavin Newsom's Drought Executive Order N-7-22, which requires a GSA to provide written verification that a proposed well would not be inconsistent with an adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), and not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal.

To date, the San Joaquin County (SJC) Environmental Health Department (EHD) has forwarded six (6) pending well permit applications for verification. Staff reviewed the applications and determined the pending wells would not cause subsidence, nor harm to adjacent wells.

Ms. Valerie Kincaid, Special SSJGSA Counsel, provided an update on Assembly Bill (AB) 2201 (Bennett) – GSA Groundwater Extraction Permit: Verification, which died on the Assembly floor on August 31. She cited the requirements of AB 2201, noted the burdens that would have been created for GSAs and growers, and opined on a "good and rare victory." Mr. Nakagawa acknowledged Ms. Kincaid on her coordination efforts and work to help block the bill.

Item #6 – Discussion and Possible Action on Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Business

Mr. Nakagawa displayed the PowerPoint presentation from the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) meeting on October 12 and highlighted the following recent activity and/or actions:

- The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) awarded \$7.6 million in grant funds to the ESJGWA for groundwater projects. The allocated amounts to the ESJGWA member agencies will be \$3.9 million to the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District for a pipeline project, \$3.3 million to San Joaquin County for Mokelumne River projects, and \$300,000 to the City of Stockton for research of a groundwater recharge project for Woodbridge, as well as \$100,000 for grant administration.
- ESJGWA Groundwater Model Policy – Mr. Nakagawa has been assisting in the policy development including benefits provided to, and access by the public. The model is beneficial for the GSAs for GSP tracking and reporting purposes.
- ESJGWA Accounting Framework – Discussions continue with the ESJGWA Ad Hoc Committee, ESJGWA Board, and ESJGWA Technical Advisory Committee. Ms. Kincaid stated that the accounting framework will clarify guidelines and the need, requirements, implementation, and accreditation for a project.
- Revised Groundwater Sustainability Plan – DWR closed the 60-day GSP public comment period. Comments were submitted by the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Sierra Club.

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #7 – 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 on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board convened to Closed Session at 9:42 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Item #8 – Closed Session

- a) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9
- b) 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 10:50 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Item #9 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board