

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Regular Meeting
Manteca, California
November 20, 2019**

The Governing Board of the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) met in a 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
Dave Kamper, South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Mike Weststeyn, South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Leo Zuber, City of Ripon

ABSENT: None

Also present were SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, Brandon Nakagawa; SSJID Assistant General Manager, Bere Lindley; and SSJID Clerk of the Board, Danielle Barney.

Public Comment – None

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #1 - Consider Approval of the Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2019

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Zuber and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: ALCANTOR HOLMES KAMPER WESTSTEYN ZUBER
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Item #2 – Public Hearing Regarding Adoption of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Chairman Holmes opened the meeting for public comment regarding the adoption of the Eastern San Joaquin (ESJ) Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA). The public meeting was closed with no public comment given.

Item #3 – Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution 19-01-W Adopting the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, addressed the Board regarding the adoption of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater GSP. His oral presentation included detailed

information on the history of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA), and the SSJGSA. He further explained that per SGMA requirements, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) of the ESJGWA, must adopt a GSP by January 31, 2020. The GSP must address all six sustainability indicators (groundwater levels, storage, seawater intrusion, water quality, land subsidence, and interconnected surface waters), develop minimum thresholds for each sustainability indicator, include input from a cross-section of stakeholders not limited to beneficial users of groundwater, and include a plan for implementation of the GSP.

The SSJGSA has contributed a one-time payment of \$5,000 upon joining the ESJGWA in 2017 and an additional contribution of \$11,664 specifically to fund the preparation of the GSP. Once adopted, the cost of implementing the ESJ GSP and operating the ESJGWA will be cost-shared by the sixteen (16) GSA members. Discussions are ongoing to finalize the ESJGWA's annual budget and to reach agreement on a formula based cost split to be spread among all 16 GSAs. Once agreed to, the SSJGSA will be allocated its fair-share.

The SSJGSA allocates operating costs to its members by the following split (including ESJGWA fair-share costs): 85% SSJID, 10% Ripon, and 5% Escalon. Staff has prepared a draft annual budget for discussion and possible action in Item #5 of today's agenda.

Chairman Holmes added that each of the 16 member agencies of the ESJGWA must have the basin-wide GSP approved by their respective boards or councils. Once the GSP has been approved by all GSAs, the ESJGWA will vote to accept by the SGMA mandated deadline of January 31, 2020. Staff recommended that the SSJGSA Board of Directors approve Resolution 19-01-W to adopt the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin GSP.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Zuber and seconded by Director Alcantor to approve Resolution 19-01-W adopting the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
RESOLUTION NO. 19-01-W**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER
SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

WHEREAS, in August 2014, the California Legislature passed, and in September 2014 the Governor signed, legislation creating the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") "to provide local groundwater sustainability agencies with the authority and technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater" (Wat. Code, § 10720, (d)); and,

WHEREAS, SGMA requires sustainable management through the development of groundwater sustainability plans ("GSPs"), which can be a single plan developed by one or more groundwater sustainability agency ("GSA") or multiple coordinate plans within a basin or subbasin (Wat. Code, § 10727); and,

WHEREAS, SGMA requires a GSA manage groundwater in all basins designated by the Department of Water Resources ("DWR") as a medium or high priority, including the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin (designated basin number 5-22.01); and,

WHEREAS, the South San Joaquin GSA (SSJGSA) was formed as a GSA on April 5, 2017 for the purposes of sustainably managing groundwater in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin, within its jurisdictional boundaries, pursuant to the requirements of SGMA; and,

WHEREAS, SSJGSA has the authority to draft, adopt, and implement a GSP (Wat. Code, § 10725 *et seq.*); and,

WHEREAS, the SSJGSA is a member of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (“ESJGWA”) formed pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Gov. Code, § 6500 *et seq.*) for the purpose developing a GSP and coordinating sustainable groundwater management in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin (Wat. Code, § 10723.6(i)); and,

WHEREAS, the ESJGWA submitted an Initial Notification to DWR on behalf of its members to jointly develop a single GSP for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin on February 8, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, the SSJGSA has coordinated with all other GSAs in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin through the ESJGWA; and,

WHEREAS, on behalf of its members the ESJGWA developed the Draft Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin GSP (“ESJ GSP”) and released the Draft ESJ GSP for public comment on July 10, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, the ESJGWA opened a public review and comment period of the Draft ESJ GSP for 45-days beginning July 19 and ending on August 25, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, the ESJGWA received numerous comments from the public on the Draft ESJ GSP, reviewed and prepared responses to comments, and revised the Draft ESJ GSP on behalf of its members; and,

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2019, the GWA sent the Notice of Intent to Adopt A Groundwater Sustainability Plan on behalf of its members pursuant to Water Code section 10728.4; and,

WHEREAS, the ESJGWA, on November 5, 2019, has made the Final ESJ GSP available on the ESJGWA website at www.ESJGroundwater.org; and,

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2019, the ESJGWA Board of Directors recommended that each of its members, acting as the GSA for their respective jurisdictions, adopt the Final ESJ GSP; and,

WHEREAS, the SSJGSA published a Notice of Public Hearing pursuant to Government Code Section 6066 setting the public hearing and adoption date for Final ESJ GSP for 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 20, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2019, the SSJGSA Board of Directors, in the South San Joaquin Irrigation District Board Room in Manteca, California, held a public hearing to consider public comments prior to adopting the Final ESJ GSP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the SSJGSA approves as follows:

1. The SSJGSA hereby adopts the Final ESJ GSP attached hereto as Exhibit A.

2. The SSJGSA hereby authorizes the ESJGWA, its consultants, and the Plan Manager to take such other actions as may be reasonably necessary to submit the Final ESJ GSP to DWR by January 31, 2020.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of November 2019 by the following vote:

AYES: ALCANTOR HOLMES KAMPER WESTSTEYN ZUBER
NAYS: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

BY: _____
ROBERT HOLMES, Chair

ATTEST:

PETER M. RIETKERK, Secretary

Item #4 – Presentation of Financial Statements for YTD October 2019

Mr. Bere Lindley, SSJID Assistant General Manager, provided a year-to-date review of the SSJGSA financial statements as of October 31, 2019. He further explained that the carryover amount of unused 2018 contributions, made by each member of the SSJGSA, has been utilized with a current balance of -\$8,004 negative funds. Final accounting for 2019 will result in an invoice to each member agency for their allocation of the excess of expenses over member contributions. In addition, there will be a cash call in January 2020 to initiate the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) of the SSJGSA.

Item #5 – Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed 2020 Annual Budget

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board with a proposed 2020 Annual Budget of the SSJGSA. Revised costs will include an estimate of SSJID staff time to support the operating activities of the SSJGSA, outside legal counsel, and other operating expenses. The proposed budget included an estimate of the SSJGSA’s share of the ESJGWA’s cost to coordinate the implementation of the GSP and administer to ESJGWA. Mr. Nakagawa added that discussions are ongoing to finalize the ESJGWA’s annual budget and reach agreement on a formula-based cost split to be shared by all 16 GSA member agencies.

Mr. Nakagawa summarized that the SSJGSA proposed total budget for 2020 is \$267,704, and total projected revenue for 2020 is \$326,407.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director Zuber to approve 2020 Annual Budget for the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency. The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: ALCANTOR HOLMES KAMPER WESTSTEYN ZUBER
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Item #6 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Business, Including Groundwater Sustainability Plan Adoption and Implementation Activities

Mr. Nakagawa announced that the next ESJGWA Ad Hoc Committee Meeting will be held on November 25. Meeting discussions will include the ESJGWA budget.

Item #7 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Conversion of South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) into a Joint Powers Authority

Mr. Nakagawa reported that Ms. Mia Brown, SSJID General Counsel, had provided a red-line draft JPA agreement for distribution to the SSJGSA members for review by their respective city councils of Escalon and Ripon. Once the agreement has been finalized, the conversion to a JPA will be adopted by the SSJGSA. The transition to a JPA will transfer responsibility to one (1) agency made up of three (3) member agencies.

Item #8 – Communications

a) Staff and Consultant Updates

None

b) Technical Advisory Committee

None

c) Member Reports

None

Item #9 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board