

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 13th, 2024

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Steering Committee meeting was held at 1810 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, CA (SJC Public Works) at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call, in attendance were Directors and Alternates: Andrew Watkins, Jason Colombini, Mike Henry, Robert Holmes, Brandon Nakagawa, Secretary Fritz Buchman and Chairman Robert Rickman.

II. Scheduled Items

A. Discussion/Action Items

1. Approval of September 11th, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Jason Colombini

Second: Mike Henry

All in favor.

2. Presentation and Possible Recommendation on the Development of a Demand Management Program

Katie Cole from Woodard & Curran reviewed the presentation and shared that Task 0 is coordination work to be done between now and April 2025. Some of those items include:

- Understand prior work and how it gets used in this process
- Approve budget for next fiscal year
- Outcome: Agreed-upon approach for determining basin-wide number that will be allocated amongst GSAs

Task 1, Model Reconciliation includes the following:

- Reconcile historical model with GSAs
- Implement historical model enhancements
- Re-calibrate historic model
- Implement PCBL model enhancements

Some of the Task 2 activities include:

- Perform analysis & recommend basin-wide number
- Provide additional information to GSAs as requested
- Agree on process for annual review of GSA progress and dispute resolution

3. Presentation and Possible Recommendation on Draft Communications and Engagement Plan

Marina Deligiannis and Khandriale Clark from Stantec, shared a presentation regarding outreach options based on the survey. Some of the options include a Communications and Engagement Tracker, Outreach Toolkit, Speakers Bureau, and an Enterprise Management System. Khandriale shared these forms of outreach would be a monumental effort, having an Outreach Coordinator would be a significant benefit in improving Communications & Engagement. The public review period of the draft C&E Plan is November 20th – December 5th.

Recommendation to the Board that the C&E draft be adopted at the December 11th, 2024, Board Meeting, subject to edits based on public comments.

Motion: Robert Rickman

Second: Robert Holmes

All in favor.

4. Receive Financial Report

Hope Paulin from SJC Public Works, presented the Financial Report stating the following: spill over from last year's cost allocations, and ARPA funds were deposited.

Expenditures are a little higher than normal due to some rolling over from last fiscal year. The Prop 68 Project has been completed and is currently being closed out. Once the State grant income is received it will offset the higher expenditures.

5. Recommendation to Amend the 2024-2025 ESJGWA Budget by Increasing Appropriations for the Annual Report by \$10,586 and Decreasing Appropriations for Professional Services Public Works Administration by the Same Amount

Mr. Nakagawa commented that the annual report proposal was received and DWR is requesting more information and guidance. Reminder, Annual Reports could be a mechanism to be placed on probation from the Water Board. The Secretary, Fritz Buchman has the authority to sign an agreement up to the \$65,000 and we're asking for a budget amendment for the remainder.

Recommendation for the Board to approve the budget amendment at the December 11th, 2024 Board meeting.

Motion: Robert Holmes

Second: Mike Henry

All in favor.

6. Update on Staff Transition Plan Implementation

The Steering Committee released an RFQ to assist with technical work and to spend the ARPA funds. 12 responses were received, of that 8 consultants were selected. The 8 finalists selected were Condor, GEI, Geo Syntec, Kleinfelder, EKI, Todd Groundwater/Wood Rodgers, West Yost and Woodard Curran.

7. Recommendation to Direct the Chair to Form an Ad Hoc Executive Committee

Mr. Nakagawa shared this project management committee will help find the Executive Director, work with staff and consultants to implement the ESJGWA Staffing Transition Plan prior to hiring the Executive Director and set monthly agendas for the Steering Committee and Board of Directors. Staff would immediately work with the Chair on the Ad Hoc Executive Committee appointments following Board approval.

Recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the formation of this Ad Hoc Executive Committee, at the December 11th, 2024, meeting.

Motion: Jason Colombini

Second: Robert Holmes

All in favor.

III. Staff/DWR Reports

1. DWR Report – Chelsea Spier from DWR shared that Monday, December 18th there will be an all-day event for the 10-year SGMA Anniversary, keynote speaker and a look back.
2. Other Items - None
3. Communications - None

IV. Director's Comments – None

V. Public Comment – Mary Elizabeth asked that the Groundwater Authority record the meetings and make recordings available for those that cannot attend.

VI. Future Agenda Items – Mr. Nakagawa stated items are in development.

VII. Adjournment at 10:51 a.m.

NOTE* - Meeting presentation material can be found on the website at www.esjgroundwater.org/.