



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Teleconference Meeting Only

Call-In Information Provided

NOTICE: Coronavirus COVID-19

See Attached Notice Regarding COVID-19, Closure of Board Chambers to the Public
During the Steering Committee Meeting.

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
- II. Scheduled Items – *Presentation materials to be posted on ESJGroundwater.org and emailed prior to the meeting.*
 - A. Discussion / Action Items:
 1. Approval of the June 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes. (Attachment)
 2. P68 Grant Component 3 Discussion of Work Plan (Attachment- Brief for Discussion)
 - a. Current approaches to GSA funding and financing
 - b. Work plan to evaluation of funding and financing alternatives
 - i. District, City, County
 - ii. GSA via SGMA
 - iii. Other
 - c. Workshops and oversight
 3. Opportunities: Partnerships and Agreements
 4. Project Progress Reports
- III. Public Comment (non-agendized items)
- IV. Director's Comments
- V. Future Agenda Items
- VI. Adjournment

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Steering Committee Meeting

AGENDA

(Continued)

NOTICE: Coronavirus COVID-19

See Attached Notice Regarding COVID 19, Closure of Board Chambers to the Public During the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting and Teleconference Information

Important Notice Regarding COVID 19 and Closure of Board Chambers to the Public During Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting

On March 18, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 recognizing that COVID 19 continues to spread throughout our community resulting in serious and ongoing economic harm. Governor Newsom has therefore waived certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act relating to public participation and attendance at public meetings.

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor's Officer, *effective immediately* and while social distancing measures are imposed, Board chambers will be closed to the public during the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Steering Committee Meetings.

In order to minimize the spread of the COVID 19 virus, the following options are available to members of the public to listen to these meetings and provide comments to the Committee Members before and during the meeting:

1. You are strongly encouraged to listen to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee meetings by attending the teleconference:

Join By Webex
(www.webex.com)

Meeting number (access code): 126 660 6570
Meeting password: nRHnpFcF467

Join By Phone

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Steering Committee Meeting

AGENDA

(Continued)

1-866-590-5055 Call-in number (ATT Audio Conference) (ATT Audio Conference)

1-816-423-4282 Call-in number (ATT Audio Conference) (ATT Audio Conference)

661 530 5 Access Code

Once connected, we request you kindly mute your phone.

2. If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the meeting. Please submit your comment to the Secretary of the Board at ksmith@sjgov.org. Your comment will be shared with the Board members and placed into the record at the meeting. Every effort will be made to read comments received during the meeting into the record but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

8:30 am to 10:00 am

Location TBD

ESJGWA Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Meeting called to order: at 8:34 am

The meeting was conducted via teleconference using WebEx.

Safety and Meeting Procedures:

Mr. Matt Zidar with San Joaquin County provided a brief instruction of meeting procedures.

Roll Call taken:

Roll call taken of members only.

In attendance were Chair Winn, Directors Mike Henry; Robert Holmes and Tom Flinn and Alternate Directors Mel Lytle; Walter Ward and Andrew Watkins

Additional folks in attendance introduced themselves accordingly.

Discussion / Action Items:

1. Approval of the May 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Robert Holmes; 2nd: Walt Ward

Roll call vote taken

Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Proposition 68 Scope Review Coordination

Mr. Matt Zidar with San Joaquin County discussed the Component 3, Funding and Financing part of the grant. He recommended that the discussions be through the steering committee. The Committee agreed that discussions should start in SC and then recommendations be brought to the Board for action.

Matt noted that there were many funding and financing issues left unresolved during development of the GSP. The funding, financing and economic issues were put in a 'parking lot' in the interest of getting the GSP document produced and adopted by the DWR deadline, noting it was time to further develop funding and financing strategies. Budget development and costs allocation discussions also identified many economic, funding and financing issues.

Alternate Director Mel Lytle recalled the financing/funding concept in the GSP was for GSAs to develop and fund individual projects and that the GWA would support GSAs to develop partners. It remained to be determined if GSAs would be completely independent; or whether there would be a recognition of mutual basin benefits, better accounting for the problems (overdraft), and shared project costs and

benefits. These were generally discussed. The GWA did not make decisions on shared funding or financing, allocation of benefits, or accounting for individual GSA contributions to overdraft. Alternate Director Walt Ward identified a need to determine what funding strategies and mechanisms are available to individual GSA's or through the GWA. We need to explore the available funding/financing alternatives and evaluate the pros and cons of each; and evaluate how to fund mutual benefit projects and cost sharing.

Matt Zidar suggested a workshop to review current funding strategies within each GSA; identify the overarching economic principles (e.g.; equity, free riders); assess SGMA authorities; identify high-level principals regarding basin versus individual GSA benefits (e.g.; basin vs extractive benefits), define mutual benefits', and discuss how basin water budget accounting will affect how benefits, costs and impacts evaluation. He noted that there could be 'free riders' happy to let others invest to achieve sustainability while avoiding any costs and accountability.

Director Tom Flinn advised that decisions are timely for NSJWCD since his agency is in the process of updating their strategic plans and financing is a major part of that; noting that there has been a lot of planning by the individual GSAs but that mutual benefit projects, cost sharing, and partnership have not been established. Each GSA is doing things differently and have different circumstances (financially and water management).

Matt Zidar agreed that project benefit accrue to ratepayers in the individual GSAs, but that these GSAs would also provide basin sustainability benefits through the projects built and increase yields, providing basin benefit.

Chairman Winn advised that the individual project are key to achieving sustainability and reducing overdraft, but also noted accounting for mutual benefits is key to funding strategies.

Alternate Director Ward stated that the concept of 'beneficiary pays' is very important. How a project's yields are accounted is important. The water budget defines an areas contribution to both overdraft and yield from water management actions. Benefits and impacts vary within the basin.

Fritz Buchman with San Joaquin County recommended that alternate financing plans be developed and analyzed with the support of financial advisor who could also assist in evaluation of economic and legal issues.

The idea of a workgroup to engage the GSAs was generally supported.

Chairman Winn advised the group that in regards to the workshop, the SC would have a preliminary workshop and bring in professionals to assist. The process would be managed through the SC, which would develop a plan, agreements and recommendation to the Board. The benefit to this approach is for the SC to have a completed roadmap of how the GWA is going to proceed.

Public comment received from Ms. Mary Elizabeth with the Sierra Group, supported a workshop open to all GSA's and the public. She also noted that drought contingencies should be considered.

With support of staff, the SC will develop the Prop 68 funding and financing work plan at the next meeting. A GSA public workshop should be included. Chairman Winn agreed.

3. WaterSmart 2020 Resiliency Grant

Matt Zidar described conversations with multiple agencies regarding the WaterSmart Resiliency Grant. The NSJWCD is ready to move forward with a grant application for a capital project. It is recommended that the GWA not pursue this grant, but instead support the NSJWCD project grant. Secretary Kris Balaji suggested the GWA Board provide a letter of support, questioning whether the Board needed action or if Chairman Winn could sign the letter. Ms. Monica Streeter of Neumiller & Beardslee advised the item would need to be on July agenda for Board to review the letter of support. Secretary Kris Balaji noted that under County guidelines, the County representative could sign a letter of support. Chairman Winn questioned if the item could be an emergency item. Ms. Monica Streeter advised that since there is time to meet before their application is due, there is time to hold a special meeting. Ms. Streeter also advised that the Board could provide direction to staff under the today's Board agenda item "Project Progress Reports" to prepare a letter of support for signature by the Chairman. Chairman Winn asked to clarify, under board agenda item progress reports, if the agency requests a support letter, the board can direct the staff to prepare a letter for signature. Ms. Streeter confirmed.

Director Robert Holmes stated that he encourages all GSA write support letters for NSJWCD. Director Mike Henry asked for an information sheet to include additional information on the NSJWCD project. Matt Zidar stated that he would request that NSJWCD provide the information sheet.

Public comment received from Ms. Mary Elizabeth with the Sierra Club, stating that if the information sheet and details were sent to her, the DSG may also provide a letter of support.

4. Project Progress Reports

Mr. Matt Zidar led a general discussion of the Project Progress Reports. Details were provided on how updated info on project progress would be collected.

Public Comment:

Ms. Mary Elizabeth with the Sierra Club stated that she encourages the work shop idea, maintain a connection with the greater groundwater users, noted IRWM planning is underway and encourage GWA to consider DAC folks.

Director's Comments:

None

Future Agenda Items:

Matt Zidar advised he wanted to confirm his list to prepare the items for future meetings. Matt's future agenda items consisted of the following.

Funding and financing
Water budget for GSA
Water avail for recharge
Groundwater banking and required permitting
Technical items to TAC first

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 am by Chairman Winn.

