

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 8th 2023

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Steering Committee meeting was held at the San Joaquin County Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center in Stockton, California (2101 E. Earhart Avenue Conference Rm 1). At approximately 8:35 a.m. roll call was taken of members only.

In attendance were Directors Brandon Nakagawa, Mike Henry, Robert Rickman, Secretary Water Resources Manager, Matt Zidar. Reminders were provided to the attendees regarding meeting procedures.

II. Scheduled Items

A. Discussion/Action Items

1. Review of 2022 budget and Program Status

Matt Zidar reviewed the GSP FY 22-23 budget to discuss the prior process for considering budget scenarios, establishing program priorities and setting GSA member charges. He reviewed the method for establishing the charges, discussing the difference between known or fixed revenues and the planned expenses was the total amount to be assessed to the GSAs. The method for distribution costs to the GSAs were discussed.

The Steering Committee discussed and accepted the approach to developing the FY 23-24 budget, further recommending the same GSA cost distribution method as used in the prior fiscal year be applied (60/40 split based on groundwater pumping and population), and that staff bring back budget scenarios for further consideration. It was also recommended that the Steering Committee (SC) assign tasks to the Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and add these items to the Ad Hoc TAC agenda to discuss budget scenarios and potential priorities for continuation or development of new programs or projects.

The role of the GWA chair in assigning tasks to work groups was also described. The SC and newly appointed chair were in concurrence to delegate program and budget development topics to the Ad Hoc TAC. Matt Zidar and Chairman Rickman agreed to meet to develop further assignments to the Ad Hoc TAC or for formation of any other work group.

2. FSS and Community Outreach and Engagement Work Plan, and Next Steps

Craig Moyle from Stantec shared details of the workplan to update the GWA/GSP Communications and Engagement Plan (C&E), with an objective to update the June 2018 plan and define and prioritize C&E actions to be taken by the GWA and the individual GSA during GSP implementation and the 5 year GSP update process. This

work is funded by DWR's Facilitation Support Services (FSS) program at no cost to the GWA. Stantec reviewed C&E actions described in the adopted GSP and 2018 C&E plan, and will be working to obtain input from interested parties and GSAs through survey and interviews to identify GSA needs and develop planned actions. The GSA Survey is intended to identify C&E activities that would assist GSAs and help them accomplish their objectives and delineate communication practices of subbasin GSAs with their constituents. Craig explained they will define the roles and responsibilities of the subbasin GSAs and the GWA, define C&E program elements and costs, and bring back recommendations for SC and GWA consideration.

3. SGMA Grant Status and Update

Matt shared the contracting SGMA Round 1 has been completed and funding will start flowing the local project sponsors to implement their projects. The SGMA Round 2 grant application was submitted to DWR. There were over 82 applications requesting over \$780 million, competing for \$250 million in available funding. DWR will make funding recommendations by June of 2023.

4. Water Accounting Framework (WAF) Next Steps and Discussion

Matt Zidar explained the prior work to develop the WAF. This prior approach was put on hold so that the GSAs could coordinate to develop the approach and plan to further develop the WAF. The GSA group recommended a series of meetings to be held, including support from Woodard & Curran, and information and data will return to the Steering Committee and the ESJ Groundwater Authority. It was recommended that the Ad Hoc TAC provide input to the approach and modeling interpretation. The SC and Chairman concurred and recommended the Ad Hoc TAC discuss the approach to meeting and modeling at their next meeting, provide input on the process to the SC and GWA.

III. Staff/DWR Reports

1. DWR Reports attached to the agenda package for individual review.
2. Other Items – Matt Zidar shared comments were released by DWR on 4 of the GSPs were incomplete 2022. Matt Zidar shared AB-2201, tailored towards institutionalizing the well permit review and requirement in the executive order, is likely on hold.
3. Communications for individual review - from the Sierra Club.

IV. Public Comment – Jennifer Spaletta shared that Tom Flinn has moved and will resign his position in the ESJ GWA Board and Steering Committee by the end of February.

V. Directors Comment – none

VI. Future Agenda Items – none

VII. Adjournment at 9:49am