

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 8th, 2023

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Steering Committee meeting was held at the Robert Cabral Agricultural Center in Assembly Room 1. At approximately 8:30 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Rickman.

Roll Call: In attendance were Director and Alternates: Justin Hopkins, Mike Henry, Mitch Maidrand, Robert Holmes, Jason Colombini, Brandon Nakagawa, Secretary Fritz Buchman, and Chairman Robert Rickman

II. Scheduled Items

A. Discussion/Action Items

1. Approval of the October 11th, 2023, Steering Committee Minutes

Motion: Justin Hopkins

Second: Mike Henry

Vote was unanimous.

2. ESJ GWA Financial Report

A financial update was given by Hope Paulin, San Joaquin County Water Resources Division. She shared that a deposit that was made for \$149,988 for the Prop. 1 Retention Reimbursement, a small amount for postage and \$782 under Rents, Structures and Grounds.

3. Presentation and Discussion on the GSP 2025 Update

Katie Cole, Woodard & Curran, presented on the GSP Update Scope of Work. The presentation included Risks, 2025 Update Schedule, Background and Context, Periodic DWR Evaluation, and more detailed information regarding the 2025 GSP Update.

Staff reiterated that the approach needs to be further refined and the scope reduced to be more affordable before any additional monies can be raised from GSA Members.

To mitigate the time lost while negotiating the reduced scope of work, staff recommended that a portion of the modeling components be accelerated. A limited scope of work for an amount not to exceed \$60,000 was included in the agenda packet and recommended for approval. The accelerated work will be completed over the next 6-8 weeks.

4. Recommendation to Approve a Task Order with Woodard & Curran to Fund Initial GSP 2025 Update Tasks Not to Exceed \$60,000.00

Motion: Jason Colombini:
Second: Robert Holmes

Vote was unanimous.

III. Staff/DWR Reports

1. Staff Report – Brandon Nakagawa shared that Condor assisted with the Fall Monitoring Event and it went very smoothly. Water quality monitoring is complete, data is coming, and now waiting on the final bill and documentation of work.
2. DWR Report – Chelsea from the Department of Water Resources provided the following updates:
 - a. DWR is hosting a virtual Fall 2023 Groundwater Sustainability Agency Forum (GSA Forum) for GSA members and representatives on November 9, 2023, from 8:30 AM to noon. The theme for the Fall 2023 GSA Forum is *Well Management Approaches: from Enhancing Local Understanding to Leveraging Local Coordination*.
 - b. On October 30, 2023, DWR released its [Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation: A Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, and Plan Amendments](#), which provides guidance to GSAs preparing these documents under SGMA and the GSP Regulations. The Department also released a [Frequently Asked Questions and Available Resources](#) document that provides commonly asked questions and answers about Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, and GSP Amendments. These resources do not create any requirements or obligations for GSAs; the information is intended to clarify the necessary content of the documents already required by SGMA and the GSP Regulations.

IV. Directors Comments - None

V. Public Comment - None

VI. Future Agenda Items

Fritz Buchman shared that an MOU with SJ County for AARPA funding will be forthcoming. The only requirements would be standard quarterly reports. The 2023 Spring Groundwater Monitoring Report will likely be presented in December.

VII. Adjournment at 9:48 am

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