

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 14th, 2024

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: Andrew Watkins, Secretary Fritz Buchman, Mike Henry, Robert Holmes, Mitch Maidrand, Jason Colombini and Chairman Robert Rickman.

II. Scheduled Items

A. Discussion/Action Items

1. Approval of the April 10th, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Jason Colombini

Second: Robert Holmes

All in favor.

2. Recommendation to Adopt the Draft Program for Domestic Well Mitigation

The Steering Committee reviewed the attachments and made the recommendation for the GWA to adopt the Draft Program.

Motion: Andrew Watkins

Second: Robert Holmes

All in favor.

3. Presentation from Woodard & Curran – Groundwater Demand Management

PowerPoint Presentation posted to www.ESJGroundwater.org.

4. Recommendations to the Board of Directors on Groundwater Demand Management

Recommendation to take to the GWA Board: develop policy by 2030, implement post 2030 to reach sustainability by 2040, craft clear story of the work the basin has been doing to adaptively manage GWL levels, add in new management action around developing a demand management policy before 2030 update.

Motion: Mike Henry

Second: Robert Holmes

All in favor.

5. Staff Updates

- a. Staffing Transition - Fritz Buchman shared that Bob Granberg will be assisting with GWA tasks due to other workloads Ashley is overseeing in Water Resources.
- b. Fall Groundwater Monitoring – Brandon Nakagawa shared the 2024-2025 budget was increased, Condor Earth will be getting ready for the October event.
- c. Westgate Landing Monitoring Well Drilling – Brandon commented this well has been challenging, the grant money is back in place, drilling started last week and is progressing as planned.
- d. ARPA Funded Activities – \$2.1 million is secured, an RFQ to develop an on-call list of consultants is in the works.

III. Staff/DWR Reports

- 1. Staff Report – None
- 2. DWR Report – Chelsea shared details from her attachment.

IV. Director’s Comments

Fritz Buchman shared we may be rescheduling September’s meetings due to scheduling conflicts with 9/11 commemorations.

V. Public Comment – None

VI. Future Agenda Items – Fritz Buchman shared the Grand Jury report responses were accepted with one follow up recommendation for the GWA to adopt a Communication and Engagement (C&E) Plan. During the September board meeting there will be a recommendation for the GWA to approve a response to the Grand Jury regarding the C&E Plan.

VII. Adjournment at 9:56 am

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