

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Board Meeting Minutes
January 10th, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT/ROLL CALL

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Board Meeting convened at the Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center in Stockton CA (2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Stockton CA). At approximately 10:30 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Rickman.

In attendance were Directors and Alternates: Myron Blanton, Keith Bussman, Jason Colombini, Mike Henry, Robert Holmes, John Herrick, Dan Wright, Jeremiah Mecham, Alan Nakanishi, Melvin Panizza, Charlie Swimley, Eric Thorburn, Andrew Watkins, Secretary Fritz Buchman and Chairman Robert Rickman.

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Discussion/Action Items:

1. Approval of the September 13th, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Motion: John Herrick

Second: Melvin Panizza

All in favor.

2. 2024 Calendar for GWA Board and Steering Committee

Motion: Melvin Panizza

Second: John Herrick

All in favor.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Draft Well Mitigation Program

Brandon Nakagawa presented the draft well mitigation program concept outline which was developed by a group of GSAs. The purpose of the well mitigation program is to address what happens when a domestic well goes dry and the cause of that failure is related to groundwater overdraft. Having a well mitigation program in place is essentially a requirement by DWR and something that the ESJGWA said they would develop as part of the next 5-year GSP update due in 2025. The well mitigation program is suggested to be self-funded by the ESJGWA where funds could be set aside funds possibly up to \$200,000.00 in case these wells fail and well owners can show they failed due to declining groundwater levels. The entire fund could be funded in one year or over multiple years. Th Board took no action, and the item will be further discussed with the Steering Committee.

4. Approval of a Consultant Services Agreement with Woodard & Curran for the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update for an Amount Not to Exceed \$1,130,120.00

Brandon Nakagawa shared the scope of work that was negotiated with Woodard and Curran entailed 5 tasks, and a 6th optional task. A project management committee was recommended by the Steering Committee to assist with driving the GSP Update process and report back to the Board. Currently, the staff is in negotiations with Stantec to support the stakeholder engagement process and is eligible to be paid for by DWR through their Facilitation Support Services assistance program.

The technical analysis and list were provided in the scope of work. Some of those items include predicting when threshold groundwater levels would be hit, predictive modeling, five-year periodic evaluation, synthesis of completing previous tasks, and the optional task six is allowing more time required for the consultant to interact with stakeholder groups, Steering Committee etc.

Funds for the 6th task can only be accessed by approval of the GWA Secretary, Fritz Buchman, or direction from the GWA Board. The total is \$1,130,120.00.

Motion: Jason Colombini

Second: Robert Holmes

All in favor.

5. Approval of ESJ Budget Amendment Increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$790,120.00, Authorizing Use of \$310,000.00 in Reserves, and Approving the Table of Increased Dues for ESJGWA Members to Cover Additional Appropriations

Brandon shared the Steering Committee looked at the budget and line items and received a unanimous recommendation to bring it back to the board.

Motion to approve a budget amendment, increase revenue and expenditures by \$790,120.00. Authorize \$310,000.00 of reserves to be used for the GSP Update and approve the table attached for the increase in GSA member dues.

Motion: Dan Wright

Second: Robert Holmes

Abstain: Keith Bussman

In favor: Dan Wright, Robert Holmes, Mike Henry, Alan Nakanishi, Eric Thorburn, Myron Blanton, Mel Panizza, Robert Rickman, Jason Colombini, Jeremiah Mecham, John Herrick

I. STAFF Reports/DWR Report

A. Staff Report - none

B. DWR Report - none

II. DIRECTORS COMMENTS

None

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Well Mitigation Policy, AARPA Funding MOU

V. ADJOURNMENT at 11:35 AM