

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Special Meeting  
Manteca, California  
May 22, 2019**

The Governing Board of the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) met in a special session at the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) Board Room at 9:00 a.m. Director Holmes called the meeting to order and Director Kamper led the flag salute.

Upon roll-call the following members were noted present:

**DIRECTORS:**            Robert Swift, City of Escalon  
                              Robert Holmes, South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
                              Leo Zuber, City of Ripon  
                              Dave Kamper, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

Also present were SSJID General Manager, Peter Rietkerk; SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, Brandon Nakagawa; SSJID General Counsel, Mia Brown; and SSJID Clerk of the Board, Danielle Barney.

**Public Comment** – None

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Item #1 – Remarks in Memoriam of Director Dale Kuil**

Director Holmes began with a moment of silence in honor of Director Dale Kuil. Director Kamper said a few words of remembrance for Director Kuil, and fondly stated that he was a good man and always there for his community. Director Holmes closed by saying, “He will be deeply missed.”

**Item #2 – Staff Introductions**

Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, introduced the SSJGSA Board Members and SSJID Management Staff to Robert Swift, the newly appointed SSJGSA Alternate Member for the City of Escalon. Named were Mia Brown, SSJID General Counsel; Daniel de Graaf, SSJGSA Alternate Member for the City of Ripon; Bere Lindley, SSJID Assistant General Manager; Forrest Killingsworth, SSJID Engineering Department Manager; Sarah Bloom, SSJID Management Accountant; Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources (WR) Coordinator; and Danielle Barney, SSJID Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board. Mr. Rietkerk added to his introduction of Mr. Nakagawa as being newly hired to the SSJID team with over 18 years of experience at San Joaquin County Water Resources. Mr. Nakagawa’s role as the County’s WR Coordinator included overseeing the efforts of member agencies of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) with their compliance of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, (SGMA) and the coordination and implementation of developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Mr. Nakagawa thanked Mr. Rietkerk for the introduction and stated he is committed to continuing the work and positive contributions that SSJID has provided to its communities.

**Item #3 - Consider Approval of the Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2019**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director Zuber to approve the minutes as submitted.

The motion passed 3 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: HOLMES KAMPER ZUBER  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: SWIFT  
ABSENT: NONE

**Item #4 – Review of Financial Statements for April 2019**

Mr. Bere Lindley, SSJID Assistant General Manager, reported on the on the SSJGSA “Year-to-Date Income and Expense Summary” and the “Expense Transaction Details” dated April 30, 2019. Mr. Lindley stated the accounting format is evolving with fund details separated from SSJID, as previously recorded. He noted that the Income and Expenses Summary is formatted for January through June in anticipation of the formation of a joint powers authority by July 1.

**Item #5 – Consider Approval of Staff Assignments to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Advisory Committee**

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board regarding his appointment as the SSJGSA representative on the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Advisory Committee (GWA AC). While Mr. Rietkerk will continue as the primary representative to the GWA AC, staff is recommending the appointment of Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID WR Coordinator, as a newly appointed SSJGSA alternate representative for the GWA AC. Ms. Mia Brown, SSJID General Counsel, will remain as the SSJGSA secondary alternate representative.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Zuber and seconded by Director Kamper to appoint Brandon Nakagawa and Mia Brown as alternate SSJGSA representatives on the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Advisory Committee.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: SWIFT HOLMES KAMPER ZUBER  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE

**Item #6 – Update Regarding Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Business, Including Groundwater Authority**

Mr. Nakagawa gave an update on the GWA’s GSP development and recent activity of the Authority. He displayed slides of the presentation by Woodward & Curran, consultants to the GWA, which were presented at the GWA AC meeting held on May 8, 2019. Mr. Nakagawa provided an overview of the GSP timeline which is on schedule to have a public review draft out

in July 2019. Displayed were slides that listed information of items for GSP implementation, GSP administrative information, the GSP plan area, the GSP Hydrologic Conceptual Model, GSP data compilation and the Data Management System. Data reporting to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will begin in 2020, with GSP updates due every five (5) years. Per SGMA requirements, groundwater sustainability must be achieved by 2040. Of particular policy importance is the future role of the ESJGWA and how member GSAs could rely on the ESJGWA as a regional entity working on the long list of items presented in the slides. Additional consideration and discussions would need to take place as to the scope, budget and funding mechanism of the ESJGWA efforts. Eventually SSJGSA representatives would need to be prepared to discuss with member agencies at future GWA AC meetings details including how the ESJGWA would remain on task, have an adequate budget, how costs would be equitably distributed, and how it would all be funded. Mr. Nakagawa added that the estimated annual cost for the current monitoring effort before SGMA is in the range of approximately \$150,000 per year with GSP implementation costs higher.

The Board inquired on the “Basin GSP Coordinator” topic listed on the Staff Report for agenda Item #6. Mr. Nakagawa clarified that DWR requires a singular named individual as the Basin GSP Coordinator and main contact for the ESJGWA. In his position as the County WR Coordinator, Mr. Nakagawa was appointed the role of Basin GSP Coordinator, which is now vacant upon starting his new role with SSJID. Mr. Nakagawa reported that at the May 8<sup>th</sup> ESJGWA AC meeting, he asked to table the discussion to name a new Basin GSP Coordinator. The consultant team presented two options: to appoint San Joaquin County Public Works (PW) Director Kris Balaji or name a person from another member agency. Mr. Rietkerk stated that no action needed to be taken at this time by the SSJGSA Board, but this topic has become a springboard for future GWA discussions surrounding post GSP development participation in the GWA. When asked his opinion, Mr. Nakagawa commented that though the WR Coordinator recruitment is posted on the County website, the role of the Basin GSP Coordinator is vastly different than that of the PW Director who is also the ESJGWA’s Secretary, which comes with a very specific set of duties as listed in the ESJGWA’s Joint Powers Agreement. Mr. Nakagawa indicated that he would accept his continuance as the Basin GSP Coordinator until discussions as to the future of the ESJGWA starts to take shape. Mr. Rietkerk added that Mr. Nakagawa will reach out to the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) members for their opinions and collective discussions of the GWA future. Mr. Rietkerk encouraged the Board members to share this information with their respective agency boards or commissions, and provide SSJGSA staff with pros, cons, or areas of concern.

Mr. Nakagawa displayed slides listing additional GSP elements which should be considered by the GSAs in the development of the GSP. In conclusion, Mr. Nakagawa gave the status of the GSP draft text “bundles” out for GSA comment: Bundle 1) Has been commented on by SSJGSA staff and is available for public review on the ESJGWA website; Bundle 2) Has been commented on by SSJGSA staff, submitted back to the consultant team, and is being revised before being released to the ESJGWA website; and, Bundle 3) Yet to be released for GSA review and comment.

#### **Item #7 – Update Regarding Conversion of SSJGSA into a Joint Powers Authority**

Mr. Rietkerk provided a status update on the conversion of the SSJGSA into a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). He reported that he is currently reviewing an initial draft agreement received from Valerie C. Kincaid, O’Laughlin & Paris LLP., which highlights finance, budgeting, and a

technical committee for the JPA. Additional elements for future discussion include a JPA name and governance. Mr. Rietkerk revisited Mr. Lindley's comment of an anticipated formation of the JPA by July 1 stated this time frame may not occur. The draft JPA agreement will need to be presented to Ms. Brown, Mr. Nakagawa, the SSJGSA member agencies (City of Escalon and City of Ripon), and the ESJGWA for review.

**Item #8 – Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director Swift to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 a.m. The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	SWIFT HOLMES KAMPER ZUBER
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

ATTEST:

---

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board